Foundation of Rome

- The Trojan Aeneas settles in Latium by the river Tiber and his son Ascanius founds Alba Longa in 1169 BC
- Descendants of Ascaniusrule it peacefully for generations
- 796 BC: King Numitor of Alba Longa is disposed by his brother Amulius, who kills his two sons to stop them from challenging him and makes his daughter Rhea Silvia a Vestal Virgin
- Mars rapes Rhea while she fell asleep washing clothes on the riverbed, impregnating her (according to Ovid)
- Her uncle locks her away until she gives birth to twins, Romulus and Remus
- Rhea is buried alive as punishment and the babies are subject to exposure on the Tiber
- They are raised by a she-wolf and ultimately found by a kindly shepherd who raises them as his own to be shepherds themselves
- The brothers become embroiled in a territorial fight over land with other shepherds
- Remus ends up being kidnapped by Amulius and kept in a castle in Alba Longa, Romulus storms the castle, subsequently he discovers his birth right and the twins plan to found their city
- Romulus argues with Remus on the location of their new city (both agreed to have it near their Tiber exposure site, but Remus wants to build on the Aventine hills whereas Romulus favours the Palatine hills
- They decide to ask the gods: Remus sees six vultures fly over the Aventine hills so claims victory, but Romulus then sees twelve fly past the Palatine hills and claims victory for himself. They argue more then decide on separate settlements
- Remus keeps breaking parts of Romulus’s walls down; doing childish things like putting boulders in the way of his construction
- Remus eventually jumps over Romulus’s wall to prove ineffectiveness— as soon as he lands, Romulus kills him with a spade and becomes the sole ruler of ‘Rome’
- Romulus opens his city to anyone who wants to live there, including exiles and asylum seekers, however it becomes apparent there are far more men than women in the city
  - They invite their neighbours (the Sabines) to come to a festival in honour of Neptune, after which they kidnap the women and force the men out of the city
  - The ‘Rape of the Sabine Women’ occurs
  - The Sabine men waged war on the Romans yet the Sabine women intervened and said they were happy with their new husbands, eventually new relationships are fostered between the two tribes
- Sabine king Tatius secretly starts plotting against Romulus and is found out and so executed
- Romulus is in sole charge once again of the whole area; he decides to set up the senate of both Romans and Sabines for balance
- 753 BC: the traditional date for the founding of Rome