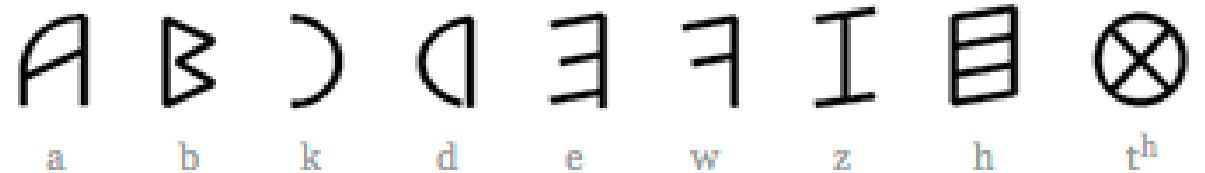


# Early Romans

There are three groups of people that aided in the settlement of Rome

## Latins

- Built original settlement
  - First Romans



## Greeks

- Lived in Southern Italy
- Shared Greek culture



## Etruscans

- Shared knowledge
  - alphabet and arches
- Were kings of Rome until 509 B.C.



# Rome's Republic



- The last Etruscan kings were described as tyrannical thus the Roman wanted to politically overthrow them.
- This occurred in 509 BC and that was the last time in Roman history they had Kings.
- The Romans established a republic.
- A republic is government whose power comes from the citizens who have the right to vote for representatives who can become their leaders.
- Citizens were considered free born males.

# Rome's Social Hierarchy / Structure

## Patrician [Pah-trish-an]

- 10% of the population
- Wealthy landowners; nobility
- Inherited social status and believed their ancestry made them the authority.



- Patricians could not become Plebeians and Plebeians could not become Patricians.
- The law forbade inter marriage between the classes.

## Plebeians [Plea-bee-ins]

- 90% of the population
- Commoners
  - Farmers, artisan, merchants, etc.
- Had the right to vote but could not have important government positions



# Twelve Tables



The Twelve Tables

- The Twelve Tables were the base of Roman law code and a plebian victory
- They were written around 451 and 450 BCE
- Code was carved into twelve tablets and shown in the center of town for all to read.
- It gave all free citizens the protection of the law.



# Twelve Tables Excerpts

## **Table 3:**

1. In the case of an admitted debt of awards made by a court, 30 days shall be allowed for payment.
2. In default of payment, after these 30 days of grace have elapsed, the debtor may be arrested and brought before the magistrate.

## **Table 4:**

1. Monstrous or deformed offspring may be put to death by the father.

## **Table 5:**

1. All women shall be under the authority of a guardian.

## **Table 6:**

3. For breaking a bone of a freeman, the fine shall be 300 donkeys; of a slave, 150 donkeys .
12. A person committing burglary in the night may be lawfully killed.



# Rome's Republican Government

## Comparing Republican Governments

	Rome	United States of America
<b>Executive</b>	Two consuls, elected by the assembly for one year—chief executives of the government and commanders-in-chief of the army	A president, elected by the people for four years—chief executive of the government and commander-in-chief of the army
<b>Legislative</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senate of 300 members, chosen from aristocracy for life—controls foreign and financial policies, advises consuls</li><li>• Centuriate Assembly, all citizen-soldiers are members for life—selects consuls, makes laws</li><li>• Tribal Assembly, citizens are members for life and grouped according to where they live—elects tribunes and makes laws</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senate of 100 members, elected by the people for six-year terms—makes laws, advises president on foreign policy</li><li>• House of Representatives of 435 members, elected by the people for two years—makes laws, originates revenue bills</li></ul>
<b>Judicial</b>	Praetors, eight judges chosen for one year by the Centuriate Assembly—two oversee civil and criminal courts (the others govern provinces)	Supreme Court, nine justices appointed for life by the president—highest court, hears civil and criminal appeals cases
<b>Legal code</b>	Twelve Tables—a list of rules that was the basis of the Roman legal system	U.S. Constitution—basic law of the United States
<b>Citizenship</b>	All adult male landowners	All native-born or naturalized adults

# Rome's Military

- All land owning citizens must serve in the army.
- Soldiers were organized into legions or 5,000 foot soldiers.
- Controlled the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding area

