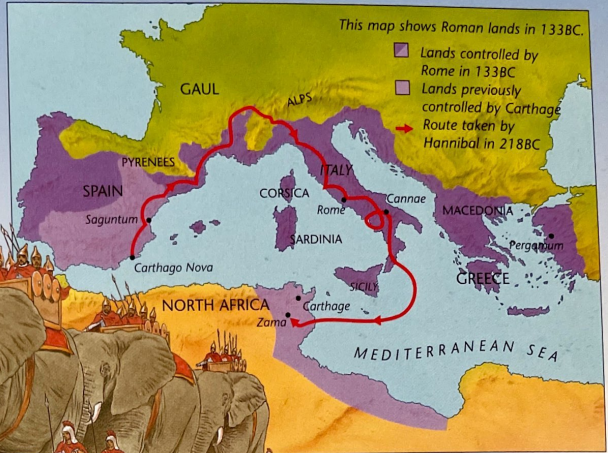


Hannibal led his troops across two huge mountain ranges - the Pyrenees and the Alps - losing 10,000 men and all but one of the elephants on the way. But Hannibal was an outstanding general, and his men won battle after battle. At the famous Battle of Cannae in 216BC they wiped out an entire Roman army.

Hannibal leading his army over the Alps



CARTHAGE DESTROYED

Although the Carthaginians were no longer a threat, some Romans were suspicious of what they might do in the future. For four years, a senator named Cato ended

every speech he made with the words: "Carthage must be destroyed." In 149BC, war broke out again, and three years later Carthage was defeated and burned to the ground. Its people were sold as slaves, and the soil was sown with salt so that nothing could ever grow there again.

ROME RULES

Winning the Punic Wars gave the Romans large areas of land in Spain and North Africa. But during this period, they also conquered parts of southern Gaul (present-day France) and were drawn into wars in the eastern Mediterranean.

In 168BC, the Romans took over the Greek state of Macedonia, and by 146BC they controlled all of Greece. In 133BC, the King of Pergamum (in present-day Turkey) died, leaving his kingdom to Rome. With lands stretching from Spain to Asia, the Romans were indeed masters of the Mediterranean.

