

THE GROWTH OF ROME

In the 8th century BC, while Rome was growing into a city, the Latins were just one of many groups of people who lived on the Italian peninsula. To the north of the Latins lay the great Etruscan civilization, while the south was dominated by the Greeks who had set up colonies there. In between were numerous tribes of hill-farmers, such as the Sabines. All these people had a part to play in the history of Rome in its early years.

THE SABINE WOMEN

According to the Roman historian Livy, who lived much later, the newly founded city of Rome suffered from a shortage of women. So the Latins invited the nearby Sabines to take part in a festival of games, and then kidnapped all their daughters. Although the story is unlikely to be true, some of the early inhabitants of Rome were Sabines. Perhaps the legend may have grown up later on to explain how they came to be there.



Map showing some of the different groups of people who lived in Italy

GREAT GREECE

As early as 750BC, Greek colonists began setting up cities in southern Italy and on the coast of Sicily. The Greeks had such a strong influence in this area that the Romans later called it *Magna Graecia* - or 'Great Greece'.

As well as bringing goods to trade - such as fine pottery, metalwork and wine - the Greeks also brought with them their science, literature, drama, art and architecture. All of these had a huge effect on Roman culture.

The ruins of a typical Greek temple, built by Greek colonists at Segesta, on the island of Sicily

