

From Village to Empire

Rome's story, from its beginnings as a collection of villages to its height as the centre of the European world, and then to the collapse of its great

empire, took about 1000 years. During that time, the ancient Romans had three different forms of government: a monarchy, a democracy, and a dictatorship.

800–509 BCE

The Kingdom

Etruscan monarchs rule Rome. In a **monarchy**, kings or queens rule. The right to rule is inherited.

509 BCE–27 BCE

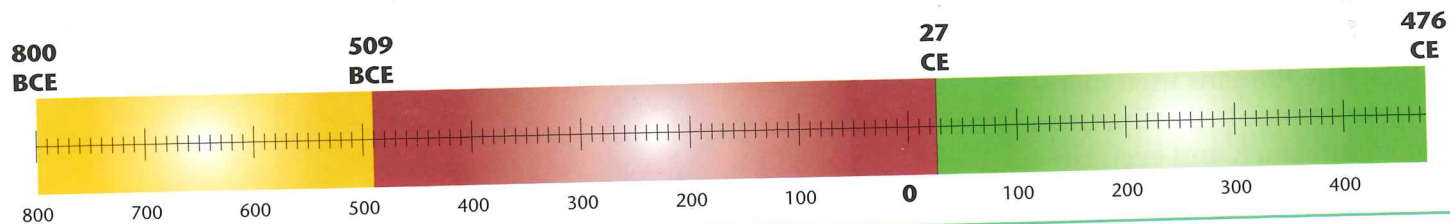
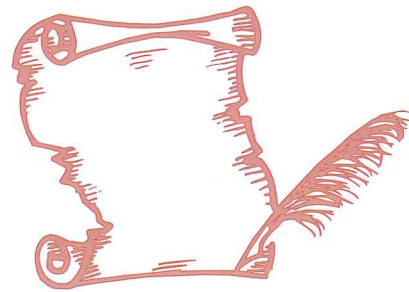
The Roman Republic

The Romans overthrow the Etruscans in 509 BCE. They set up a **republic**, which is a form of democratic government in which the people hold the power. Male citizens have the right to vote. The first laws are established.

27 CE–476 CE

The Roman Empire

In a series of wars, Roman generals fight for control of Rome. The republic is overthrown, and Rome becomes a dictatorship. In a **dictatorship**, one person—in this case, an emperor—holds all the power.



Important Events in the History of Rome

753 BCE	According to legend, twins named Romulus and Remus, who were brought up by a she-wolf, founded Rome.
450 BCE	Rome creates a code of laws called the Twelve Tables.
219 BCE	Hannibal crosses the Alps with elephants and attacks Rome.
146 BCE	Rome destroys Carthage.
49 BCE	Julius Caesar seizes control of Rome.
117 CE	The Roman Empire reaches its greatest extent.
410 CE	The Visigoths [VIZ-ih-goths], a Germanic people, sack Rome.
476 CE	Odoacer [oh-doh-AY-sur], a German, overthrows the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus [ROM-yuh-lus uh-GUST-yuh-lus].

Try This

1. With a partner, research one of the events listed in the table above. Together, create an illustration of your event. Then, as a class, use your pictures to create an illustrated time line as a classroom display.
2. Take turns using your class time line to tell or dramatize the story of Rome.