

# THE STORY OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

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LO: To be able to listen and answer questions to the story of Romulus and Remus

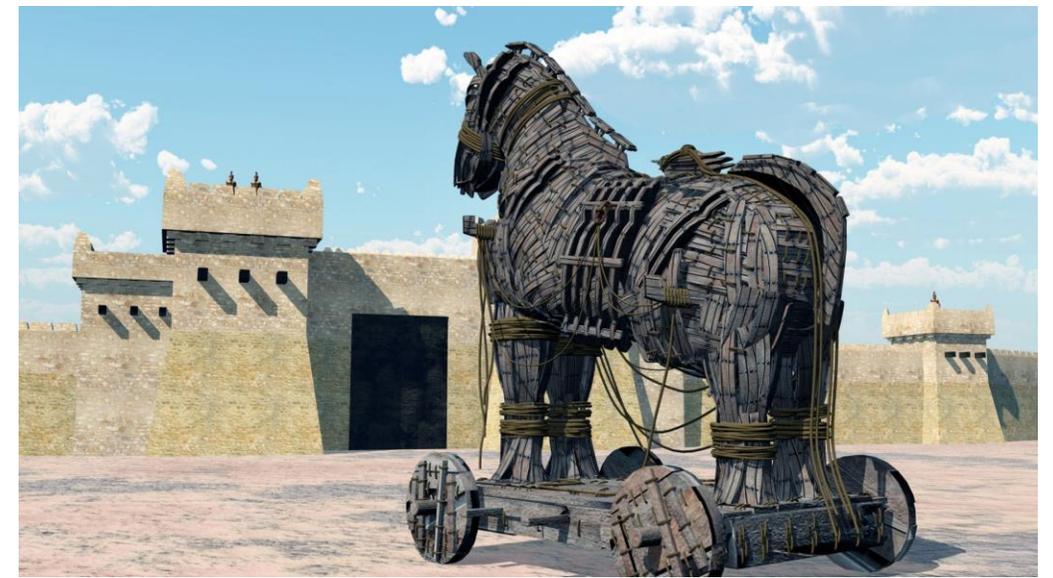
PBL WEEK 3



# THE STORY OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

The legend of how Rome was formed in 750bce and became the heart of the Roman Empire is a famous myth.

Although known to be a myth (untrue) it was and is widely told as the story of the founding of Rome and famous works of art were made in honour of the tale.



The tale begins in the state which was known as Alba Longa in central Italy.

Aeneas, son of the Greek Goddess Aphrodite, had fled here to Italy after the burning of the city of Troy in about 1250 BCE. Troy was captured by the Greeks using the Trojan horse (another famous legend).

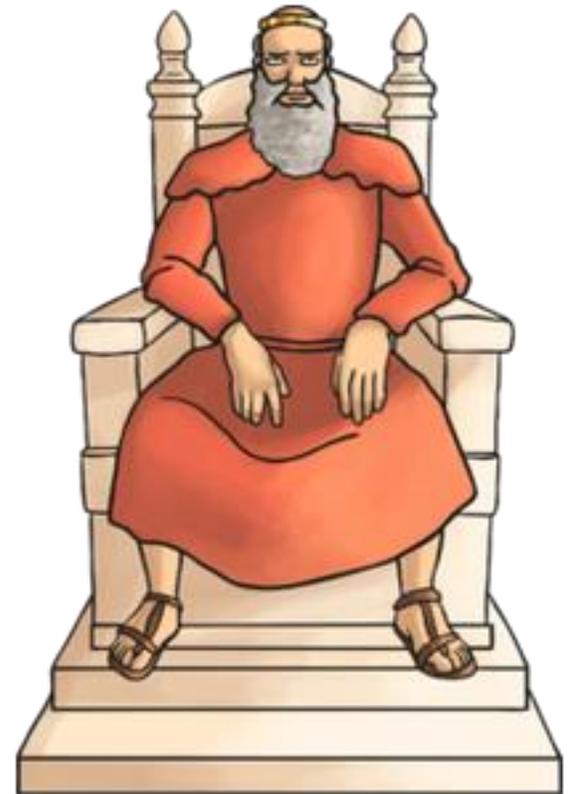
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In Italy, Aeneas married a princess and began a line of kings. He had twin sons whom he named Romulus and Remus.

They had a wicked uncle Amulius, who wanted more than anything to be king. One night he ordered the twins to be killed.

A slave took them to the river Tiber in a basket and threw them in

With the hopes that someone would rescue them.



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As it turned out, the twins did not drown as was expected, but the basket floated down the river and was caught in a thorny bush, where the two babies were found by a she-wolf.

The she-wolf fed them her own milk and raised them until a shepherd found them.

The shepherd and his wife saw they had no mother or father and took care of them until they were adults.



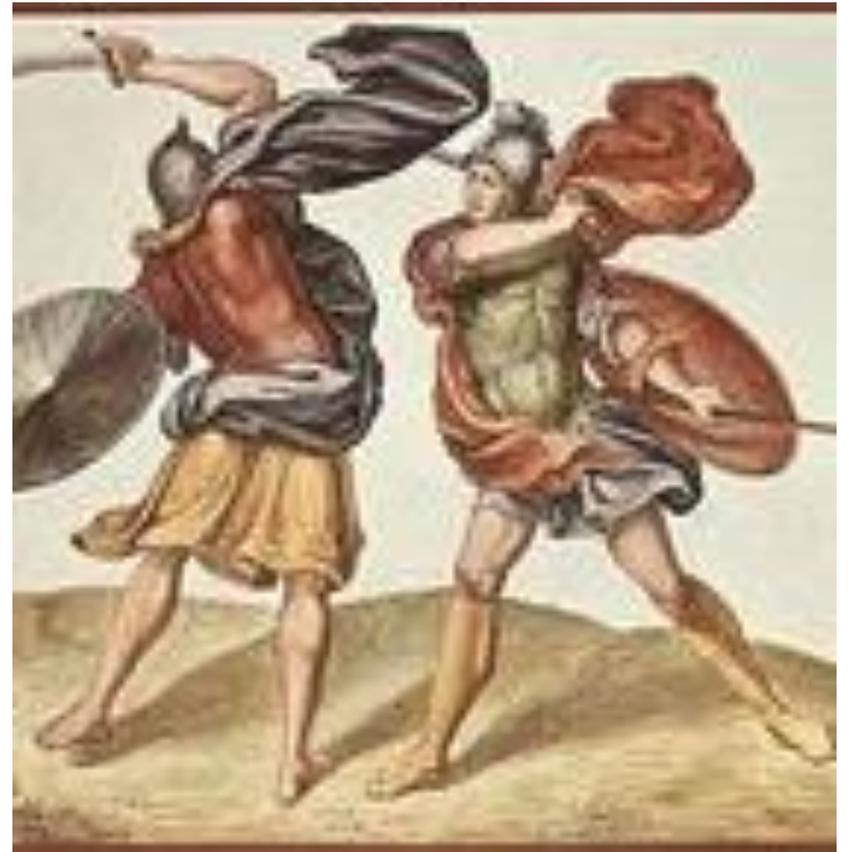
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Once they had grown up they returned to the thorn bush which had saved them when they were babies and built a city.

They were strong leaders and slowly more and more people flocked to the new city with its tales of success and wealth.

When they discovered that it was their wicked uncle Amulius who had tried to kill them, they killed him. The town spread to Capitone Hill, near where he had lived. It spanned seven hills along the River Tiber.

By this time the city was large and prosperous and Romulus and Remus began to argue. They each wanted to rule the city on their own.



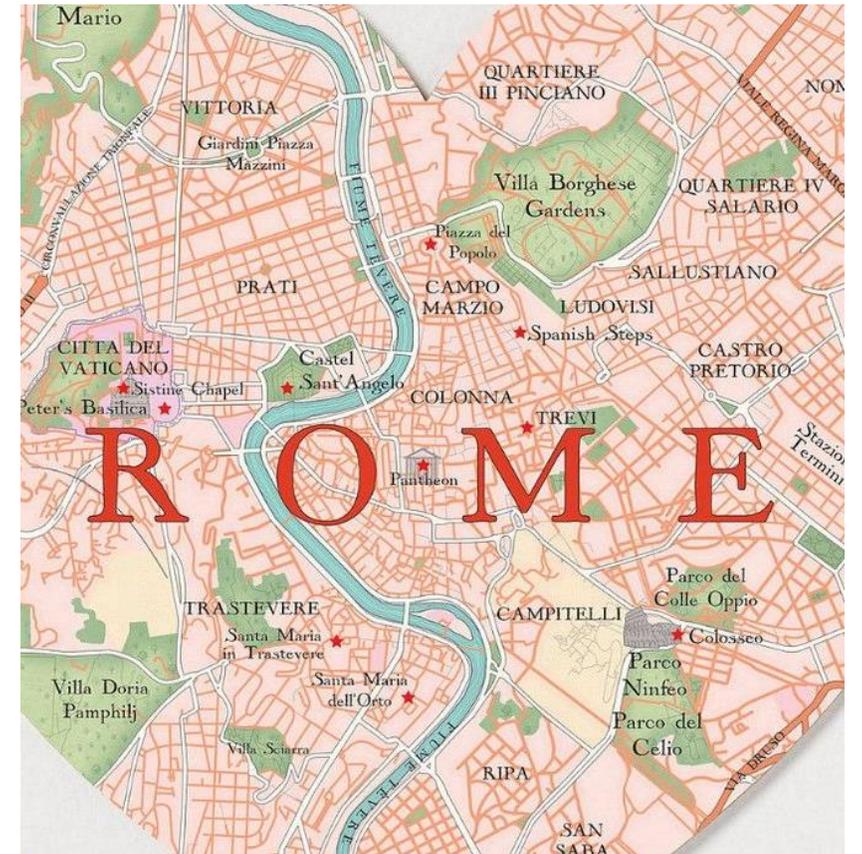
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There was a lot of jealousy between the brothers and eventually Romulus waited until Remus had left the city on business and he ploughed a line around the city boundary. When his brother Remus returned he told him that if he crossed the line he would kill him.

Remus was outraged. He couldn't believe his brother's threat. He leapt across the line and attacked his brother viciously.

Romulus and Remus had a bitter fight, but in the end Remus lay dead in the ploughed line while Romulus stood victorious.

Romulus named the city Rome, after himself, and ruled it until he disappeared in a storm and became a god.



# TASK

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Answer the following questions:

1. What is a myth?
2. What does BCE stand for?
3. Do you think what Romulus did was right? Explain why?
4. Do you think they should have killed their wicked uncle Amulius?
5. If you were to do a role play about this story, which character role would you like to take on and why?