

Introducing Indy, Sticky and Chirp

This year, you will find out all about the story of people, from the first civilizations we know a few things about, to how people learned to write, and on through different cultures and peoples who lived and ruled and invented all throughout human history. It's pretty exciting, and I'm going to be beside you every step of the way.

Oh wait! I haven't even introduced myself, have I? That's so much like me . . . I'm so absent-minded at times. You'll really have to forgive me. My name is Indiana Sticksenstones. I love history, and together with two of my friends, I'm going to share with you everything we have learned about history. Tell you what -- let me introduce you to them!



As you see here, my friend Sticky is a spider who is pretty smart. He loves reading and usually has an answer if I've got a question.



"In fact, I do!" says Sticky. "But often I find I can't wait until you ask, or we'll get in a terrible mess before I know it! Remember that time we were traveling to the Old West, and that wagon nearly ran us over, and . . ."

I quickly interrupt. "Okay, Sticky, now, no one here wants to talk about our misadventures!"

Another voice speaks up. "I do! I'm not sure I was a part of that one!" says a small voice. That's Chirp, the girl of our little group. She's a cricket and recently joined Sticky and myself as we travel through history.

Yep, we do travel through history. Sticky is pretty smart and he's invented some gadget he calls the "Take-Me-There" machine. I don't know much about how it works, but I know this -- Sticky sets up his machine carefully, then presses a button. "Take . . ." He presses another. ". . . me . . ." He presses one last button. ". . . there!" A flash of light, a loud wind, and suddenly everything is quiet. We open our eyes to find ourselves in different places in history!

We've been all over -- we've investigated the roads the Romans built, we've stopped in to see the Great Wall of China, and we've even seen David fighting Goliath -- what a moment! Last night we took a trip to the Sumer civilization, which is where you need to start in learning about history. The trip was rather uneventful, which means we got in and out without being spotted. We're not always that lucky! (Oh, the troubles we've had! But more about that later!) For now, it's time to start your trip through history . . .

(Passage above excerpted from "Let's Hideaway in History" Introduction and first lessons. The lessons that follow are from a week on Roman history.)

Roman Beginnings

Today we are beginning the story of the Romans. This little city grew to be a great empire. Do you want to hear how it happened? Of course you do! Let me tell you about it . . .

How was did the great city of Rome come to be? There are many legends surrounding how the city was founded. Maybe the legends began because such a great city needed to have a great story about how it began. Or, maybe the legends began for the same reasons many legends do -- there is a little bit of truth to the story mixed with a whole lot of heroic or mythical events. Whatever the true story about Rome's beginnings, we may never know.

One legend says that people who were fleeing from the city of Troy crossed the Mediterranean Sea and landed in Italy. They established a city that became Rome. Another legend seems even more fantastic. In this legend, the god Mars had twins sons with a priestess named Rhea Silvia. The boys were named Romulus and Remus. They were abandoned at birth, and taken away by servants who were supposed to execute them near the Tiber River. At first they were cared for by a female wolf, but they were later found and raised by a shepherd and his wife. When they grew up, Romulus and Remus decided to establish a city, but they quarreled over who would rule it. During the quarrel, Remus laughed at Romulus, and Romulus killed him, and gave his own name to the city.

Whether or not all the elements of the strange story of Romulus and Remus are true, it's interesting that archaeologists have recently found an ancient set of fortification walls that are dated right around the time Romulus is said to have plowed a furrow around the Palatine Hill to mark the boundary of his new city about 738 B.C.

The ancient city of Rome may also have simply formed from the development of separate villages on top of seven hills. Whether or not this is true, there are seven hills within Rome. The city sits about 18 miles from the Tyrrhenian Sea on the south side of the Tiber River. Right near the city, the Tiber River has a curve with an island in the center that makes crossing the river easier. This natural river crossing attracted a crossroads of traffic of those following the river valley with traders who were traveling north or south along the west side of the Italian peninsula.

Early people groups in Italy shared the Italian peninsula with two other people groups -- the Greeks in the south and the Etruscans in the north. The Greeks, of course, had established colonies in southern Italy around the same time Rome was becoming a city. The Etruscans, who lived in an area that is now modern Tuscany, influenced early Rome. Rome prided itself on being a multicultural city, and adopted some of the Etruscans' funeral customs. The funeral customs they got from the Etruscans in time actually changed into gladiator contests in Rome.

When Rome was an established city-state, it was ruled by a king. Around 500 B.C., it became a republic. Rome adopted a constitution that at first allowed only the patricians, the rich or powerful families of the city, to rule. But the plebeians, other Romans who weren't wealthy or influential, gradually gained rights and a voice in the government as well.

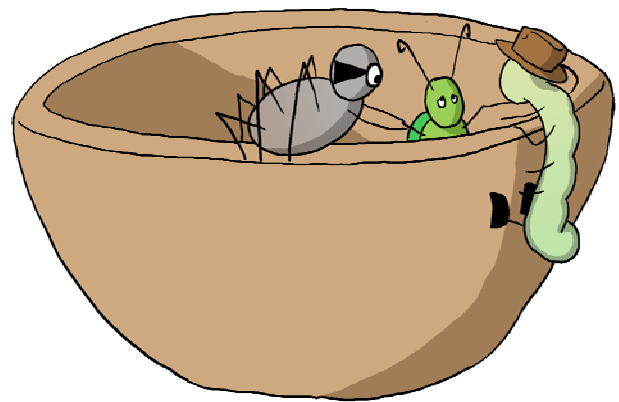
As Rome grew, it squeezed the Etruscans out of the center of Italy. Rome formed a trading treaty with the city of Carthage in north Africa. By 290 B.C. Rome controlled over half of the Italian peninsula and conquered Greek cities in the south. They continued to expand by first taking over Carthage's trading

empire, then conquering Greece by 146 B.C. Rome went on to conquer Spain, and what would someday become France, Asia Minor, Syria and Palestine. Rome was now an empire with possessions in many lands.

Romans greatly admired the Greek civilization, and adopted much of their culture. If a Greek who had lived during Greece's Golden Age had happened to turn up in Rome around 100 B.C., he might have felt quite at home. Roman sculptors created statues in the Greek style. Roman food was created from Greek recipes. Writers wrote like the Greeks, builders constructed Greek-style buildings, and women wore their hair in Greek styles. In fact, the only part of Roman culture that was not like the Greeks at all was how they governed their country and the laws they followed.

Chirp, Sticky and I decided to peek into the Roman republic and see some of this for ourselves. After all, we had visited Greece a number of times, and we wanted to see if there was a resemblance. When we arrived we were shocked! It almost felt like we were back in Greece. Chirp wanted to stop by the Forum. The Forum was so much like the Greek agora. There were businesses near a public square. We walked through the market, and found a number of Greek items for trade.

One shop sold savory soups with bread. Chirp leaned in to smell the soup, and -- plunk! -- in she went! The shop owner had gone to the back to get another pot of soup to add to this one, so we had to hurry to get her out! Besides, the soup was warm, and Chirp couldn't stand it much longer! Sticky quickly let down a strand of silk while I was the lookout, watching for the cook's return. Chirp grabbed on and Sticky and I hauled her up. She was just coming out over the top when we saw the cook coming back. "Everyone jump down to the table!" I hissed, and we sprang down. We looked back up at the cook, but she didn't see us. What a close one! No more smelling soup!



It was amazing to see how much the Romans loved Greek things. But the Romans were just starting to adjust to being a large empire. Later, Roman engineers would create new ideas for Roman roads and arches and aqueducts, and surpass Greek engineers. And, Roman wealth from her vast new empire would allow Roman cities to build huge public arenas and sprawling baths that would have awed any Greek citizen. Soon, the Romans would surpass any civilization that had ever gone before.

What Have You Learned?

Answer It!

Answer these questions about what you read today.

- ◆ What two brothers were a part of one legend about the founding of Rome?
- ◆ What people group to the north of Rome influenced their funeral customs?
- ◆ What people group to the south of Rome influenced many parts of their culture?
- ◆ What two classes of Roman society wanted a voice in Rome's republic?

The Roman Empire

Okay, Sticky has just got to tell you all about this next part. I get very confused by all the Roman names and who did what. He's the one who really knows this stuff. Take it away, Sticky!

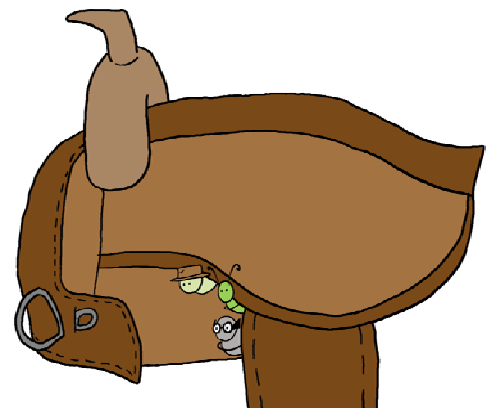
Yes, indeed! I do love Roman history! Let's see now . . . When we last visited Rome, it had just grown into a true empire. Rome was growing rich by collecting tribute from its conquered lands, and rewarded its allies in Italy by making them Roman citizens. Roman citizens had privileges that other classes in the empire (such as native peoples, women and slaves) did not have. They received the right to vote, hold public office, own property, and to have a legal trial. A Roman citizen could not be tortured or whipped, or given the death penalty unless he committed treason, and he could not be crucified.

The growth of the empire, though, created political problems. The old Republic simply couldn't handle the new demands of such an extensive kingdom. At first it seemed the answer might be in Rome being ruled by three men who shared power. Three powerful men in the Roman Republic maneuvered to gain political influence. One was Julius Caesar, a courageous military commander who was very popular among Roman people. The other two were Marcus Licinius Crassus and Pompey, who had worked together well in the past, but had become greedy for power. Each of them was wealthy and influential, But, each had also tried to make others think well of them at the expense of the other man. They didn't like each other that much. Still, Julius Caesar was able to convince the other two men that the three of them could work together to rule Rome.

This "Triumvirate" as they called it, was secret at first, but later became public. They pretty much took control of Roman politics together. But they did not stay together. Can you guess why not? Each one became jealous of the other, and ambitious to become the only one in control of Rome. As it turned out, Crassus was killed in a battle against the Parthians in 53 B.C. Julius Caesar was leading Roman campaigns away from Rome. Pompey stayed in Rome and gathered support so that he could rule alone. However, Julius Caesar would not stand for it.

Indiana, Chirp and I arrived at the scene just as Julius Caesar was walking and talking with his most trusted men. He had reached the Rubicon, a small river north of Rome. The Rubicon is considered a boundary line between the Roman province of Gaul to the north and Italy itself in the south. Because it marked the boundary of Rome's homeland, Roman law forbid any general to cross over the river with an army at his command. This law was designed to protect the republic from an internal military threat. If Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon with his army, it was truly going to be an act of war!

We saw Julius Caesar talk something over with his men. While he was talking, Indy whispered to Chirp and I, "We'll never see or hear anything from here. Let's sneak over to that horse and get a better look at what's going on." A horse near the front was grazing quietly, and so Chirp and I agreed. We followed Indiana to the horse, and we all crawled up on to the saddle for a better look at what was going on. We could hear some of Caesar's men reminding him of the law about crossing the river and what that would mean. Then Caesar said, "We ride to Rome!" His troops



cheered, and Caesar strode toward us. It was a moment before we realized we were on the horse of Caesar himself! Oh, no!

Hastily, we scuttled under the edge of the saddle, where we couldn't be seen, but wouldn't be squished either. We were so scared! It was too late to get down or we'd land in the water for sure! Caesar mounted the horse, grabbed the reins and rode his horse into the water. He stopped and turned to his men. "The die is cast!" he shouted, and his men yelled as if in victory. Well, I can tell you, it was a long time before Caesar got down off of his horse. By the time he did, I'm sure we were far more saddle sore than he was. We were so stiff, we could hardly move, much less hurry, to get off the horse and safely away. Indiana seemed worst off. He has so many legs and every one was stiff and sore!

So, we got to see Caesar cross the Rubicon and march toward Rome with his armies, prepared for a civil war if that's what it took. (We got to see it a lot more up-close than what we wanted to!) As it turned out, it actually didn't take civil war at all, since Pompey fled from Rome and was later murdered there. Julius Caesar was now the only ruler of the Roman world!

Julius Caesar was an outstanding commander whose military campaigns put the Roman Empire in a position to endure for more than 500 years. Some of his last campaigns ended any opposition to the empire in North Africa and Spain. In his time as sole ruler, he standardized Roman law and gave land grants to men who served in his army. He reformed the calendar so that it had 365 days with one day extra every four years.

However, he was assassinated by other Senators in 44 B.C. who feared his growing power. They attacked him right in the senate chamber, surprising him there. After Caesar's death, Rome once again tried to have more than one ruler. Caesar's nephew Octavian, Caesar's good friend Mark Antony, and Caesar's loyal cavalry commander Marcus Lepidus were chosen to make up the Second Triumvirate to rule Rome. Not surprisingly, these three men didn't do any better than the First Triumvirate at ruling together. They fought another civil war, which finally ended when Octavian defeated Mark Antony's army in 31 B.C. and stripped Lepidus of power. Octavian took the name Caesar Augustus, and ruled Rome alone as its single, very powerful ruler.

What Have You Learned?

Answer It!

Answer these questions about what you read today.

- ◆ What are some rights that a Roman citizen had?
- ◆ What three men were part of the First Triumvirate?
- ◆ What happened to each of these three men?
- ◆ What three men were part of the Second Triumvirate?
- ◆ What happened to each of these three men?



Find It!

On a historical map, find Italy and the Rubicon River.

Life in Ancient Rome

Chirp loved her first trip to ancient Rome, and we took a lot of time just to walk in the cities and see what we could see. I let her tell you all about it.

I did love Rome! One of the first things we did was to go down the Forum, where most of the businesses are and the temples. I was able to see Romans shopping and trading, and doing their banking. There were so many shops to visit. Some shops had imported goods from around the Mediterranean like tin items, gold jewelry, furniture, and even beautiful fabrics, especially purple from Phoenicia. Other shops made their goods right in the shop, such as potteries, bakeries, restaurants, and metal workers.

We visited a restaurant that had a large counter along one wall. The smooth top of the counter was interrupted by ceramic jars that were built into the counters. Only their mouths showed, since the jars were below the counter. This made it easy to reach into the container and serve yourself fresh bread, olives, fruits and nuts. We all got to nibble a bit on crumbs in the corner of one table.

We decided to walk through some back streets and see typical Roman houses. Most of the houses had a single main room with some small rooms attached to it. Other homes had a center courtyard, with small rooms all around it. These homes usually have only one door to the street. Poorer Romans lived in small apartments called insula. These apartments were often designed in part of a city block around a center open courtyard. The courtyard offered light and fresh air to all the apartments, which was important since apartments were often three or more stories high. The apartments weren't very safe. Many collapsed, and even more burned down. Caesar Augustus finally limited apartment height to five stories and Nero created fire regulations.

The nicest homes had a spacious main hall that is very open. In the ceiling of the room was a sloped hole that let in light and air; the hole is called a compluvium. In the floor of the hall is a drain to let out rainwater that falls through the compluvium. The homes also have bedrooms, a dining room, a kitchen and a bathroom. Wealthier people could afford to have a library and a room for their family's records. Many of these homes were painted red near the ground and white above that.

Romans loved to have a good time. We saw a huge amphitheater that we're told is used for gladiator contests. We are going to visit there later. Play were presented at theaters by actors; most of the actors were male slaves. They even played the parts of women. Sometimes the actors played more than one role. The masks they wore during the performance had special chambers in them that made an actor's voice sound louder. Characters that were young were dressed in bright clothing, while old men were dressed in white. This would have made it easier to follow the play from the back row of the theater!

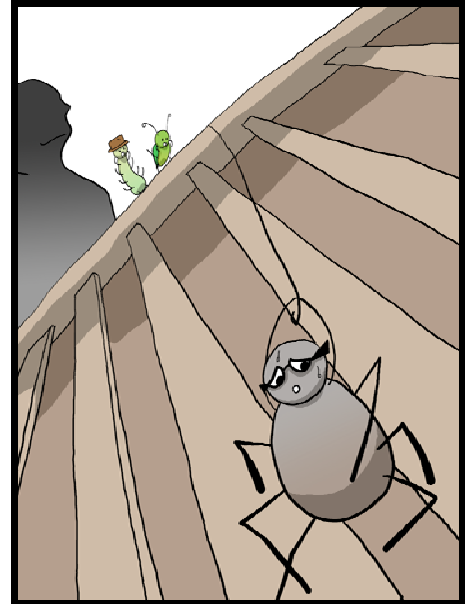
Romans also loved to take baths each day. Public baths had both hot and cold rooms where men and women could each bathe. They were allowed in the baths at different times of the day, or had separate bathing chambers. Near the baths were things like you might find near a spa. Shops sold ointment, perfumes, clothing and food to enjoy before or after bathing. You could get a massage or exercise at a gymnasium. Gardens and open porches offered a place to relax before returning home.

Wealthy people often invited their friends and neighbors over for private parties. They would serve a lavish dinner with all sorts of wonderful dishes, olives and bread. After dinner, the host provided entertainment. Professionals would be brought in to perform music, sing, or dance. More scholarly people

might have someone read poetry or famous speeches. For more casual fun, people played dice games, went hunting or fishing, or visited with friends at local shops or markets.

However, the thing most Romans loved best of all was chariot racing! Chariot races took place in hippodromes or circuses. A circus might include other athletic events or wrestling, but chariot racing was the most popular. There were four racing factions: the whites, reds, blues and greens. Teams wore the color of their faction during the race. There were great rivalries among the factions, which even led to violence at times! The blues and greens were most often the favorites. A circus had tiers of seats around a U-shaped arena with a barrier down the middle. Turning posts called metae were at each end of the course. Sticky, Indy and I arrived just in time to see a race!

We saw the chariots line up at the open end of the "U," waiting for the race to begin. Ten different chariots were there; each had four prancing horses that pulled it. They lined up to the starting gate called the carceres. Many of the drivers yelled at other drivers, taunting them about their chances to win the race. Horses pawed the ground and stomped, impatient to begin. Sticky and I leaned over for a good look. Unfortunately, just at that moment, a bystander knocked into the tier on which we were standing, which was quite a way above the ground! Sticky was falling. I held my breath. Indy grabbed me so I didn't fall, too! Sticky fell down about twenty feet before he caught a ledge and was able to climb back up! Oh, what a scare! He climbed back up, just in time to see the chariots take off!



They sped down one side of the circus along the barrier, called the spina, down the middle. They made the big turn, then raced to the far end of the "U." Once there, they rounded a turning post and came back. The race was seven laps long. A lap marker at the end of the spina was removed every time a lap was completed. Sticky and I were hoping the greens would win, but Indiana thought the blues with the speckled horse might have a better chance. In one of the last laps, one of the chariots came too close to the other, and almost crashed. They fell behind in the race, but kept going. The chariots finally came hurtling down the last lap, and . . . the blues won! Indy threw his hat into the air! I could sure see why the Romans loved chariot racing!

What Have You Learned?

Find It!

Look for these buildings on Map 2, a historical map of the ancient city of Rome. You'll find this map in the back of this book.

- ◆ Circus Maximus, a huge chariot racing stadium that could hold 1/4 of Rome's people.
- ◆ Forum Augustus, an imperial forum built by Augustus and filled with statues of Roman heroes
- ◆ Capitolium, a temple that sits on the top of the Capitoline Hill (We get our word capitol from this!)
- ◆ Circus Flaminius, a small circular racetrack for horse races
- ◆ Amphitheatrum Flavium, which became known as the Colosseum for gladiator contests.

Gladiators

I insisted that the very next day, we just had to go back to the Colosseum to see the gladiators for ourselves. What a fantastic trip . . .

We stopped in directly in front of the Colosseum. The emperors Vespasian and Titus built it; their family name was Flavius, so it was originally called the Flavian Amphitheater. Looking around, we could see that it could hold about 50,000 Romans. We have learned that not only did gladiator games take place here, but so did animal hunts, re-enactments of famous Roman battles, dramas and even executions. Sometimes the stadium is flooded, and famous sea battles are "fought" again for the audience.

Near the Colosseum is a gladiator school. Here, gladiators are taught how to fight with specialized weapons. Most gladiators are slaves who are forced to fight after they have been trained. Only a few gladiators ever live to old age. It is their hope to be freed because they have won a spectacular match, but this is only done when the match is superb and they have fully defeated their enemy. This does not happen very often, and most gladiators die in an arena when they lose a match.

Gladiators are taught to fight with different weapons, depending upon what class of gladiator you are training for. The classes usually represent enemies of Rome. This allows the crowd to cheer for those they like. A Murmillo gladiator has a helmet with a broad rim and a high crest, and face shield. He fights with a rectangular shield and a short, straight-blade sword, and has protection on his leg and right arm. A Thraex has a small rectangular shield and a short sword that has a curved blade. The Retiarius has a three-pointed trident, a dagger and a net to entangle his opponent. None of these gladiators have too much armor on. The Hoplomachus, though, has heavy armor, a round shield and both a spear and a sword. There are many other types of gladiators, but these three are some of the most popular.

Vespasian's son Titus put on the first games ever held in the amphitheater. More than 9,000 animals were killed during these games. There were lions and leopards, tigers, bears, a rhinoceros, a buffalo and a bison, even elephants. Crocodiles and camels may have been used, too. The rhinoceros put on quite a show, it seems. He tossed a heavy bear aside easily with his horn. He lifted up two cattle and a panther was so afraid of him that he ran right into the spears held by the animal trainers. One trainer showed how a tigress he had trained licked his hand, as it was completely tamed by him, but then turned and defeated a lion.

During some of the matches, wooden balls were dropped into the audience. On the ball was carved the name of a prize. Those who caught them could trade the balls for that item. Chirp was almost hit by one of these balls just after we arrived. She quickly jumped out of the way, and the ball was caught by someone a few rows ahead of where we were.

We arrived in time to see an amazing battle between two great gladiators, Verus and Priscus. The two gladiators are strong. At first they circle one another, probably trying to judge the weakness of the other man. They begin fighting, clashing swords and circling away. At first it seemed as though Priscus may win the fight, but then he tired, and Verus began to have an advantage. But Verus could not finish the fight, and Priscus once again fought bravely on. Verus was tiring, but Priscus was, too. They both continued the fight. At times the crowd would yell out, or gasp as it looked like one or the other may be finished. But time and again, each escaped, and the fight went on.

The crowd so loved the contest that they rose to their feet. At the same time, both Verus and Priscus raised their finger in defeat. As Caesar, it was up to Titus as to what to do. The crowd adored them both, and pleaded for the men. Titus considered as they crowd continued to shout for their heroes. After thinking awhile, Titus granted both men their freedom. He stood and announced his decision. Both men would be freed. The crowd went wild! We did, too! They were free. They were brave and valiant -- and now they were free!

What Have You Learned?

Answer It!

Answer these questions about what you read today.

- ◆ What is another name for the Colosseum?
- ◆ How does a gladiator freed?
- ◆ Who held the first games in the Colosseum?
- ◆ Name some of the animals who fought in the first games.
- ◆ How did the contest between Verus and Priscus end?

Name It!

In the picture below, name which two classes of gladiator are fighting.

