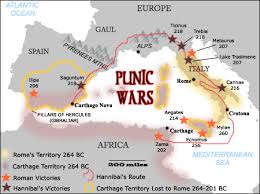
**Punic Wars Poster Activity**

The Punic Wars were a series of three wars fought between Rome and Carthage from 264 BC to 146 BC. These wars had a huge impact on Rome’s expansion and eventual control of the entire Mediterranean region.

In groups you are going to be responsible for becoming an expert on either the beginning or end of one of the Punic Wars. You will need to read a summary about your war in your groups and answer the 5W and H questions that go along with the reading. Once you have completed the questions you will need to answer the prediction question. Your groups will need to discuss what may happen next based on what you just read.

Once you have completed your 5W +H questions and prediction, you will need to create a poster about your war that you will present to the class. The poster must include the answers to your 5W + H questions, your prediction, a map of Roman territory, and an illustration that represents your war. You may set up the poster however you want as long as it includes all of this information. Once you have completed your poster you will be presenting it to the class.

Example:

Who?

What?

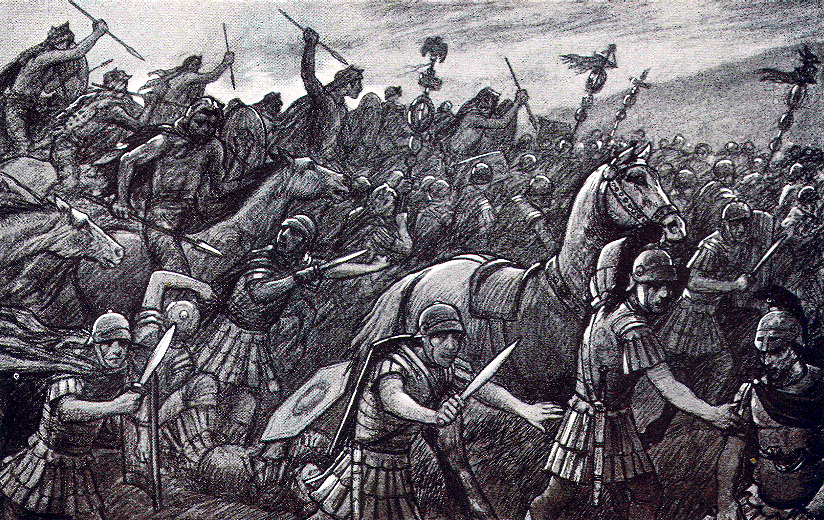
When?

Where?

Why?

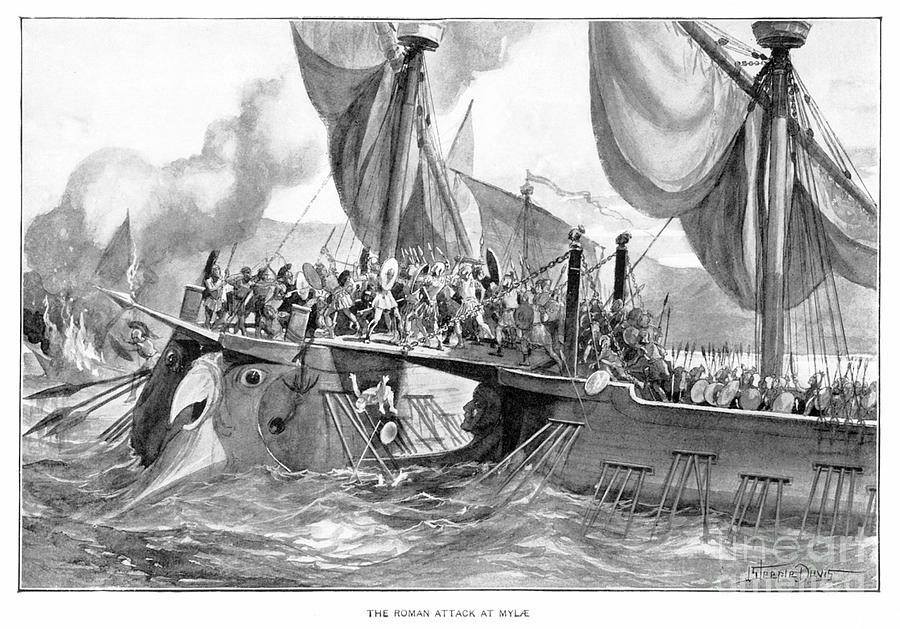
How?

Prediction:



The Punic Wars

The First Punic War Begins



Rome began to look for ways to limit its rival’s expansion, as Carthage’s power in the Mediterranean grew. Competition for control over the western Mediterranean between the two powers erupted into the First Punic War in 264 B.C.E. Fighting began in Sicily when a group of rebellious soldiers, called the Mamertines, seized the town of Messina. Messina was located next to a narrow channel, or strait, between the “toe” of the Italian peninsula and Sicily. At first the Mamertines turned to a local Carthaginian fleet to help them secure control of Messina. However, when it appeared the Carthaginians might use their involvement as an opportunity to conquer all of Sicily, the Mamertines asked the Romans for help.

This presented the Romans an excellent opportunity to stop Carthaginian expansion. The Romans believed that by assisting the Mamertines, the Carthaginians had broken a treaty signed by the two nations in the 6th century B.C.E. In the treaty, Carthage and Rome had agreed to stay out of each other’s territories. According to this treaty, Italy belonged to the Romans, while the western Mediterranean belonged to the Carthaginians-Sicily was considered territory for both Roman and Carthaginian merchants. Roman leaders accused Carthage of violating this agreement and declared war in 264 B.C.E.

After declaring war, Roman leaders recognized that they faced serious challenges in a conflict with Carthage. Carthage had a very strong navy that provided supplies to its army in Sicily. Carthage could also use its navy to blockade Sicilian ports, and thus prevent food and equipment from reaching Roman soldiers. In contrast, the Romans did not have a strong navy and did not know how to build warships. Moreover, they had no experience with training sailors. However, despite these disadvantages, the Romans did have armies of well-trained men who were dependable in battle.

**The First Punic War Begins 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) Who- Who appealed to the Romans for help and why?

2) What- What were the terms of the treaty between Rome and Carthage? Why did the Romans believe the Carthaginians had broken the terms of the treaty?

3) When- When did the Romans declare war against Carthage?

4) Where- Where did the First Punic war begin?

5) Why- Why did the Romans decide to help the (answer from #1)? (hint: What was their true motive?)

6) How- How was Rome already at a disadvantage at the beginning of the war? What were Rome’s strengths?

7) Predict-What tactics do you think the Romans used to defeat the Carthaginians in the First Punic War?

The First Punic War Ends



After four years of fighting, the Romans decided the only way to drive the Carthaginians out of Sicily was to build their own fleet of ships. In 264 B.C.E, the Romans captured a Carthaginian ship in battle. Roman engineers studied the design, and used what they had learned to construct 140 ships in an astonishingly short time of 60 days. The Romans added a new feature to the ship called a corvus. A corvus was a wooden plank with a spike on the end. When the Romans came close to a Carthaginian ship they would lower the plank onto the enemy ship and secure it with the spike. The well-trained Roman soldiers would then rush across the plank onto the other ship to kill the Carthaginian sailors.

After building their warships, the Romans enjoyed several victories. This did not last long. The Romans were soon plagued with bad luck. They lost a huge battle in North Africa, and many of their ships were lost in a storm. The Carthaginians also appointed an extremely able commander, Hamilcar Barca, to lead their troops. Hamilcar defeated a number of Roman fleets and won many battles along the coast of Sicily and Rome. He was nicknamed “Man of Lightning”.

After 20 years of fighting, the Roman government was out of money and exhausted, but the Roman people were not ready to give up. Roman citizens donated their own money to create one last fleet of ships, and decided to give it one last try. The strategy paid off and the Romans won a final battle against the Carthaginians.

The Carthaginians did not have enough troops to continue on and at last surrendered. In order to end the war the Romans demanded that the Carthaginians leave the city of Sicily, release all of the Roman prisoners, pay the Romans an enormous sum of money, and forbid Carthaginian boats from sailing in Roman waters. The Carthaginians had no choice but to accept, and the first Punic War came to an end in 241 B.C.E.

**The First Punic War Ends 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) Who- Who was Hamilcar Barca and what effect did he have on the war?

2) What- What did the Romans decide was the only way they could drive the Carthaginians out of Sicily?

3) Where- Where did the Romans lose a large battle?

4) Why- Why did the Roman citizens donate their own money to the war?

5) How- How did the Romans finally defeat the Carthaginians?

6) When- When did the first Punic War end? What were the terms of the treaty?

7) Predict- Why do you think a Second Punic War was started?

The Beginning of the Second Punic War



Rome and Carthage worked to increase their power and influence during the first 20 years following the end of the First Punic War. Rome continued to expand by conquering the Po Valley in Northern Italy and Illyria, a region on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea. A man named Hamilcar Barca helped Carthage increase its strength as well. He believed that if he created a strong Carthaginian colony in Spain, he would have a place to attack Rome and avenge the humiliating defeat his country had suffered during the First Punic War. In 237 B.C.E. he organized an army and prepared to conquer the Spanish peninsula. His teenage son, Hannibal, accompanied him on his expedition. Hannibal shared his father’s hatred of Rome and his desire for revenge.

Hannibal was forced to take command of the Carthaginian forces in Spain at only 26 years old after his father drowned in an accident in 229 B.C.E. The troops were devoted to Hannibal. Even after he became a general, Hannibal ate with his men, dressed like them, and slept on the same hard ground at night. He had a combination of reckless bravery and wise judgment. According to the Roman historian Livy, “he was the first to enter battle and the last to leave it.”

Hannibal was determined to draw the Romans into war so he could repay them for the way they had treated Carthage. In 218 B.C.E. he attacked Saguntum, a city in Spain that was a Roman ally. After an eight-month siege, the city fell. When the Romans heard of the defeat of Saguntum, they declared war on Carthage and prepared to send a fleet to capture Hannibal. This action marked the beginning of the Second Punic War. Rather than defend Saguntum, Hannibal decided that his best chance to defeat the Romans would be to attack Italy itself. Hannibal believed that, once in Italy, he could encourage and lead a rebellion among the various Italian peoples Rome had conquered. Such an attack on their homeland would catch the Romans completely by surprise, since the Romans knew Hannibal had no fleet with which to transport his soldiers from Spain to Rome.

To reach Italy Hannibal decided to lead his army, including horses and elephants over the snow-capped Alps. The journey was very treacherous, but Hannibal’s great leadership skills helped him to lead his men over the mountains and into Italy. Almost half of his men did not survive the journey. Once in Italy he was joined by two tribes also at war with Rome and he soon began his attack of the Italian peninsula.

**The Beginning of the Second Punic War 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) Who- Who was Hannibal and what did he share with his father Hamilcar Barca?

2) Why- Why did Hannibal’s men love him?

3) What- What was Hannibal’s plan to draw Rome into a war?

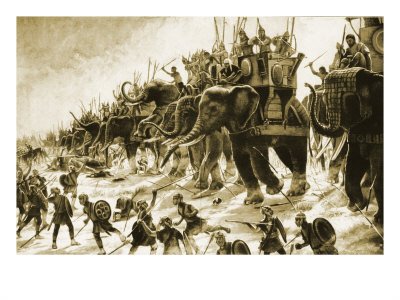
4) When- When did the Second Punic War begin?

5) Where- Where did Hannibal believe the best chance to beat the Romans would be?

6) How- How did Hannibal’s army reach Rome? Why was this journey so treacherous?

7) Predict- What do you believe happened after Hannibal finally reached Rome?

The End of the Second Punic War



Hannibal marched his troops up and down the Italian peninsula inflicting heavy losses upon the Romans for 15 years. During these 15 years the Romans lost a total of 65,000 men. These were the worst military defeats in Roman history. Hannibal never attacked Rome itself; capturing the city seemed impossible. He had no siege weapons, and Carthaginian leaders refused to send reinforcements because they were more concerned with protecting their settlements in Spain. Also, almost none of the people Rome had conquered joined him. Thus, he did not have a safe base from which he could launch an attack on the city of Rome. Despite these setbacks, no Roman general was able to defeat Hannibal’s forces in battle.

After years of losses and terrible casualties, Rome finally found a leader who was equal to Hannibal in courage and intelligence. The new Roman leader, Publius Cornelius Scipio, was respected for his bravery, cleverness, and religious devotion. When Scipio was only 25, the Senate made him commander of the Roman forces in Spain. Scipio greatly admired Hannibal’s military leadership and studied his tactics carefully. Using what he learned, Scipio drove the Carthaginians from Spain and brought the region under Roman control in 207 B.C.E.

After his victory in Spain, Scipio was granted permission by the Roman Senate to sail to Africa to attack Carthage directly. Upon landing in Carthage, the Roman army began plundering the area around Carthage, and the Carthaginian leaders ordered Hannibal to return home from Italy to defend the city. For Hannibal, this return was a bitter disappointment. He felt that the Carthaginian leaders’ unwillingness to reinforce him when victory was near could lead to defeat in the Second Punic War. Nevertheless, he obeyed the order and sailed for home.

When he reached Carthage, Hannibal began preparing for Scipio’s attack. The Carthaginians and Romans went to battle at Zama. At first the Carthaginians were able to hold their own against the larger and better trained Roman army. Then Scipio attacked Hannibal from behind with a large cavalry force. This turned the tides of the war. The Carthaginians knew they were defeated. Hannibal advised Carthage to surrender. Rome forced Carthage to give up all their land in Spain and the Mediterranean islands, surrender all their elephants, burn all of their warships, pay a huge fine, and never declare war without Rome’s permission. The Carthaginians agreed. To please the Romans they declared Hannibal an outlaw and he committed suicide.

**The End of the Second Punic War 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) When- For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years after crossing the Alps, Hannibal defeated the Romans in battles all over the Italian peninsula.

2) Who- Who was Publius Cornelius Scipio. What were some of his major accomplishments?

3) Why- Why did Hannibal never attack the city of Rome itself? Give at least three reasons.

4) How- How did Scipio do so well against Hannibal’s forces?

5) Where- Where did the tide of the Second Punic War turn? Why?

6) What- What were the terms presented to the Carthaginians when they wanted to surrender at the end of the Second Punic War?

7) Predict- Why do you believe there was a Third Punic War?

The Beginning of the Third Punic War



Rome continued to expand its territories through the Mediterranean region after the Second Punic War. Meanwhile, Carthage honored the treaty it had signed with Rome and did not acquire any new territories. Carthage did not build new warships, paid the fine to Rome, and did not declare war. The Carthaginians watched as the Mediterranean Sea became a “Roman lake”.

Despite Carthage’s decline in power and status, some Roman leaders still felt that it had not been punished severely enough. They demanded vengeance. The Romans were angry that the Carthaginians were able to rebuild their trade and increase their wealth. Hostile feelings increased in 153 B.C.E, when Roman ambassadors returned from Carthage reporting that the city was larger and more beautiful than Rome. Following this report, one Roman leader made it a practice to end each of his speeches with the words, “Carthage must be destroyed!”

Consumed by hatred and mistrust, Roman leaders began to antagonize Carthage, hoping to provoke another war. When neighboring Numidians attacked Carthaginian towns, the Romans refused to let the Carthaginians take defensive action. In addition, the Romans sent ambassadors to Numidia and secretly encouraged additional attacks. Finally, in 149 B.C.E., the Carthaginians decided to take action and fought back against the Numidians. Recognizing that this attack violated their treaty with Rome, Carthaginian leaders quickly prepared to make amends with the Roman Senate. They sent a group of ambassadors Rome, hoping to re-establish peace with Rome. However, the Roman Senate refused to talk to these representatives and instead declared war on Carthage, starting the Third Punic War.

**The Beginning of the Third Punic War 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) Who- Who was attacking Carthage? Why could they not take defensive action?

2) What- What did Roman ambassadors report in 153 B.C. and why did this anger Roman leaders?

3) When- When did the Third Punic War begin?

4) Where- Where did Rome continue to expand after the Second Punic War?

5) Why- Why did the Romans antagonize Carthage?

6) How- How did the Romans finally provoke the Carthaginians to go to war with them?

7) Predict- How do you think the Romans finally destroyed the power of Carthage?

The End of the Third Punic War



After declaring war, the Roman leaders were determined to destroy and humiliate Carthage. The Romans quickly assembled an army and sent them to North Africa. Then, the Romans issued a series of cruel demands, giving the impression that they would not attack the city of Carthage if the Carthaginians accepted certain conditions. First, they insisted that the Carthaginians give them 300 children from noble families to be used as hostages during negotiations. The Carthaginians did as they were asked. Negotiations never began and the children were never returned. Then the Romans demanded that the Carthaginians had to give up all of their weapons. The Carthaginians again did as they were asked. Still the Romans were not satisfied. The Romans then told the Carthaginians that they would all have to leave Carthage and rebuild their city 10 miles inland. This was too much. The Carthaginians refused and prepared to defend themselves.

Carthaginians put up a brave but unsuccessful effort to defend their homes. They freed all their slaves and made them citizens so they could fight in the war. The rich people donated money to their government to help them pay for war supplies. Men and women worked all day and night to create weapons and war supplies. The Carthaginians held off the Romans at first, but after three years the city finally fell to the Romans in 146 B.C.E. The Roman soldiers lit the city on fire and it burned for 17 days. When the fire died out, the Romans tore down all the buildings that remained, sowed salt into the Earth so that it would never again be good for farming, and sold the 50,000 survivors into slavery.

So complete was the destruction of Carthage that, even to this day, archaeologists have discovered only a few ancient artifacts in this area. A few tombs, some badly ruined buildings, a number of coins, and a few pieces of pottery are all that remain of this once great civilization.

**The End of the Third Punic War 5Ws + H guided reading questions**

1) Where- Where was the Third Punic War fought?

2) What- What were the terms that Rome demanded of Carthage? What did the Carthaginians finally say no to that sparked the beginning of the war?

3) Who- Who in the city of Carthage helped to try and defend themselves from the Romans. How did they help?

4) When- When did the city of Carthage finally fall?

5) How- How did the Romans finally destroy the power of Carthage and make sure they would never again return to power?

6) Why- Why have archaeologists not been able to find many artifacts from the superpower of Carthage?

7) Predict- What do you think Rome’s goals were after defeating Carthage?