

# Act. 1.1 Mapping the Expansion of the Roman Empire



# Rome's Beginnings: Romulus and Remus

## Mythical Version:

- Romulus and Remus, sons of Latin princess and god Mars, were abandoned
- They were cared for by a she-wolf, and later discovered by a shepherd and his wife
- Romulus killed Remus and becomes the first king of Rome

## Historical Version:

- Latins settled on Palatine, a fertile area with pleasant climate, around 1200 B.C.
- Etruscans...people of the sea...of Etruria, ruled Rome for 200 years
- Romans overthrew Etruscan leaders and set up a Republic in 509 B.C.





# The Expansion of the Roman Republic

- City-state Carthage ruled much of North Africa, Spain, and Sicily
- Roman conflict with Carthage started the Punic Wars
- Carthage lost all its territories to Rome in the Battle of Zama
- Rome became the leading power of the Mediterranean Sea



# The Final Years of the Roman Republic



- Rome's conquests  
caused changes...cities become  
crowded, gap between rich and poor grew
- Attempts were made to improve conditions in Rome
- Julius Caesar built up an army and took  
power...he conquered surrounding areas  
and was eventually assassinated by those who opposed his dictatorship

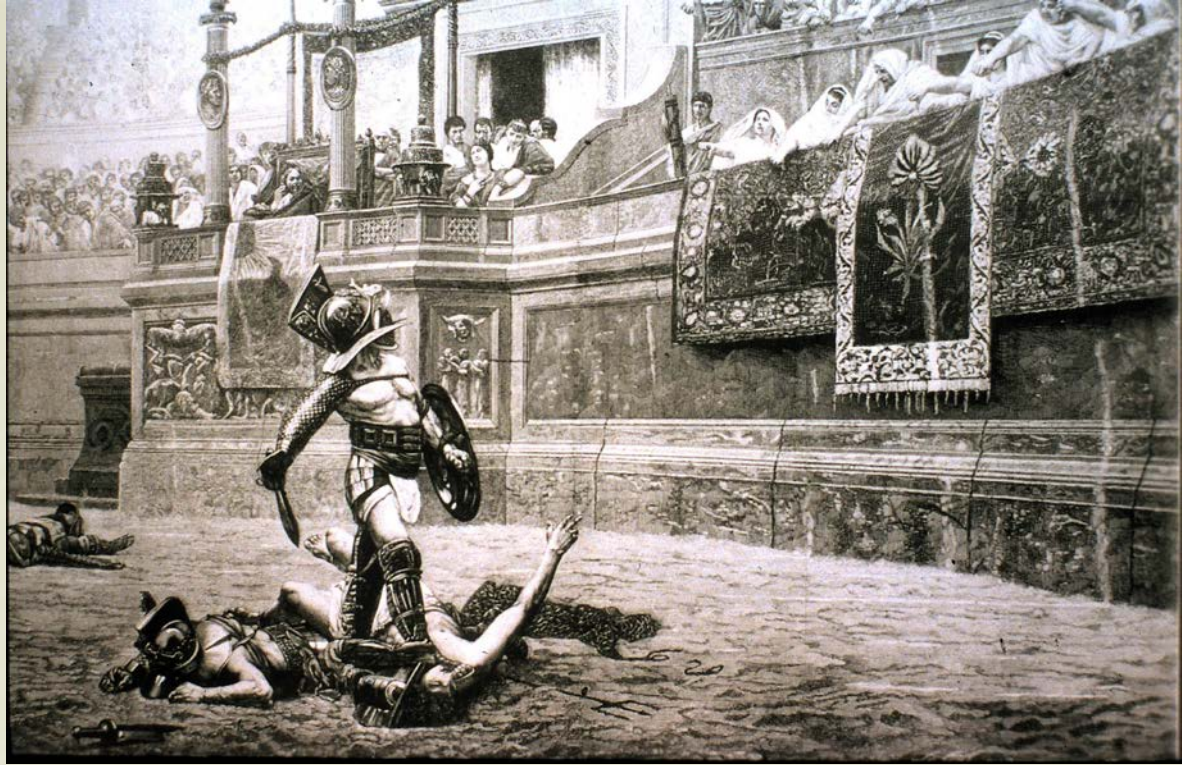


# Cleopatra's Death

- After Caesar's death, civil war broke out between Antony, Cleopatra & Octavian
- Octavian won a victory at Actium
- Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide to avoid being paraded through Rome as captives
- Octavian became the absolute ruler of Rome and given the title "Augustus" (honored) and "FIRST CITIZEN"
- He ended the expansion of the Roman Empire and introduced the *Pax Romana*...a time of peace & unity



# Gladiatorial Games



- After 186 A.D., civil wars broke out and emperors lost control
- Rome's size was difficult to manage
- Barbarians attacked
- Gladiatorial games were one sign of Rome's decline