



What is Carthage?

1. Phoenician City in N. Africa
 2. Dido flees from Tyre to establish
 3. 8th Century B.C. - >trading post
 4. Dominant naval power & most important trading center of western Mediterranean
 5. Controls western half of Sicily
 6. Signs treaties with Rome in 508 B.C. and 348 B.C.
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Origins of the First Punic War

1. Mercenaries (Mamertines) take control of Messina
 - a. Request aid from Carthaginians and Romans
 - i. Carthaginians send aid
 - ii. Romans hate mamertines but fear Carthaginians expanding influence
 1. Carthage controlling Sicily = danger for Rome



Appius Claudius Caudex

1. Claudius is sent to help Mamertines
 - a. Carthaginians tricked into leaving
 - b. Now fighting Hiero of Syracuse and the Carthaginians
2. Claudius defeats Hiero's army
 - a. Joins Rome in alliance
3. Claudius defeats Carthaginian army at Agrigentum
 - a. Rome realizes they need a navy to take Sicily
 - i. Use captured Carthaginian ship to build navy



The Raven

1. Rome struggles in naval battles
 - a. Build Raven
 - i. Pole attached to ship that connects to enemy ship
 1. Allows soldiers to board
 - ii. Turns naval into hand to hand
 - iii. Carthaginians lose at Mylae b/c of it



M. Atilius Regulus

1. Consul Regulus sails to Africa to invade
2. 256 B.C. Romans win battle of Ecnomus
3. Carthage asks Rome for peace
 - a. Continue fightings b/c peace terms were too harsh
 - b. Carthage asks Spartan Xanthippus for help
 - i. Crushes Roman army and captures Regulus
4. Regulus sent to get peace/prisoner swap from Rome
 - a. Advises Rome to reject offer
 - b. Romans reject proposal after learning he lied about taking a poison and will die soon
 - c. When Regulus returns w/o peace terms he is tortured and killed



Romans at Sea

1. Romans lose at sea - > focus on land
2. Romans have control (except for Lilybaeum and Drepana)
 - a. Need a fleet to take b/c Carthage is reinforcing by sea
3. Roman citizens contribute money for new fleet





End of First Punic War

1. Carthaginian fleet defeated off Sicily
 - a. Romans besiege Lilybaeum
 - b. Carthage asks for peace in 241 B.C.
 - i. Must abandon Sicily & pay war fines
 - ii. Rome takes Corsica and Sardinia and demands more payments
 - c. Carthaginians are bitter and resentful
 - d. Hamilcar Barca never forgets
2. Rome goes on to take northern Italy up to the Alps