

- Few details are known about the government of Carthage, but in his "Politics," Aristotle wrote about the Carthaginian constitution, saying, "Men in general (in Carthage) think that magistrates should be chosen not only for their merit, but for their wealth: a man, they say, who is poor cannot rule well — he has not the leisure." In the same vein, Aristotle warns that "it is surely a bad thing that the greatest offices, such as those of kings and generals, should be bought. The law which allows this abuse makes wealth of more account than virtue, and the whole state becomes avaricious." Ask students to research and define the concepts of "aristocracy" and "oligarchy" and discuss which type of government works best — one ruled by those of merit, or one ruled by those of wealth? As a follow-up, students may write position papers analyzing which type of government is more relevant in the context of the United States. Aristotle's writings on the constitution of Carthage may be found at the following web site:

www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/aristotle-carthage.html

- In the years after the Second Punic War, Carthage recovered economically, paid off its war debts and flourished again. The Carthaginians' resurgence brought great concern to many prominent Romans, especially Cato the Elder who feared that Carthage's renewed strength would lead to Rome's demise. Cato ended every speech in the Roman Senate by proclaiming, "Carthaginian esse delendum," or, "Carthage must be destroyed." In a preemptive attack in 146 BCE, Roman forces annihilated Carthage, resulting in the death of 500,000 people. Today, the United Nations Charter condones war only in self-defense, but preventive wars have overtaken deterrence in the view of countries such as the United States. Ask students to consider the international implications of preemptive wars, discuss the moral responsibilities of strong and powerful nations and offer their personal opinions of preemption as a national security strategy.
- For Hannibal, only the Alps stood between him and his dream of victory over Rome. No fewer than 40,000 men and 37 elephants had to cross the rocky and icy mountains on narrow tracks at dizzying altitudes. Contemporary historians cannot agree, however, on the route that Hannibal took. Ask students to research the texts of ancient historians Livy and Polybius which describe Hannibal's two main options: the southern route along the Durançe and the northern one through the Isere Valley. Which path did he take? Students should develop detailed maps of their chosen route and justify their selections with evidence from the historical record. Ancient accounts of Hannibal's spectacular trek may be found at the following web site:

www.livius.org/ha-hd/hannibal/alps.html

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- iam.classics.unc.edu/
"Interactive Ancient Mediterranean" is a cooperative effort of the American Philological Association's Classical Atlas Project and the University of North Carolina Classics Department's "Apollo Project."
- www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/polybius-cannae.html
Fordham University's "Ancient History Sourcebook" provides Polybius' account of the Battle of Cannae in 216 BCE.
- <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/ROME/CAREMMAP.HTM>
Washington State University offers a map showing the extent of the Carthaginian Empire in the third century BCE.

Suggested Print Resources

- Henty, G.A. *The Young Carthaginian*. Lost Classics Book Co. Publishers, Lake Wales, FL; 1998.
- Roberts, John Maddox. *Hannibal's Children*. Ace Books, New York, NY; 2002.
- Leckie, Ross. *Scipio Africanus: The Man Who Defeated Hannibal*. Regnery Pub., Washington, D.C.; 1998.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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HANNIBAL & THE FALL OF CARTHAGE

Grades 9–12

In the coastal areas along the Mediterranean Sea and in the deserts of the Middle East, emerged the cultures and great powers of the ancient world. Understanding the rise and fall of these early civilizations and empires provides us with unique and valuable historical insight, and is basic for an understanding of civilization today. In *The Fall of Great Empires*, students will learn about the clash of ideas, the legendary struggles for imperial power and the insatiable drive for great wealth that characterized the ancient world. Students will discover how these vast and influential societies declined and left a deep and lasting imprint on the history of Western civilization.



Program Summary

Intrigue and lust for power shaped the world of the third century BCE, the world into which Hannibal was born. His home was the legendary bustling city of Carthage in what is now Tunisia. The Carthaginians were descendants of the Phoenicians, a seafaring people based on the coast of Lebanon, who navigated from Egypt to Spain, ranging as far as England and the Canary Islands and dotting the Mediterranean region with successful trading outposts.

To the north of Carthage was a powerful enemy on the rise: Rome. In the First Punic War, which lasted over 20 years, Rome brought Carthage to the brink of ruin, thereby sparking the vengeance of Hannibal, who laid siege to the Roman legions in the Second Punic War with an enormous army featuring dozens of war elephants. Hannibal's unprecedented trek from Spain across the Alps to Italy resulted in spectacular early victories, especially at Cannae, where the Carthaginians destroyed the vastly superior Roman army.

Despite his initial successes, Hannibal miscalculated and did not take Rome, changing to more defensive tactics. Scipio, a decisive Roman general, won major victories in North Africa, ultimately ending Hannibal's power with a decisive victory at the Battle of Zama in 202 BCE. Years later, Roman forces annihilated Carthage in revenge for Hannibal's earlier rout at Cannae. Today, only ruins of ancient Carthage remain in Tunisia where 2,000 years ago a bustling city attracted traders and merchants.

Time Line

9th century BCE — Carthage is founded by Phoenician traders in what is now Tunisia.

479–450 BCE — Carthage conquers most of Tunisia and settles colonies in North Africa.

405 BCE — Carthage gains control of most of Syracuse (Sicily).

264 BCE — The First Punic War between Carthage and Rome begins in Sicily.

247 BCE — Hannibal is born to a distinguished family in Carthage.

221 BCE — Hannibal succeeds Hasdrubal as commander of the Carthaginian army.

219 BCE — The Second Punic War between Carthage and Rome begins with the victory of Hannibal at Saguntum in eastern Spain.

216 BCE — Hannibal is victorious over the Roman legions at Cannae.

202 BCE — Scipio defeats Hannibal's soldiers at the Battle of Zama near the city of Carthage, marking the end of Hannibal's distinguished military career.

195 BCE — Hannibal flees to the court of Antiochus to evade his Roman enemies.

183 BCE — Hannibal commits suicide by taking poison.

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146 BCE — The city of Carthage is burned and thousands of Carthaginians are killed or enslaved by Rome in the aftermath of the Third Punic War.

Vocabulary

Hannibal — A military commander from the ancient city of Carthage whose trek across the Alps with over 100,000 men and war elephants is regarded as one of the great military maneuvers in world history.

Cannae — An ancient town in Italy where Hannibal and Carthage defeated the Romans in the Second Punic War.

Tyre — An ancient Phoenician port in southern Lebanon on the Mediterranean Sea.

Phoenicians — A people of an ancient maritime civilization that was located on the coastal plains of Lebanon and Syria.

Baal — Meaning “lord,” a fertility and nature deity worshipped by the ancient Phoenicians.

Carthago Nova — The Latin name of a major trading colony on the coast of Spain established by Carthage. Translated as “New Carthage,” the colony fell to Scipio and the Romans in 209 BCE.

Celtic — A general term used to identify the language or tribes of Northern Europe from around the fifth century BCE.

Spartan — Of, or related to the city or the people of Sparta in ancient Greece.

Saguntum — A town in eastern Spain taken by Hannibal in 219 BCE, sparking the Second Punic War.

Publius Cornelius Scipio “Africanus” — A skilled Roman general who fought against Hannibal in the Second Punic War between Rome and Carthage.

Prussian — The former and most important German state before the country's unification in 1871.

Gauls — Ancient Celtic peoples who lived around northern Italy and served as Hannibal's mercenaries during the Punic Wars.

Numidians — Ancient tribes from parts of Algeria and Tunisia who fought with Hannibal during the Punic Wars.

Sanguineto — The “Blood River” or “place of blood” where thousands of Roman legions died in a battle during the Second Punic War.

Fabius Maximus — The Roman politician and soldier appointed dictator during the Second Punic War.

The Battle of Zama — The decisive battle of the Second Punic War, in which Roman forces defeated Hannibal in 202 BCE and forever ended Carthaginian hopes for supremacy in the Mediterranean.

Pre-viewing Discussion

- Why do civilizations and empires fall? Ask students to brainstorm a list of possible causes. How does the study of the origins, development and fall of ancient civilizations and empires help us to understand Western civilization today?
- Refer to a map of the ancient Mediterranean world and ask students to identify modern countries and major capital cities that are a part of this region.
- The Mediterranean Sea was a central link between diverse peoples such as the Greek, Latin and Arab cultures. Ask students to suggest ways in which this transportation superhighway facilitated economic and cultural interactions in the ancient world.

Follow-up Discussion

- In a bloodbath of shocking proportions, the numerically superior Romans were crushed by Hannibal's forces at Cannae in 216 BCE. Discuss the irony of Hannibal's greatest victory leading to the downfall of his own city.
- Hannibal's war elephants were the trump card he played in battles against the Roman Empire. For the Battle of Zama, Hannibal supplemented his ranks with 80 war elephants from Carthage. Discuss Hannibal's purpose in using these animals and why his secret weapons turned into double-edged swords. Describe Scipio's answer to Hannibal's exotic giants.
- Analyze the strategies of Hannibal and Fabius Maximus in the aftermath of Carthage's tremendous victory at Cannae. Why didn't Hannibal besiege the city of Rome? What did he do instead? Evaluate Fabius Maximus' strategy of attrition.

Follow-up Activities

- By the start of the fifth century BCE, Carthage was the center of trade with major influence throughout the Mediterranean region — a powerful position it would maintain until it was overthrown by the Roman Republic in the Punic Wars. Ask students to research the Punic Wars and develop detailed time lines that focus on the origins, battles and results of these conflicts. Time lines should begin with the founding of Carthage and end with its destruction in 146 BCE. Excellent research material may be found at the following web site:
history.boisestate.edu/westciv/punicwar/

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