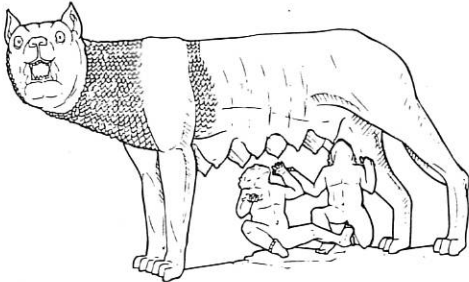


# ROMULUS AND REMUS

This Roman legend tells of the founding of Rome by a soldier-farmer called Romulus.

Two brothers, Amulius and Numitor, quarreled over who should be ruler and eventually the younger Amulius made himself king. He banished Numitor from the kingdom and then killed his brother's sons. Later, Amulius ordered his brother's pretty daughter, Rhea Sylvia, not to marry or have children. Amulius feared any children she might have would seek revenge against him for his terrible deed. However, Rhea had twin sons, Romulus and Remus, and declared that Mars, the Roman god of war, was their father. Amulius was furious.



Wanting the twins to die, he imprisoned their mother and commanded his servants to set them adrift in a basket on the rising floodwaters of the River Tiber. The cries of the young boys were heard by a she-wolf, which then suckled them and looked after the twins in her cave. Later, a poor shepherd discovered them and he and his wife raised the boys in their humble home.

When they were adults, the boys were told how Amulius had tried to drown them. Seeking revenge, they slew Amulius and placed their grandfather, Numitor, on the throne. The brothers then decided to build a new city but quarreled over its location. Following what he believed was a sign from the gods which favored him, Romulus decided to build the city on the site he had chosen. This angered Remus and during another fierce argument Romulus killed Remus and then began building the city of Rome.

## Activity Box

1. Who was Rome named after in legend?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was Rhea Sylvia's father?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In a legend there is usually a hero and a villain. Who was the villain in this story?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Explain the phrase "their humble home" in your own words.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was Amulius's "terrible deed"?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think Rhea said that Mars was her sons' father?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Give synonyms from the passage for these words:

(a) irate \_\_\_\_\_

(b) exiled \_\_\_\_\_

(c) killed \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name the twins mentioned in the legend.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Two words in the passage that mean "instructed" are:

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Circle the correct answer.

Amulius was the . . .

**uncle**      **brother**      **grandfather**

**nephew**      **great uncle**      . . . of Remus.