



Comprehension

Shared Reading

A long time ago, there was a king named Numitor who ruled an ancient city in Italy called Alba Longa. Numitor had a younger brother named Amulius who one day overthrew Numitor and took over Alba Longa. However, Amulius did not want to cause any conflict, so he killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Numitor's only daughter, Rhea Silvia, to become a Vestal Virgin, so she could not marry or have children. Amulius was worried that Rhea would have a son who would eventually overthrow him.

However, Rhea Silvia fell in love with Mars, the Roman God of War and they had twin sons. Rhea Silvia had betrayed her vows of being a Vestal Virgin, and the penalty was usually death. However, Amulius feared the wrath of Mars and did not want to kill Rhea Silvia. Instead, King Amulius imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered a servant to put the twins in the River Tiber. Amulius reasoned that if the twins were to die from the elements, the city would be saved from the angry god.

Independent Reading

When the servant reached the river bank with the twins, he could not throw them in. So instead, he placed their basket into the river and let the current carry the basket. He hoped that someone would see the twins and rescue them.

Eventually, a she-wolf came across the basket in the river and pulled the babies out. The wolf cared for the twins and protected them from dangers such as other wild animals. A friendly woodpecker helped the twins to find food.

Soon, the twins were found by a shepherd, who was out walking by the river. He took the twins back home to his wife. They decided to call the boys Romulus and Remus.

The shepherd and his wife brought the twins up like their own children. Romulus and Remus grew up to become shepherds like their father. One day, while the twins were herding their sheep, they were met by shepherds of King Amulius, who started a fight with Romulus and Remus. Remus was captured by the shepherds and taken to King Amulius.

Romulus gathered a group of shepherds and set out to rescue Remus. King Amulius believed that Rhea Silvia's children were dead so he did not recognise Romulus and Remus. Romulus managed to free his brother and in the process, killed King Amulius. When the city learned who the boys were, they offered to crown them as joint kings.

However, the twins turned down the crown because they wanted to found their own city. The twins left their hometown in search of a perfect place to build their city. They eventually came to the place where Rome is located today. They both liked the area but they both wanted to



Comprehension

build the city on a different hill. Romulus wanted the city to be on top of Palatine Hill, while Remus preferred Aventine Hill.

They ended up getting into a fight. Romulus killed Remus during the fight. With Remus dead, Romulus went on to build the city without his brother.

He officially founded the city on April 21, 753BC, making himself king and naming the city Rome after himself.



Questions

I can answer comprehension questions about the myth of Romulus and Remus.



Answer the questions in full sentences and give as much detail as you can.

1. Who found the basket with the babies inside?

2. Who helped to find food for the twins?

3. What did the shepherd do when he came across the twins?

4. What did the king's shepherds do with Remus once they had captured him?

5. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?

6. Who killed King Amulius?

7. Why did the twins not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa?

8. Where did Remus want to build a new city?

9. How did Remus die?

10. When was the city of Rome founded?



Answers

1. Who found the basket with the babies inside?
A she-wolf found the basket in the river and pulled the boys to safety.
2. Who helped to find food for the twins?
A friendly woodpecker helped the twins to find food.
3. What did the shepherd do when he came across the twins?
The shepherd took the twins back home to his wife. They decided to call the twins Romulus and Remus. The shepherd and his wife brought the twins up like their own children.
4. What did the king's shepherds do with Remus once they had captured him?
The king's shepherds took Remus to King Amulius.
5. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?
King Amulius thought that Rhea Silvia's children were dead so he did not recognise Romulus and Remus. (Also accept - Romulus and Remus were babies when King Amulius last saw them and, by this point in the story, they had grown up into young men.)
6. Who killed King Amulius?
Romulus killed King Amulius while rescuing his brother.
7. Why did the twins not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa?
The twins did not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa because they wanted to found their own city.
8. Where did Remus want to build a new city?
Remus wanted to build the new city on Aventine Hill.
9. How did Remus die?
Remus was killed by his brother in a fight.
10. When was the city of Rome founded?
The city of Rome was officially founded on April 21, 753BC.



Comprehension

Shared Reading

A long time ago, there was a king named Numitor who ruled an ancient city in Italy called Alba Longa. Numitor had a younger brother named Amulius who one day overthrew Numitor and took over Alba Longa. However, Amulius did not want to cause any conflict, so he killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Numitor's only daughter, Rhea Silvia, to become a Vestal Virgin, so she could not marry or have children. Amulius was worried that Rhea would have a son who would eventually overthrow him.

However, Rhea Silvia fell in love with Mars, the Roman God of War and they had twin sons. Rhea Silvia had betrayed her vows of being a Vestal Virgin, and the penalty was usually death. However, Amulius feared the wrath of Mars and did not want to kill Rhea Silvia. Instead, King Amulius imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered a servant to put the twins in the River Tiber. Amulius reasoned that if the twins were to die from the elements, the city would be saved from the angry god.

Independent Reading

When the servant reached the river bank with the twins, he could not throw them in. He looked down at the babies sitting together in the basket with their tiny arms wrapped around one another. He thought about his own sons and his conscience would not allow him to do such a dreadful thing.

Instead, he placed their basket into the river and let the current carry the basket, in hope that someone would see the twins and rescue them.

Eventually, a she-wolf came across the basket in the river and pulled the babies out to safety. The wolf cared for the twins and protected them from dangers such as other wild animals. A friendly woodpecker helped the twins to find food.

Soon, the twins were found by a caring shepherd, who was out walking by the turbulent river. He took the twins back home and out of the howling wind to his wife in their cosy cottage. They decided to call the boys Romulus and Remus.

The shepherd and his wife brought the twins up like their own children. Romulus and Remus grew up to become shepherds like their father. One day, while the twins were herding their sheep, they were met by shepherds of King Amulius, who started a fight with Romulus and Remus. Remus was captured by the shepherds and taken to King Amulius.

Romulus watched as they took his beloved brother away. He was shaking uncontrollably, his cheeks burned bright red and he gritted his fierce teeth. He gathered a group of shepherds and set out to rescue Remus. King Amulius believed that Rhea Silvia's children were dead so he did



Comprehension

not recognise Romulus and Remus. Romulus managed to free his brother and in the process, killed King Amulius. When the city learned who the boys were, they offered to crown them as joint kings.

However, the twins turned down the crown because they wanted to found their own city. The twins left their hometown in search of a perfect place to build their city. They eventually came to the place where Rome is located today. They both liked the area but they both wanted to build the city on a different hill. Romulus wanted the city to be on top of Palatine Hill while Remus preferred Aventine Hill.

They agreed to wait for a sign from the God Augury to decide which hill they should build their city on. Remus saw the sign of six vultures first, while Romulus claimed to have seen twelve. Each claimed that they had won. Romulus ignored his brother and went on to build a wall around Palatine Hill. However, Remus was jealous and began to make fun of his brother. They ended up getting into a fight.

During the fight, Romulus killed his brother and he was now the founder of his own city. With Remus dead, Romulus returned to where he started to build his wall on Palatine Hill and continued to build his city.

He officially founded the city on April 21, 753BC, made himself king and named the city Rome after himself.



Questions

I can answer comprehension questions about the myth of Romulus and Remus.



Answer the questions in full sentences and give as much detail as you can.

1. Why did the servant not throw the babies into the river as he had been ordered?

2. What was the name of the river?

3. What information does the text give us about the shepherds?

4. There was a storm at the time the shepherd discovered the twins. What words tell you this?

5. How was Romulus feeling when the king's shepherds captured his brother and took him away? Explain what words and phrases in the text make you think this.

6. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?

7. Why did the twins not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa?



Questions

8. Where did Remus want the new city to be built?

9. How did Remus end up getting killed?

10. When was the city of Rome founded?



Answers

1. Why did the servant not throw the babies into the river as he had been ordered?
The servant could not bring himself to throw the babies into the river as he looked at them and saw how lovely they looked and thought of his own sons. His conscience would not allow him to do it.
2. What was the name of the river?
The river was called the River Tiber.
3. What information does the text give us about the shepherd?
The shepherd is caring. He lives in a small, cosy cottage with his wife. The shepherd brought Romulus and Remus up like his own children and taught them how to be shepherds.
4. There was a storm at the time the shepherd discovered the twins. What words tell you this?
I know there was a storm on the day the shepherd found the boys because the text says the river was 'turbulent' and the winds were 'howling.'
5. How was Romulus feeling when the king's shepherd captured his brother and took him away? Explain what words and phrases in the text make you think this.
Romulus was feeling angry when his brother was taken away because it says that Romulus 'gritted his fierce teeth.' It also says that he was 'shaking uncontrollably' and that 'his cheeks burned bright red.'
6. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?
King Amulius thought that Rhea Silvia's children were dead so he did not recognise Romulus and Remus. (Also accept - Romulus and Remus were babies when King Amulius last saw them and, by this point in the story, they had grown up into young men.)
7. Why did the twins not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa?
The twins did not want to be kings of the city of Alba Longa because they wanted to found their own city.
8. Where did Remus want to build a new city?
Remus wanted to build the new city on Aventine Hill.
9. How did Remus end up getting killed?
The brothers ended up getting into a fight because Remus made fun of his brother when Romulus started to build the city on his chosen hill. Romulus killed Remus in the fight.
10. When was the city of Rome founded?
The city of Rome was officially founded on April 21, 753BC.



Comprehension

Shared Reading

A long time ago, there was a king named Numitor who ruled an ancient city in Italy called Alba Longa. Numitor had a younger brother named Amulius who one day overthrew Numitor and took over Alba Longa. However, Amulius did not want to cause any conflict, so he killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Numitor's only daughter, Rhea Silvia, to become a Vestal Virgin, so she could not marry or have children. Amulius was worried that Rhea would have a son who would eventually overthrow him.

However, Rhea Silvia fell in love with Mars, the Roman God of War and they had twin sons. Rhea Silvia had betrayed her vows of being a Vestal Virgin, and the penalty was usually death. However, Amulius feared the wrath of Mars and did not want to kill Rhea Silvia. Instead, King Amulius imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered a servant to put the twins in the River Tiber. Amulius reasoned that if the twins were to die from the elements, the city would be saved from the angry god.

Independent Reading

When the servant reached the river bank with the twins, he could not throw them in. He looked down at the babies sitting together in the basket with their tiny arms wrapped around one another and he thought about his own sons.

Instead, he placed their basket into the river and let the current carry the basket, in hope that someone would see the twins and rescue them.

Eventually, a compassionate she-wolf came across the basket in the river and pulled the babies out to safety. The wolf cared for the twins and protected them from dangers such as other wild animals. A friendly and cunning woodpecker helped the twins to find food.

Soon, the twins were found by a caring shepherd, who was out walking by the turbulent river. He took the twins back home out of the howling winds to his wife in their cosy cottage. They decided to call the boys Romulus and Remus.

The shepherd and his wife brought the twins up like their own children. Romulus and Remus grew up to become shepherds like their father. One day, while the twins were herding their sheep, they were met by shepherds of King Amulius, who started a fight with Romulus and Remus. Remus was captured by the shepherds and taken to King Amulius. Romulus watched as they took his beloved brother away.

He was shaking uncontrollably, his cheeks burned bright red and he gritted his fierce teeth. He resolutely gathered a group of shepherds and set out to rescue Remus. King Amulius believed that Rhea Silvia's children were dead so he did not recognise Romulus and Remus. Romulus



Comprehension

managed to free his brother and in the process, killed King Amulius. When the city learned who the boys were, they offered to crown them as joint kings.

However, the twins turned down the crown because they wanted to found their own city. The twins left their hometown in search of a perfect place to build their city. They eventually came to the place where Rome is located today. They both liked the area but they both wanted to build the city on a different hill. Romulus wanted the city to be on top of Palatine Hill while Remus preferred Aventine Hill.

They agreed to wait for a sign from the God Augury to determine which hill they should build their city on. Remus saw the sign of six vultures first, while Romulus claimed to have seen twelve. Each claimed that they had won. Romulus ignored his brother and went on to build a wall around Palatine Hill. However, Remus was jealous and began to make fun of his brother. They ended up getting into a fight.

Romulus killed Remus during the fight and he was now to be the founder of his own city. With Remus dead, Romulus returned to where he started to build his wall on Palatine Hill and continued to build his city.

He officially founded the city on April 21, 753BC, made himself king and named the city Rome after himself. He then began to organise his city. He divided his army into legions of 3,300 men. He called his 100 most noble men 'patricians' and the elders of Rome the 'Senate'. The city grew and prospered into one of the most powerful cities in the world and it stayed that way for another 1,000 years.



Questions

I can answer comprehension questions about the myth of Romulus and Remus.



Answer the questions in full sentences and give as much detail as you can.

1. Why did the servant not throw the babies into the river as he had been ordered?

2. What information does the text give us about the shepherd?

3. There was a storm at the time the shepherd discovered the twins. What words tell you this?

4. How was Romulus feeling when the king's shepherds captured his brother and took him away? Explain what words and phrases in the text make you think this.

5. What word tells you that Romulus was absolutely determined that he would free his brother from King Amulius?

6. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?



Questions

7. When the twins found a general area to build their new city, what issue caused them to disagree?

8. How did they agree to resolve the argument?

9. When did Romulus found the city of Rome and why did he found the city alone?

10. Using a dictionary to check meanings if you need to, write your own sentence for each of the following words from the text:

- prospered
- compassionate
- beloved



Answers

1. Why did the servant not throw the babies into the river as he had been ordered?
The servant could not bring himself to throw the babies into the river as he looked at them and saw how lovely they looked and thought of his own sons. His conscience would not allow him to do it.
2. What information does the text give us about the shepherd?
The shepherd is caring. He lives in a small, cosy cottage with his wife. The shepherd brought Romulus and Remus up like his own children and taught them how to be shepherds.
3. There was a storm at the time the shepherd discovered the twins. What words tell you this?
I know there was a storm on the day the shepherd found the boys because the text says the river was 'turbulent' and the winds were 'howling.'
4. How was Romulus feeling when the king's shepherd captured his brother and took him away? Explain what words and phrases in the text make you think this.
Romulus was feeling angry when his brother was taken away because it says that Romulus 'gritted his fierce teeth.' It also says that he was 'shaking uncontrollably' and that 'his cheeks burned bright red.'
5. What word tells you that Romulus was absolutely determined that he would free his brother from King Amulius?
The word 'resolutely' tells me that Romulus was determined that he would free his brother.
6. Why did King Amulius not recognise Romulus and Remus?
King Amulius thought that Rhea Silvia's children were dead, so he did not recognise Romulus and Remus. (Also accept - Romulus and Remus were babies when King Amulius last saw them and, by this point in the story, they had grown up into young men.)
7. When the twins found a general area to build their new city, what issue caused them to disagree?
The twins wanted to build the city on different hills. Romulus wanted the city to be on top of Palantine Hill while Remus preferred Aventine Hill.
8. How did they agree to resolve the argument?
They waited for a sign from God Augury.
9. When did Romulus found the city of Rome and why did he found the city alone?
The city of Rome was officially founded on April 21, 753BC. Romulus founded it alone because he had killed his brother in a fight.
10. Accept various answers which show understanding of the meaning of the words.