A Roman family at the dinner table

A Roman charm, or bulla

1000 B.C. Latins settle on Palatine Hill
600 B.C. Etruscans rule the central Italian Peninsula
509 B.C. Romans set up republic
264 B.C. Punic Wars begin

UNIT 5 The Romans

0° Prime Meridian
60° W
60° E
120° E
180°
180°
120° W
Equator
Categorizing Information Study Foldable Make this foldable to help you organize your notes about the history of Rome.

**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side, leaving ½ inch tab along the side.

**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into fourths.

**Step 3** Unfold and cut along the three fold lines.

**Step 4** Label as shown.

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**Reading and Writing** As you read, identify the main ideas in each chapter. Write these ideas under the appropriate tab.

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**Journal Notes**

What contributions did the Etruscans and Romans make to world civilization? Note details about these people as you read.

- **46 B.C.** Julius Caesar is appointed dictator of Rome
- **27 B.C.** Pax Romana begins
- **392 A.D.** Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire
CHAPTER 13

Beginnings
1000 B.C.–500 B.C.

1000 B.C.
Latins settle on Palatine Hill

800 B.C.
Rome is founded

616 B.C.
Etruscans conquer Rome

600 B.C.
Etruscans dominate all of northern Italy

Painting of an Etruscan woman

Rooster-shaped pottery
SECTION 1 Founding of Rome

Romans have a legend about the founding of their city. After the fall of Troy, the gods ordered a Trojan prince called Aeneas (uh nehz uhs) to lead his people to a promised land in the West. When Aeneas’s group reached Italy, they joined forces with a people known as Latins (latnz).

About 800 B.C., a Latin princess gave birth to twin sons fathered by the god Mars. The princess had taken an oath never to have children. Because she broke her word, she was punished. Her sons, Romulus (romluhs) and Remus (remuhs), were taken from her and left to die on the bank of the flooding Tiber.

Romulus and Remus were found by a she-wolf, which fed and cared for them. One day a shepherd killed the she-wolf and discovered the babies. He took them to his home.

When the boys grew older, they decided to build a city on the Tiber. They decided to let the gods choose which brother should rule the city.
Each brother climbed to the top of a different hill to watch for a sign from the gods. Then 12 vultures flew over the Palatine. Since Romulus stood atop the Palatine, he claimed to be king. He and Remus then fought, and Remus was killed. Romulus became king of the city, which he named Rome.

Experts have learned that about 1000 B.C., groups of people with iron weapons began invading the lands around the Mediterranean. One group invaded Egypt and brought down the New Kingdom. Another group moved into the Balkan Peninsula. A third group, the Latins, settled on the Palatine. Romans belonged to this group.

The area where the Latins settled had a pleasant climate and fertile soil. Nearby were dense forests that supplied the Latins with timber. They built gravel roads to bring salt and other items from the coast.

By 776 B.C., the settlement on the Palatine had become a village of about 1,000 people. Most of the people were farmers who lived in wooden huts and worked the land. Their main crops were wheat and barley.

**Section 1 Assessment**

1. According to legend, how was Rome founded?
2. What natural resources existed in the area settled by the Latins?
3. How did the Latins live?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Evaluating Information** How true do you think the legend of Rome’s founding is? Explain your answer.

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**SECTION 2 The Etruscans**

Around 800 B.C., a people called Etruscans (ē truhs’ kuhnz) settled in Etruria (ē truhr’ ē uh), the rolling hill country north of the Latin village on the Palatine. The Etruscans wrote in an alphabet borrowed from the Greeks. They spoke a language different from any other in the ancient world. Many historians believe they came from the kingdom of Lydia in Asia Minor.

The Etruscans dug tunnels and built dams to drain their marshy fields. High on hilltops, they built a number of cities, each surrounded by a thick wall.

The Etruscans were Italy’s first highly civilized people. They were known as “the people of the sea.” As pirates, they were
Reading A Political Map

In all parts of the world, people have created governments in order to live together. Maps that show areas ruled by particular governments are called political maps. Most people use political maps to find cities and countries.

Political maps use symbols to show the location of capitals and other cities. A star is usually used to show the capital of a country or state, and a dot is used to show other cities. Boundary lines mark where a country or state begins and ends. Boundaries may be shown by solid, dashed, or dotted lines. Colors often show the size and shape of countries and states. All these symbols, lines, and colors are not really on Earth’s surface, but what they show exists.

On the map of “Early Italy” below, the three colors show the particular areas ruled by three peoples.

Map Practice

1. Who controlled the southernmost part of Italy?
2. What two cities are shown?
3. What people controlled the smallest area?
feared and envied throughout the Mediterranean. As traders, they were admired and respected.

Etruscan farmers used mostly iron tools to grow barley, millet, wheat, grapes, and other fruits. They raised pigs, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens, and cattle. The farmers used cattle for food and to pull plows and wagons.

Etruscan miners dug copper, lead, iron, and tin. Etruscan metalworkers and sculptors turned these metals into weapons, utensils, and jewelry. Etruscan merchants exchanged both metals and finished goods for luxury items of gold, silver, and ivory from Syria, Greece, and other eastern Mediterranean countries.

The Etruscans had a strong army. The soldiers learned much about weapons and battle techniques from the Greeks. Their infantry formed a phalanx much like the one used by the Greeks. However, the Etruscans had one “weapon” no one else

Arches Etruscan engineers were among the first to use arches widely in their architecture. The semicircular stone arches could support great weight and allowed them to build gateways into fortified cities (below). Today the arch remains the symbol of a gateway, as illustrated by the stainless steel Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri (right). The arch acts as a symbol of the door to the American West. What types of buildings might be found in an Etruscan city?
had—their shoes. They wore heavy leather shoes that laced firmly around the ankle. This gave them better footing than their enemies on rough or hilly ground.

Over time, the Etruscan cities grew in size and power. The Etruscans became rich. By 600 B.C., they dominated all of northern Italy, including the Latin village on the Palatine.

**Daily Life** The Etruscans enjoyed bright colors, riches, and a good time. They gambled with ivory dice or played games similar to chess and backgammon. They often watched or took part in such sports as wrestling, running, boxing, and horse racing.

Most of all, the Etruscans loved music and dancing. Sounds from a double flute or a stringed lyre (lı́r) accompanied most of their activities. Much of their dancing was connected to religion. Dances were done to gain favor from the gods.

Both Etruscan men and women danced. Dancing was just one of the freedoms enjoyed by Etruscan women. Unlike Greek or Latin women, Etruscan women took part in public celebrations. They could also own property.

The Etruscans had a strong sense of social order, or the way groups of people are classed. At first, there were no great class differences among them. Only acrobats and enslaved people, who were captives of war, were thought inferior. Later, people were divided into three classes. The upper class consisted of wealthy landowners, nobles, and priests. The middle class had farmers, traders, and city workers. The lower class was enslaved people.

A few wealthy families owned most of the land. They also owned most of the enslaved people, who tended the land and did other work. The rich lived in rectangular, one-story homes made of sun-dried brick on a frame of heavy timbers. A pitched roof covered with clay tiles extended beyond the house. Stone-lined drains led from each house into the main drains that ran along the pebble-paved streets. Most homes also had broad, walled courtyards open to the sky. During the day, the center room was often used for talking about business. At night, it was the scene of entertainment.

**Religious Beliefs** The Etruscans had many gods, most of whom were modeled after those of the Greeks. At first, the Etruscans worshiped their gods outdoors on platforms of stone or earth. Later, they built temples of wood, mud-brick, and clay on stone foundations. The temples had peaked, tiled roofs adorned with sculptures.

The Etruscans believed the universe was divided into provinces. Each province was ruled by different gods. Humans lived in the center of the universe, facing south towards the gods of nature and Earth. To the right lay the West, which was ruled by the gods of death and of the underworld. To the left lay the East,
which was ruled by the gods of the heavens. Because of this, Etruscans planned their cities and built their temples to face east.

The Etruscans also believed humans were powerless before the gods. More than anything else, the Etruscans wanted to please their gods. First, however, they had to discover what their gods willed. They did this through a priestly group of aristocrats called soothsayers (sūth’ sāuhrz), or people who can predict events.

Soothsayers read certain omens (ō’ muhnz), or signs of what is to happen. One group of soothsayers read omens from the livers of sacrificed animals. Another group of soothsayers explained the will of the gods by studying the direction and sounds of thunder and lightning and the flights of birds.

**Tombs of Gold** When an Etruscan noble died, a great banquet was held. At the banquet, two of the noble’s slaves fought one another to the death. The spirit of the slave who was killed went with the noble’s spirit to the underworld.

The dead were buried in tombs beneath the ground called catacombs (kat’ uh kōmz). Much of what is known about Etruscan life comes from such tombs, whose inside walls were brightly painted with pictures of daily life. The tombs had chairs and beds. The bodies of the dead rested on the beds.

The Etruscans believed that life after death lasted longer and was more important than life on Earth. So, they carved their tombs out of natural rock, which would last for a long time. They filled the tombs with works of art and treasures of gold, silver, bronze, and ivory. Because of this, Etruscan tombs are known as “tombs of gold.”

Outside each Etruscan city was a necropolis (nek rop’ uh luhs), or cemetery, made up of acres of these tombs. The necropolis outside the city of Caere (sir’ ē) is one of the largest Etruscan cemeteries. There, great mounds of soil are piled in the shape of a dome on top of a base. Some of the mounds measure 100 feet, or 30 meters, across.
In 616 B.C., Lucius Tarquinius (lū’ shuhs tar kwin’ ē uhs) became the first Etruscan ruler of Rome. No one is certain whether Tarquinius took the throne from the Latin king by force or by cleverness. Nevertheless, his dynasty ruled Rome for more than 100 years.

The Etruscans were more culturally advanced than the Latins. They made many contributions to Roman civilization. In the area of architecture, the Etruscans taught the Latins how to use the arch in building bridges. The Etruscans also laid the foundations of Rome’s first sewer system. They drained the swamp at the foot of the Palatine. This later became the place where Rome’s Forum (för’ uhm), or the public square, was built. The Forum housed a palace, government buildings, and law courts.

The Etruscans made a contribution in the area of language as well. They borrowed the Greek alphabet and made some changes in it. The Romans, in turn, borrowed the Etruscan alphabet.

The Romans also borrowed some Etruscan customs. One was the fights of enslaved people held at Etruscan funerals. These were models for the gladiatorial (glad’ ē uh tör ē uhl) games with which the Romans amused themselves. These games were fights between armed men, between men and animals, between women and dwarfs, and between animals. Another custom borrowed from the Etruscans was the triumph (trı¯’ uhmf), or the parade-like welcome given a Roman hero returning from battle.

In addition, the Romans borrowed Etruscan symbols of authority. One of these was the fasces (fas’ ēz), or a bundle of rods bound around an ax. It became the symbol of a Roman ruler’s power to beat or execute other people.

The Etruscans also introduced the Romans to certain religious beliefs. These included soothsayers and gods with human forms. The Etruscans built the first temple on the Capitoline (kap’ uh tuh līn), one of the seven hills of Rome. Today, it is the center of Rome’s municipal (myū nis’ uh puhl), or city, government.

The Romans founded their cities according to a ritual borrowed from the Etruscans. Soothsayers read omens that told where the city’s boundaries should be. A ditch was dug to mark the boundaries. The plow used to dig the ditch had a bronze blade and was pulled by a white bull and cow yoked together. Workers then dug a trench at the center of the city. After each of the city’s founders had tossed a handful of earth into the trench, the priests took over. They laid out the main street and determined the principal cross street. The place where the two streets met was marked by a stone.
The Etruscans believed that the stone covered a shaft leading to the underworld. Three times a year, an Etruscan priest lifted the stone to allow the souls of the dead to return to Earth. The Romans believed the place where the two streets met was the mundus (muhn’ duhs), or the meeting point for the worlds of the living and the dead.

Etruscans were not the first to develop many of the ideas and practices that the Romans borrowed. The Etruscans were, however, the people who brought these ideas to the notice of the Romans. Thus, they played an important role in the development of Roman civilization.

Section 3 Assessment

2. What contributions did the Etruscans make to the Roman language?
3. How did the Etruscans and Romans establish their cities?

Critical Thinking

4. Distinguishing Fact From Opinion
   “The Latins benefited from Etruscan rule.” What facts support this opinion?

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show Etruscan contributions to the Romans.

Etruscan Contributions

Chapter Summary & Study Guide

1. According to legend, Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus on the Palatine.
2. Some of the earliest farming settlements at Rome were built by the Latins.
3. The main occupation of the Latins was farming.
4. The Etruscans conquered Rome in 616 B.C. and took control of northern Italy.
5. The Etruscans enjoyed life and had a strong sense of social order.
6. The Etruscans were noted throughout the Mediterranean world as traders and pirates.
7. Religion was important to the Etruscans, and they went to soothsayers to find ways to please their many gods.
8. The Romans learned many things from the Etruscans, including use of the arch in building, an alphabet, and a ritual for establishing cities.

Self-Check Quiz

Visit the Human Heritage Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 13—Self-Check Quiz to assess your understanding of this chapter.
Using Key Terms

Imagine you are an archaeologist studying the ruins of an Etruscan city for the first time. Use the following words to write a letter describing some of the exciting things that you have discovered.

Social order, soothsayers, omens, catacombs, necropolis, Forum, gladiatorial games, triumph, fasces, municipal, mundus

Understanding Main Ideas

1. What part of Italy did the Etruscans dominate?
2. How did the kind of shoes the Etruscans wore help them in battle?
3. What group of people owned most of the land in Etruria?
4. Why did the Etruscans build their temples to face east?
5. How have experts learned much of what they know about Etruscan life?
6. Who was the first Etruscan ruler of Rome?
7. What customs did the Romans borrow from the Etruscans?
8. What religious beliefs did the Etruscans introduce to the Romans?

Critical Thinking

1. Compare the role of women in Etruria with their role in Greek civilization.
2. What role did religion play in Etruscan life? How did Etruscan religious ideas differ from those of the Greeks?
3. What would you have enjoyed the most about living in Etruria? Explain.

Graphic Organizer Activity

Culture  Draw a diagram like the one shown, and use it to compare the role of women in Etruria with the role of women in most Greek city-states.

Geography in History

The World in Spatial Terms  Look at the map on page 211. If the people of Etruria were attacked by another empire, from what direction and by what means would the attack come? What geographic feature might protect Etruria? Draw a map showing the most likely routes of a possible attack.

Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about contributions made by the Etruscans to world civilization. Prepare an illustrated chart showing some of the contributions of Etruscan architecture in the area where you live.