

Rome Across the Sea

Trace how three wars changed Rome's power and society.

SS.6.W.3.9 "Explain the impact of the Punic Wars on the development of the Roman Empire."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how the Punic Wars changed Rome, then number them 1, 2, and 3 to show changes in territory, power, and society.

The Punic Wars and Rome

- ① Rome and Carthage were powerful neighbors in the western Mediterranean. Carthage, founded by Phoenician settlers, controlled trade routes and had a strong navy. Rome controlled much of Italy but wanted influence across the sea. In 264 BCE, both powers became involved in a dispute over Sicily. The First Punic War began. Rome built fleets, fought at sea, and defeated Carthage in 241 BCE. Rome gained Sicily, its first province outside Italy, and demanded payment from Carthage.
- ② Peace did not end the rivalry. Carthage expanded its power in Spain, while Rome feared Carthage would become dangerous again. In 218 BCE, Hannibal, a Carthaginian general, crossed the Alps with an army and elephants to attack Italy. His victories frightened Romans and destroyed several Roman armies. Rome avoided a final battle with Hannibal in Italy. Instead, Roman forces attacked Carthaginian lands in Spain and North Africa. In 202 BCE, Scipio defeated Hannibal at Zama. Rome took Spanish territory and became the leading western Mediterranean power.
- ③ Rome's victories brought wealth, land, enslaved people, and new responsibilities. After the Third Punic War, Rome destroyed Carthage in 146 BCE and took control of its territory in North Africa. Roman provinces needed governors, soldiers, and tax collectors, so Rome's government managed lands far beyond Italy. Trade and taxes increased Rome's resources, while long wars changed Roman society. Some small farmers lost their land during military service, and wealthy Romans bought larger estates. The Punic Wars helped turn Rome from an Italian republic into a Mediterranean empire.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why was Rome's gain of Sicily after the First Punic War important?

2 How did Rome respond to Hannibal's attack during the Second Punic War, and what was one result?

3 What new jobs did Rome need to do as it gained provinces after the wars?

4 Describe one way the Punic Wars changed Roman society.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 5-6 sentence claim explaining which impact of the Punic Wars was most important in turning Rome into an empire. Use at least two facts from the passage and explain how each fact supports your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how the Punic Wars changed Rome, then number them 1, 2, and 3 to show changes in territory, power, and society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was Rome's gain of Sicily after the First Punic War important?	Sicily was Rome's first province outside Italy, so Rome began controlling land across the sea.
2	How did Rome respond to Hannibal's attack during the Second Punic War, and what was one result?	Rome attacked Carthaginian lands in Spain and North Africa. Scipio defeated Hannibal at Zama, and Rome gained Spanish territory.
3	What new jobs did Rome need to do as it gained provinces after the wars?	Rome needed governors, soldiers, and tax collectors to manage its provinces.
4	Describe one way the Punic Wars changed Roman society.	Some small farmers lost land while serving in the military, and wealthy Romans bought larger estates.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Territory was the most important impact of the Punic Wars. Sicily gave Rome its first province outside Italy. Later, Spain and North Africa added more lands for Rome to govern. These provinces brought trade, taxes, and resources. Managing faraway provinces also required Roman officials and soldiers. Because Rome controlled and governed much of the Mediterranean, it grew from an Italian republic into an empire.

Accept claims that identify a major impact, such as territorial expansion, increased power and resources, new government duties, or social change. Students should support the claim with at least two accurate passage facts and explain the connection to Rome's growth.