Punic Wars
Rome’s First Battle For Territory
• Rome and Carthage both bordered the Mediterranean Sea

• Rome – central Europe
  • Carthage – Northern Africa

• The Med Sea = $$$$$$$$$$$

• This started the First Punic War
1st Punic War
264-241 BCE

• Rome and Carthage fought for control of Sicily
• Both wanted to control the Med.
• Lasted 23 years
• Carthage lost and Rome had won its first province.
• Sicily was rich in grain and was a great trading post.
Sicily
2nd Punic War

- Began in 218 B.C.E.
- Hannibal wanted to attack Rome and considered them arrogant and greedy.
- His father instilled a deep hatred of Rome into Hannibal.
- Hannibal organized an army of 50,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry and 60 elephants.
- He used the element of surprise by entering Rome through the Alps.
2nd Punic War

Surprise attack: Crossing the Alps
2nd Punic War

• Hannibal entered through northern Italy
• He ran up and down the Roman territory and terrorized the Romans.
• Unbelievably he defeated the Romans at Cannae – they had 30,000 more troops
• How did he do that?
• Generals have studied his tactics.
CANNAE
HANIBAL’S GREATEST VICTORY
• A Roman general named Scipio came up with an ingenious plan to attack Hannibal’s home country.
• This forced him back to protect his people.
• Rome defeated Carthage at Zama in 204 B.C.E.
• Hannibal retreated back to the Mid East and committed suicide.
3rd Punic War

• Carthage began to rebound – still a powerful trade center.
• Cato wanted Carthage destroyed once and for all.
• In 146 B.C.E., the Romans set the city ablaze and sold 50,000 into slavery
• It was a brutal end for one of the proud civilizations that lasted for 600 yrs.
3rd Punic War

- Scipio Aemilianus – “the day shall come in which our sacred Troy and Priam, and the people over whom spear bearing Priam rules, shall perish all.”
• Carthage became the next acquisition for Rome.
• Rome was on its way to becoming an imperial power that would live and die by the sword.