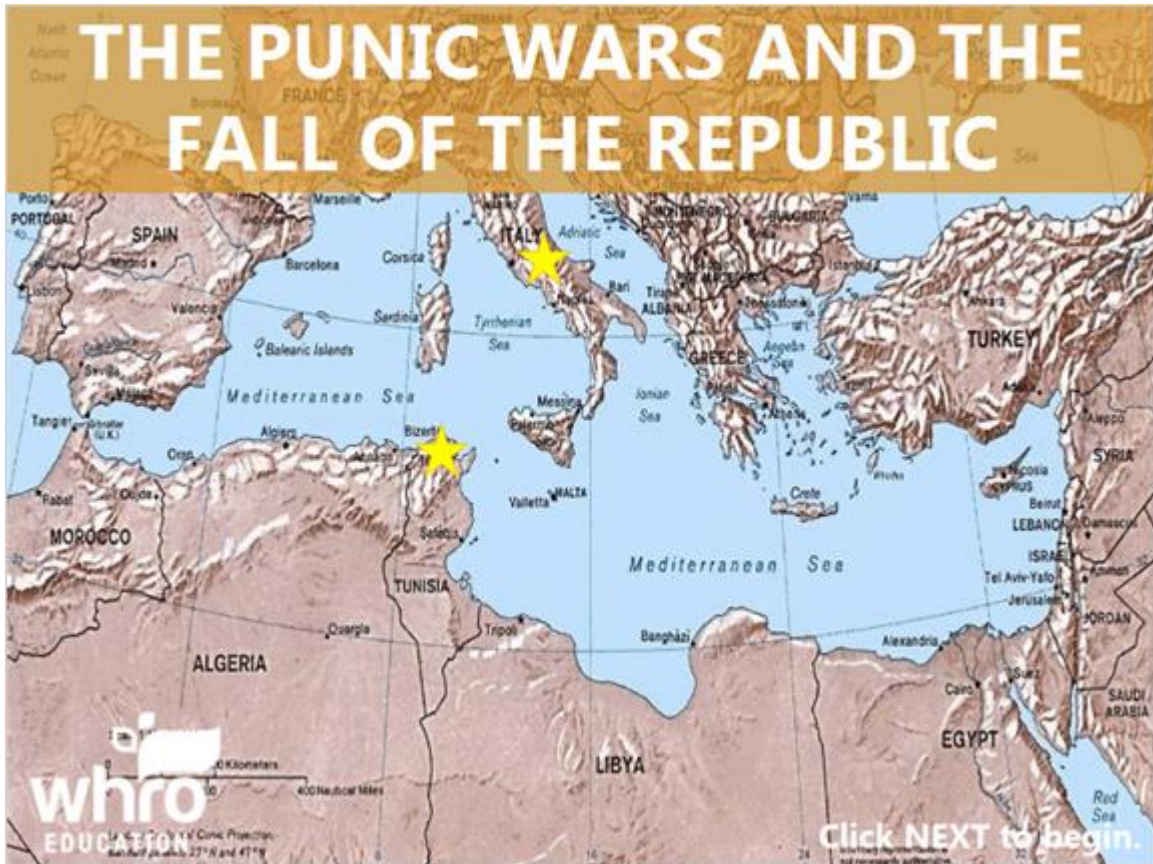


Module 5: Ancient Rome

Topic 3 Content: The Punic Wars and the Fall of the Republic

Introduction



Click the NEXT button to begin.

Module 5: Ancient Rome

Topic 3 Content: The Punic Wars and the Fall of the Republic

First Punic War

FIRST PUNIC WAR



- ✦ 264 – 241 B.C. (B.C.E.)
- ✦ Dispute over controlling Sicily
- ✦ Mostly fought at sea
- ✦ Roman victory
- ✦ Rome proved to be a naval and land power

Bust of the Roman military commander Scipio Africanus

The first Punic War lasted from 264 - 241 B.C. (B.C.E.), and began when Rome got involved in a dispute on the Carthaginian-controlled island of Sicily. What started as a regional dispute among the people of Sicily quickly turned into a direct conflict between Carthage and Rome for control of Sicily, which was a key location for trade in the Mediterranean Sea.

The bulk of the First Punic War was fought at sea. The Romans employed creative tactics to take down the Carthaginian navy. This allowed Rome to move the battle to land and use its superior army.

The First Punic War ended with a Roman victory. The Carthaginians were forced to surrender Sicily and pay reparations to the Romans. The war signified Rome's strength as a naval and land power.

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Second Punic War

SECOND PUNIC WAR



Bust of the Carthaginian military commander Hannibal

- ✦ 218 - 202 B.C. (B.C.E.)
- ✦ Hannibal sought revenge
- ✦ Carthaginians went across northern Africa, into Europe, through Spain, across France, and into Rome
- ✦ Rome was not captured
- ✦ Scipio led Romans and defeated Carthage

The second Punic War lasted from 218 through 202 B.C. (B.C.E.). The man behind this war was a brilliant military general named Hannibal, who sought revenge from Rome for Carthage's earlier defeat. Hannibal led his troops, including sixty elephants, across northern Africa and into Europe by way of the Strait of Gibraltar. Once in Europe, Hannibal marched his troops through Spain, across France, and through the Alps toward the city of Rome. While Carthage had many victorious battles during this stretch of the wars, Rome was never captured.

Led by a general named Scipio, the Romans decided to invade Carthage in hopes of forcing Hannibal to abandon his efforts in Italy and defend his beloved city. The plan worked, and Carthage was defeated at the Battle of Zama. Carthage was forced to give up its landholdings in the western Mediterranean, and again had to pay reparations to Rome.

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Third Punic War

THIRD PUNIC WAR



The ruins of ancient Carthage

- ✦ 149 - 146 B.C. (B.C.E.)
- ✦ Strict territorial guidelines
- ✦ Harsh financial payments
- ✦ Rome destroyed and conquered Carthage


The Third Punic War was the shortest of the three wars. It lasted from 149 through 146 B.C. (B.C.E.). In the years between the Second Punic War and Third Punic War, Rome subjected Carthage to strict guidelines related to their territory, as well as harsh financial payments. After the terms of the treaty from the Second Punic War had been met, Rome invaded and destroyed Carthage in an effort to further control the region and obtain the rich farmland surrounding the city. Carthage was conquered and destroyed in 146 B.C. (B.C.E.).

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Effects of the Punic Wars

EFFECTS OF THE PUNIC WARS



Fall of the Carthaginian Empire

- Lost to Rome in the 1st Punic War
- Won after the 1st and lost after the 2nd Punic War
- Lost in the 2nd Punic War
- Conquered by Rome in the 3rd Punic War

- ✦ Rome dominated the western Mediterranean
- ✦ Prompted Rome to conquer the eastern Mediterranean
- ✦ Roman Republic stretched from Spain to Anatolia by 70 B.C. (B.C.E.)


Rome's victories in the Punic Wars resulted in the civilization's domination over the western Mediterranean. The ultimate destruction of their rival Carthage encouraged the Romans to begin conquering the eastern Mediterranean. By 70 B.C. (B.C.E.), the Roman Republic stretched from Spain in the west to Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) in the east.

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Romans after the Wars

ROMANS AFTER THE WARS



Coins of the Roman Republic

- ✦ **Increased wealth**
 - ✗ Devaluation of Roman currency; inflation
- ✦ **Expansion of land**
 - ✗ Spread of slavery in the agricultural system
 - ✗ Creation of large slave plantations forced small farmers into cities
 - ✗ Increased migration into cities led to unemployment

Despite becoming a powerful presence in the Mediterranean, the Roman Republic actually faced many problems after the Punic Wars. The increased wealth due to expansion for example, led to inflation and a devaluation of the Roman currency. Additionally, as Rome grew in size, large slave plantations were formed. The cheap slave labor took away jobs from the average citizen and forced many small landowners off their farms and into cities to compete for jobs. Tensions between the rich and poor, the employed and unemployed, and the freeman and the slave ultimately caused the Roman Republic to weaken and collapse.

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Conclusion



**THE PUNIC WARS AND
THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC**

You have reached the end of this interactivity.

Restart **Exit**

The image shows a digital interface for an interactive module. At the top, a dark orange banner contains the title 'THE PUNIC WARS AND THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC' in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below this is a large dark red rectangular area with a thin orange border. Inside this red area, the text 'You have reached the end of this interactivity.' is centered in white. At the bottom of the red area, there are two white rectangular buttons with orange borders. The left button is labeled 'Restart' and the right button is labeled 'Exit', both in orange text.

You have reached the end of this interactivity.