8-1 Notes

* Italy is a narrow peninsula shaped like a high heeled boot.
* Sicily is the island at the “toe” of Italy.
* The Alps - mountains that separate Italy from Europe
* The Apennines (mountains) run all the way down Italy from north to south.
* A Latin speaking people built the city of Rome on the plain of Latium.
* Rome was built on the Tiber River on 7 hills.
* Two legends of Rome’s beginning: (1) the twin brothers Romulus and Remus (2) the Trojan war hero Aeneas
* The Greeks and the Etruscans influenced the Roman civilization
* Etruscans are a rich people skilled in the art of metal working who played a major role in the growth of Rome.
* Tarquins are a cruel Etruscan family who ruled Rome until the Romans rebelled and overthrew the Tarquins.
* Republic – a form of gov’t in which the leader is not a king or queen but someone put in office by citizens with rights to vote.
* Rome was able to conquer Italy because the Romans were excellent soldiers, good fighters and practical problem solvers.
* Legions – a small group of about 6000 soldiers.
* Romans were clever conquerors; they allowed conquered peoples to continue ruling their own land as long as they paid taxes to the Romans and fought in the Roman army – this would maybe help them become Roman citizens.