The Seven Kings of Rome

Romulus (753-717 BC)

- Founder of Rome
- 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
- After Romulus rules for 37 years, he is said to have disappeared in a ‘whirlwind storm’
- He is worshipped as a god as people say they saw him rise to heaven
- Others believe he was assassinated by other jealous senators and the deification occurred to appease the people

A year passed with the senate ruling (Romulus had no children). Eventually Numa Pompilius is chosen as the new king

Numa Pompilius (716-674 BC)

- Declined the position at first but then consulted the gods and after seeing an ‘omen’ from Jupiter her agreed to take up the role
- Considered the wisest of kings, religious and pious, he had humble beginnings
- He set up many statutes in the city to ensure it was ran well
- He was interested in solidifying Rome’s religious beliefs and set up temples to many different gods (including more minor gods)
- Established the calendar being 12 months, where previously it was 10