

AR-1 Ancient Rome Geography

Name _____

Italy is a **boot a shaped country** and forms a ***peninsula***, a piece of land almost entirely surrounded by the sea. This peninsula juts into the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Rome was a city surrounded by **seven hills, located along the Tiber River in central Italy**. The **Tiber River** provided a waterway to the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Natural barriers helped protect Rome from its enemies for many years. The **Alps** to the north and the **Apennine Mountains** to the east, running the length of Italy, provided protection. **Rome** was located inland about fifteen miles and controlled the Tiber River, so it could not be easily attacked by sea. The **seven steep hills that ringed around the city made it difficult for enemies to spring a surprise raid on Rome** (however, during the Punic Wars, fought between Rome and Carthage between 264 B.C.E. and 146 B.C.E., a brilliant Carthaginian general named Hannibal attacked Rome by crossing the Alps on elephants).

The **northwest and central** sections of Italy are rough and mountainous. The **southern part** is more level and fertile and was used for farming.

The **eastern coastline** of Italy has few good harbors. Most of the ***harbors***, or sheltered places were used by ancient Romans to trade goods with other parts of the Roman Empire lay on the western coast of the country.

Italy's mild **climate** was attractive to ancient settlers. Temperatures rarely dip below 60° F above 85° F . Rainfall amounts to about thirty inches per year.



Cause and Effect

Answer the following questions from the reading. Then complete the graphic organizer.

1.) Describe Italy by writing a simile. (Hint: A simile uses like or as)

2.) Describe the geography around Rome. _____

3.) What did the Tiber River provide? _____

4.) What natural barriers helped to protect Rome?

a.) _____

b.) _____

c.) _____

5.) Compare the northwest and central sections of Italy to the southern part of Italy.

6.) Where are the best harbors found in Italy? _____

7.) Italy has a _____ climate.

8.) Temperatures range between _____ and _____

9. Use context clues to define **peninsula** - _____

10. Use context clues to define **harbors** - _____



