

## I. The Legend of the Beginning of Rome

1. The Romans believed that their city had been founded by a pair of brothers called Remus and Romulus.
2. The legend says that the two boys were the children of the Roman god Mars and a priestess of the goddess Vesta.
3. When the king discovered that the priestess had had children (which was illegal), he ordered her and the children killed, but a servant took the boys and placed them on the river Tiber in a basket.
4. They floated downstream, to be discovered by a she-wolf who suckled them, and then they were discovered and raised by a shepherd.
5. When the boys returned to Rome as men, they competed to see who would be king. Romulus killed his brother, and became the city's first legendary king.

## J. The Early Roman Republic

1. Rome was ruled by kings until **c.509 BC**, when it became a government called a "republic."
2. It was a government controlled by the aristocracy, called "patricians." (Only members of the patrician families could participate in the government.)
3. The commoners, known as "plebeians," had no control over the government.
4. The patricians elected two officials to enforce the laws, known as "consuls."
5. There were two consuls, and they both had to agree when enforcing a law, so this limited their power.

## K. Tribunes

1. The plebeians would sometimes rebel against the patricians the same way the commoners rebelled in Athens.
2. To stop a rebellion, the patricians agreed to allow the plebeians to be protected by two government officials, called "tribunes" who were like police officers and lawyers for plebeians.
3. Tribunes could stop a consul from arresting or harming a plebeian.
4. The plebeians still could not make any laws, but they were protected *from the government* by the tribunes.

## L. A Written Constitution for Rome

1. The plebeians also wanted written laws, so they rebelled a second time.
2. This forced the patricians to create a set of written laws, or constitution, called the "Laws of the Twelve Tables."
3. The laws were placed on display in the Roman Forum (the central marketplace of Rome.)