



WORKSHEET

Ancient: Episode 3

A Time of Challenges

Quote

“Rome has grown since its humble beginnings that it is now overwhelmed by its own greatness.”
(Titus Livius)

Summary

In this episode, we trace the epic exploits of Hannibal, one of Rome’s most relentless, strategic, and dangerous rivals. We step into the crossfire between Carthage and Rome in the Punic Wars and examine one of the most studied battles in ancient history. We peer more deeply into the lives of those who fought as gladiators in the Colosseum and witness the slow disintegration of the once powerful Roman Empire.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the Punic Wars and who won them?

2. Why did Hannibal bring his troops over the Alps? How did this work to his advantage?

3. How did Hannibal lose the war against the Romans despite not losing a single battle?

4. What did Hannibal do to win the Battle of Cannae? Why is this battle so famous?

5. What happened in the Colosseum?

6. Who was Telemachus and what did he do? What was the message of his story?

Suggested Reading

Polybius on Cannae

Side Road

Attila was the ruler of the Huns, a nomadic people from central Asia. Between 434 and 453 AD, he also created an empire of tribes from Asia and Europe that became one of the Roman Empire's most notorious, relentless, and dangerous enemies. Attila the Hun was a formidable horseman and military strategist who honed his army into one of the most powerful forces of the time. He single-handedly commanded an empire that stretched as far as present-day France. Initially, Attila ruled with his brother, and they signed a peace treaty with the Eastern Roman Empire, where the Romans paid gold subsidies to the Huns each year in exchange for the Huns vowing not to attack. However, once his brother was gone, Attila eagerly broke the promise, and preyed upon the Roman borders. He launched a series of vicious attacks against the Roman Empire, in which his forces decimated entire cities and vast regions of infrastructure. Over time, these Hun invasions and the huge sums of gold used to pay off Atilla drained Roman military and economic power, which many historians believe played a big factor in the eventual collapse of Rome.