WHAT I NEED TO KNOW:
1. DESCRIBE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE REPUBLIC
2. DESCRIBE THE GROWTH OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC TO BECOME MORE DEMOCRATIC.
3. DEFINE PATRICIAN, PLEBEIAN, REPUBLIC, SENATE, CONSUL, TRIBUNE, VETO, CONSTITUTION
EARLY ROME

• Early Rome was ruled by a series of Etruscan Kings.
• We aren’t entirely sure about what really did and did not happen under these kings.
  • The Etruscan language is not entirely readable to us.
  • There are many myths and legends about what happened under the Etruscan kings.
• What we do know for sure is that in 509 BCE the Roman’s overthrew the Etruscan Kings and established a republic.
PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS UNDER ETRUSCAN RULE

Under the Etruscans Roman society was divided into two social classes.

- **The Patricians**
  - Wealthy landowners
  - Some were advisers to the Etruscan king, held the important military and religious offices.
  - Comes from the Latin word Pater – Father, paternal, paternity test.
  - In this sense they were the “fathers” of the state.

- **The Plebeians**
  - Peasants, laborers, craftspeople, shopkeepers.
  - Plebs “the common people
  - 95% of the population
The “Story” of How Rome Became a Republic

• One day, two Etruscan princes went to see the famous oracle at Delphi in Greece. A Roman named Lucius Junius Brutus went with them.

• The Etruscan princes asked the oracle who would be the next king of Rome—she said, "The next man to rule Rome will be the first to kiss his mother!" Brutus pretended to trip, fell on his face, and his lips touched the Earth—"the mother of all things!"

• True?? Hmm. . . But the Romans believed and told the story

• What we do know is that Brutus did lead a revolt that drove out the last Etruscan king.
ROME BECOMES A “REPUBLIC”

• When the last Etruscan king was driven out the created a “republic”.
  • A Republic is a government where elected officials govern for the people.
    • What type of democracy is this most like?
      • Representative democracy = republic
      • Think Pledge of Allegiance “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the ____________ for which it stands. . .”
      • The US has a republic.
WHAT DID THE EARLY ROMAN REPUBLIC LOOK LIKE?

• “The People” in the early Roman republic were the patricians, not the plebeians.

**The Senate**
- 300 patricians elected by patricians
- Served for life
- Appointed government officials and served as judges

**Consuls**
- Two
- Elected
- Senate “advised” them; but really just told them what to do.

• Was Rome a democracy under the early republic?
  - Kinda. . .
    - Not a king, but only the patricians count. ..
THE PLEBEIANS REBEL

- Plebeians grew frustrated with this system they had to obey the decisions of the Senate and Consuls, but they had no power.
- Laws were not written – kind of crazy
  - Patricians often changed and interpreted the laws to suit their needs – UNFAIR!!
- **Conflict of the Orders**
  - Plebeians began to demand more rights/power etc.
  - This struggle between the patricians and the plebeians becomes known as the **Conflict of Orders**.
  - The struggle between social classes.
WAR DEEPENS THE DIVIDE BETWEEN PLEBS AND PATS

- In times of war the Conflict of Orders heats up.
- Why?
  - Plebs have to fight in the wars.
  - But have no say in the decision to go to war.
THINGS REACH A BREAKING POINT

- In 494 BCE Rome is a city of 20,000 – 40,000 people
  - Most of them are Plebeian
  - The march out of the city and camped out on a nearby hill
  - Refuse to return until the pats meet their demands
- Pats FREAKED out
  - No one to work
  - No one to defend the city
  - Turns out they NEEDED the plebs!!!
PLEBEIANS GAIN MORE POLITICAL POWER

• The plebeian revolt leads to a major change in Roman government
  • Patricians agree to give in to some of the Plebs demands
    • **Tribune of Plebs**
      • A group of elected plebeians
      • Spoke for the plebeians in the Senate and with the Consuls
      • Gained the power to veto or reject/overrule, actions by the Senate and other government officials.
      • Originally had two tribunes – eventually had 10
    • Council of Plebs
      • Again elected plebeians
      • Could make laws for plebeians but not patricians.
PLEBS GAIN EQUALITY -- FINALLY

Over the next 200 years plebs gain equality -- but it comes in steps.

Twelve Tables

451 BCE
Laws were written down (published) on engraved tablets called the Twelve Tables.
Pats couldn't change them at whims.

Consuls

367 BCE
One of the two consuls had to be a plebian.
Former consuls became senators -- This means eventually that the Senate will have plebeians as well as Patricians.

Right to make laws for all citizens

287 BCE plebeians gain the rights to make laws for all citizens.

Citizens' Association

All roman citizens
Could approve or reject laws.