Self-Paced Lesson – The Founding of Rome

Today's Lesson: Myth vs. Reality – The Founding of Rome

Big Question: How was the city of Rome founded and how do we know?

Objectives:
- Learn the myth of Romulus and Remus.
- Compare the mythical story of the founding of Rome to the factual account in the textbook.

Step-by-Step: These steps must be completed by the end of class today.

1. Read the Romulus and Remus myth of how Rome was founded
2. Complete the 'Quick Quiz’ – Before moving on to the next step of the lesson, you must have Mr. Berman check your quiz. [10 points]
3. Using a History Alive! Textbook, go to page 310 and read about the origins of the city of Rome.
4. When you finish reading the textbook, you will take a sheet of loose leaf paper and draw a modified T-Chart with the headings ‘Myth’ and ‘Reality’ and ‘Similarities’ (picture below)
5. You will compare the similarities and differences between the two versions of the story of how Rome was founded. [10 points]
6. By the end of the period, hand in your T-chart to the Homework bin on the bookshelf. Don't forget your name and class period!!

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<th>Myth</th>
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<td>Similarities</td>
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Bonus: (10 points if handed in by class tomorrow – this will not be accepted late)
- Take a copy of and read the New York Times article, “More Clues in the Legend (or Is It Fact?) of Romulus”
- Annotate the article with different colors. Each color will represent one of the following:
  - Evidence that the story of Romulus and Remus was, in fact, real
  - Elements of the mythical story of Romulus and Remus
  - Any other connections you made from the article to your own background knowledge or prior reading
- Make a key to your annotations on the bottom of the article
A **legend** is a story about a person who did something heroic. It is not based on fact nor can it be said to be the truth. Roman children were told the following legend about how the city of Rome was built.

Romulus and Remus were twin brothers. Their father was Mars, the God of War, their mother was Rhea Silvia, daughter of the King, Numitor. Numitor's brother, Amulius, had taken the throne from him and had forced Rhea Silvia to not have any children who might try to take back the throne. Despite this, Rhea Silvia gave birth to twins.

When the boys were born, Amulius seized them, put them into a basket and threw them into the river Tiber. He hoped that they would drown. However, the boys were rescued by a she-wolf who fed the babies with her own milk and cared for them.

They grew up and were found by the shepherd Faustulus, who took them home and looked after them until they were grown up.

The two young men discovered who they really were and decided to kill Amulius and put their grandfather back on the throne. After doing this they decided to build a city of their own but could not agree where to build it. Remus favored the Aventine Hill but Romulus wanted to use the Palatine Hill. They could not reach an agreement and so each began to build his own city enclosed with walls.

One day, Remus visited Romulus and made fun of his wall by jumping over it and saying how easily it could be breached. Romulus was so annoyed that he killed Remus and said the he would kill anyone who mocked his city or tried to break through the walls of Rome.

The legend says that Romulus became the first King of Rome in 753BC and populated his new city with runaway slaves and convicted criminals. He stole women from the Sabine tribe to provide wives for the slaves and criminals and to populate his new city.

The Sabine tribe were not happy about this and declared war on Rome. The war went on for many years but eventually the Sabine tribe and Romulus reached an agreement and the Sabines became a part of Rome under the Kingship of Romulus.

The legend ends by telling how Romulus was carried up to the heavens by his father, Mars, and was worshipped as the God Quirinus.
Romulus and Remus Quick Quiz

Directions: Write the letter of the answer to the left of the question

1) What are Romulus and Remus most famous for?
A. Rescuing Helen of Troy
B. Starting the Olympics
C. Founding the city of Rome
D. Being kings of the Underworld

2) Who first cared for the boys when they were abandoned?
A. A she-wolf
B. A forest nymph
C. The goddess Venus
D. A pack of llamas

3) What did Romulus and Remus first disagree on?
A. Whether to found a new city or stay at the old one
B. If they should kill the king or not
C. What hill to found the city of Rome on
D. Who was the strongest

4) What hill did Romulus want to found the city on?
A. Aventine Hill
B. Palatine Hill
C. Esquiline Hill
D. Caelian Hill

5) How did Remus die?
A. He fell down when trying to climb a high wall
B. He was attacked by wild vultures
C. Romulus killed him when Remus made fun of his wall
D. In a battle with a fearsome monster
6) Who was the father of the twins?
A. Mars
B. Jupiter
C. Julius Caesar
D. Apollo

7) When was the city of Rome founded?
A. 1200 BCE
B. 1012 BCE
C. 753 BCE
D. 412 BCE

8) How did Rome get its name?
A. It was named after the shepherd who raised the boys
B. It came to Romulus in a whirlwind
C. Jupiter named the city
D. Romulus named the city after himself

9) Where did the king abandon the boys?
A. He sold them into slavery
B. In the desert
C. In a basket on the Tiber River
D. On the steps of a temple

10) Who is considered to be the first king of Rome?
A. Romulus
B. Caesar
C. Augustus
D. Remus
The story of Romulus and Remus is almost as old as Rome. The orphan twins were suckled by a she-wolf in a cave on the banks of the Tiber. Romulus grew up to found Rome in 753 B.C.

Historians have long since dismissed the story as a charming legend. The 19th-century historian Theodor Mommsen said: “The founding of the city in the strict sense, such as the legend assumes, is of course to be reckoned out of the question: Rome was not built in a day.”

Yet the legend is as never-ending as Mommsen’s uncertain conclusion, and it has been strengthened by recent archaeological finds.

This year, Italian archaeologists reported discovering the long-lost cave under the Palatine Hill that ancient Romans held sacred as the place where the twins were nursed. The grown brothers fought over leadership of the new city, the story goes, and Romulus killed Remus and became the first king.

The cave was no surprise to Andrea Carandini, a historian and an archaeologist at the University of Rome, who has said, “The tale of the birth of Rome is part myth and part historical truth.” He had already found remains of an ancient wall and ditch and also ruins of a palace that he said was built in the eighth century B.C.

“When I excavated the Romulean-age wall on the Palatine, I realized that I was looking at the very origins of Rome as a city-state,” Dr. Carandini said in a long interview in the July-August issue of the magazine Archaeology.

Dr. Carandini said the wall, built on the slopes occupied by huts of the pre-Roman settlement, was dated to about 775-750 B.C. He said that the wall was possibly the boundary in Rome’s foundation legend and concluded that it was “archaeological evidence of the existence of Romulus and Remus.”

Based on these and other findings, Dr. Carandini said of Rome’s founding, “everything was born” after 750 B.C. “There was no gradual expansion of an old core, but the sudden evolution of a city that was great and remains great.”

The magazine noted that Dr. Carandini’s support of the legend “has earned him the admiration of the Roman public but the disapproval of many of his colleagues.”

Other archaeologists, while praising his excavations, were skeptical of his interpretations.

Albert Ammerman, an archaeologist at Colgate University who has excavated Roman ruins, said in the magazine that the presence of certain physical remains did not necessarily confirm the literary tradition of Rome’s founding and the existence of someone known as Romulus.