



The Punic Wars

After the conquest of the Italian Peninsula, Rome set its sights on the state of Carthage

Carthage

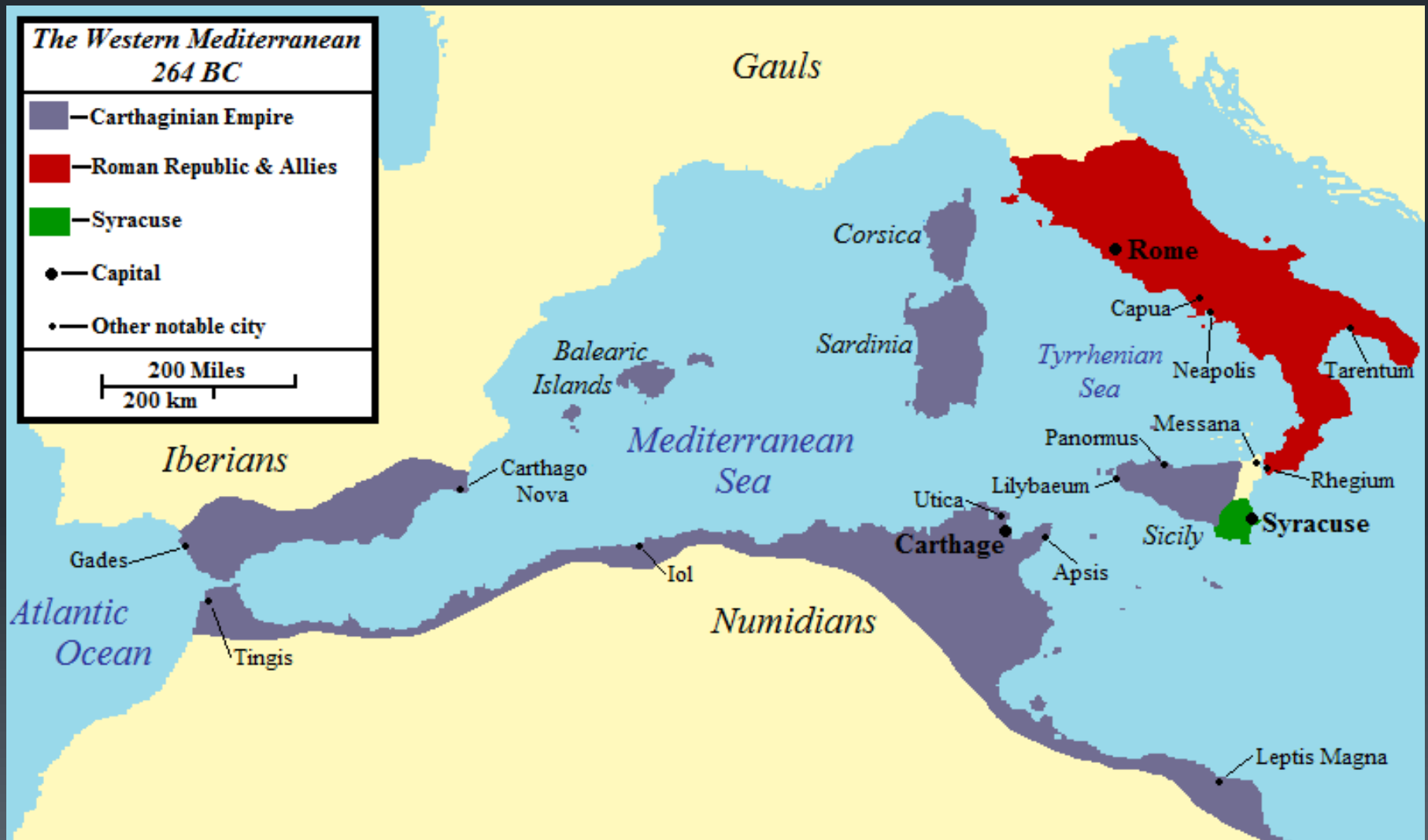
- Carthage was founded by the Phoenicians (remember them?) around 800 BCE on the North coast of Africa.
- As a major trading power, Carthage has colonies that reached from Spain to Sicily.
- Sicily, a wheat rich island, sat between Italy and Carthage. The grain from the wheat would be a valuable source of food for the Romans and the direct competition to Roman trade made Carthage a conquest ripe for the picking.



*The Western Mediterranean
264 BC*

- Carthaginian Empire
- Roman Republic & Allies
- Syracuse
- — Capital
- — Other notable city

200 Miles
200 km



First Punic War — AKA War with Carthage

(264 BCE)

- The First Conflict between the two trading empires lasted 23 years and started when Rome violated a treaty and sent troops to Sicily.
- The island of Sicily was the catalyst that led to the First Punic War as Rome and Carthage were both determined to control the island.









- Rome, a traditional land power, had to rebuild a Carthaginian war ship that washed ashore in order to build their own navy to match the might of the superior sailors from Carthage.



First Punic War

- The Romans redesigned their ships to allow them to hook on to the rival boats to allow more hand-to-hand combat.
- After a long struggle Rome defeated the Carthaginian fleet and in doing so gained control over many of the trading routes in the Mediterranean.
- Carthage was forced to pay a hefty fine (3300 talents of silver) and give up its rights to Sicily.
 - *1 talent of silver = \$850,000*



1st Punic War - Video

Hannibal and the Second Punic War (218 BCE – 202 BCE)

- With the loss of Sicily, Carthage continued to expand its empire further into Spain and when Rome demanded that Hannibal surrender a major, newly conquered city, he refused.
- Hannibal, son of Hamilcar Barca (Carthaginian General in the 1st Punic War) vowed revenge against the Romans and decided to take the fight to Rome itself.



Hannibal's Forces

- He organized a force of 40,000 infantry, 8,000 cavalry, and 60 elephants to transport the military equipment through the Alps on his way to Rome.
- He lost half of his infantry, $\frac{1}{4}$ of his cavalry, and 40 elephants...
- Hannibal still had success defeating the Romans three times over the next year.



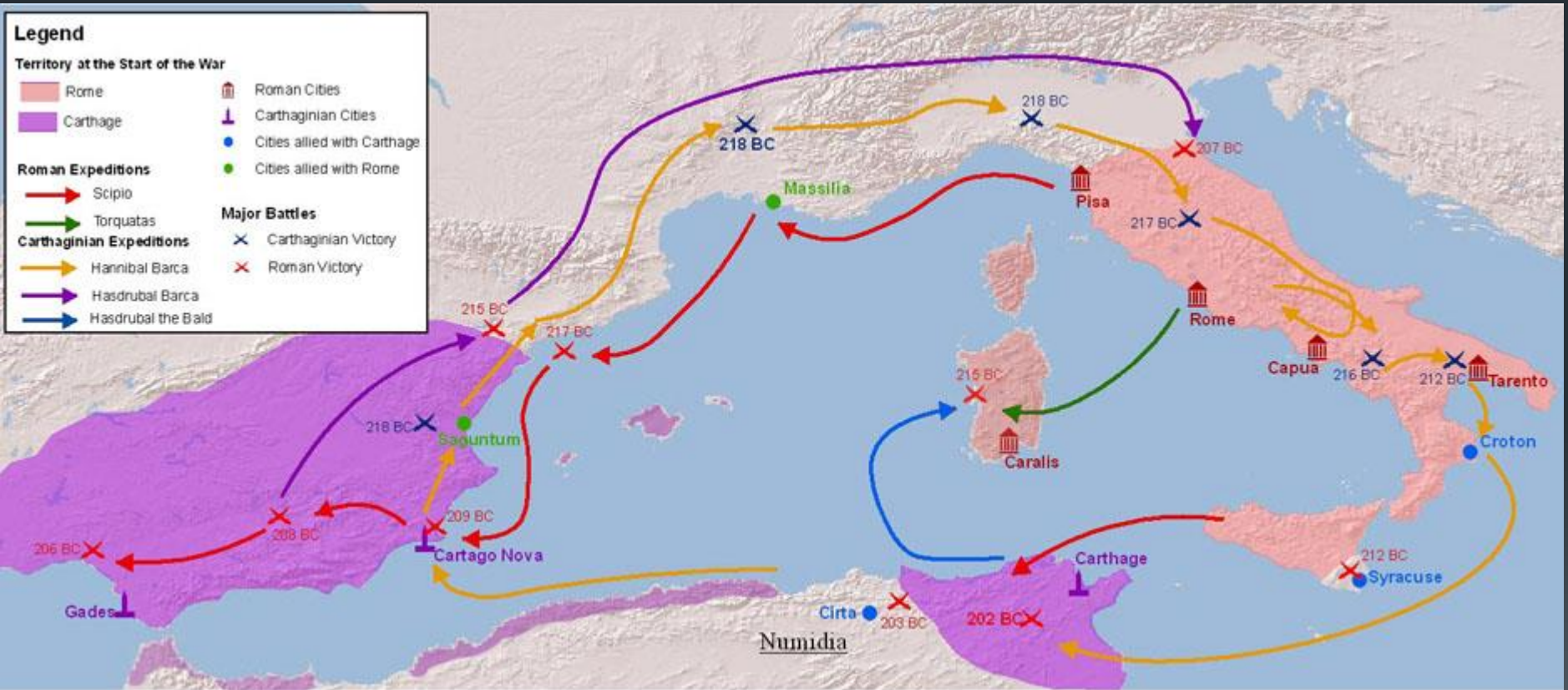


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- Rome eventually recovered from their large losses (nearly 40,000 at their loss in Cannae) and managed to retake cities from Hannibal's troops along with crushing reinforcements from Spain.
 - Fighting Hannibal's superior cavalry head-on proved disastrous, so Rome decided to launch an attack on Carthage, thus forcing Hannibal to retreat to Carthage to defend his homeland.

- While making his way south Hannibal was met by a Roman army at the Battle of Zama where Hannibal suffered his only loss at the hands of Scipio Africanus.
- After this loss Carthage asked for peace and agreed to pay 10,000 talents of silver to Rome in 50 annual installments.
- This was too much for Hannibal to take and he fled into exile and committed suicide.



2nd Punic War





2nd Punic War - Video

Third Punic War (149BCE – 146 BCE)

- Carthage violated the peace treaty by rebuilding her army 50 years after their recent loss to Scipio.
- Rome decided that the city must be destroyed.
- The Romans plundered, burned and ploughed the city to the ground, sowing the ground with salt so that nothing would grow.
- Any people they did not kill they sold into slavery.
- North Africa, like Sicily before them, became a province of Rome, the clear, unrivalled power in the Western Mediterranean and by 129 BCE Rome had become master of the Mediterranean.



Britons

Germans

Gaul

Scythians

Spain

ROME

Illyrians

Achaea

Asia

PONTUS

ARMENIA

CAPPADOCIA

CARTHAGE

ATHENS

ANTIOCH

Syria

Numidians

Africa

ALEXANDRIA

PTOLEMAIC KINGDOM



TimeMaps



Question

- What is the historical and cultural significance of the Roman destruction of Carthage?