

The Beginning of Rome - Account A

There was a king called Numitor. He had a brother, Amulius, who drove him from the throne, killed his daughter, and seized her twin baby sons. The babies were thrown into the Tiber River, which flowed through the city. The cradle that carried the two babies washed up at the foot of Palatine Hill.

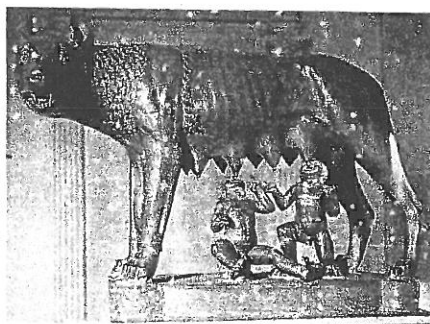
There, they were found by a shepherd. He was walking by the river, when he saw a cradle lying under a fig tree, and beside the cradle, stood a large wolf. She had taken care of the children, but now she ran away into the woods and the shepherd carried the babies home to his wife. She named them Romulus and Remus, and brought them up as shepherds.

The boys grew to manhood,—they grew very strong and brave. One day, as years went on, they discovered their origin, that they were the grandsons of Numitor. So the twins collected an army and drove away Amulius. They then decided to build a new city for themselves, on one of the seven hills.

Remus wanted to build on one hill and Romulus on another. Their grandfather advised them each to stand on a hill, and whichever of them saw more vultures flying, he should build the city on his chosen hill. Remus saw six vultures, but Romulus saw twelve from the Palatine Hill, so that was made the beginning of the new city, and Romulus was chosen king. He named the city after himself: Rome.

But Remus was angry with him, and he made fun of the walls being built and teased about how the city would be easy to attack. Romulus was furious and the brothers fought. Remus was killed.

This was in the year 753 B.C., and the Romans start their history from this date. This was how Rome began, Rome, the Eternal City, Rome, the City of the Seven Hills.



The Beginning of Rome – Account B

The city of Rome grew out of a number of settlements (small groups) that existed around seven hills near the Tiber River. The settlements were near the river for the water supply. Rome developed because of its strategic location and its fertile soil. Rome was built on seven hills near the Tiber River. Rome was near the midpoint of the Mediterranean Sea. The legend of Romulus and Remus gives the impression that Rome was created quickly, the history was very different.

The early people of Rome were from a tribe called Latins. They were from the Plains of Latium. The Latins were successful farmers and traders and they became rich and successful. Therefore, Rome from its early days was a rich city. They built the original settlement at Rome, a cluster of wooden huts atop one of its seven hills, the Palatine Hill. These settlers were the first Romans.

Between 750 and 600 BCE, Greek settlers established about 50 colonies on the coasts of southern Italy and Sicily. The cities became prosperous and traded with the early Roman civilization. They brought all of Italy, including Rome, into closer contact with Greek civilization. The Greeks also taught the Romans how to grow grapes and olives.

The Etruscans were native to northern Italy. They were skilled metalworkers and engineers. The Etruscans strongly influenced the development of Roman civilization. They had a system of writing, and the Romans adopted their alphabet. They also influenced Rome's architecture.

Romans borrowed religious ideas from both the Greeks and the Etruscans. The Romans adopted Etruscan rituals that they believed helped them to win the favor of the gods. Roman gods even took on the personalities and legends of the Greek gods. Romans, however, gave their gods different names. Thus Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, became Jupiter in Rome, and Hera, the queen of the gods, became Juno.

