

The Punic Wars: Questions to Ponder

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following questions using the text from your handout, class discussion and the map activity. Be sure you write all answers in complete sentences and include examples from the text to support your answer. 1) Explain what caused the First Punic War between the Romans and the Carthaginians.

2) Why were the Romans worried about the Carthaginians being close to Italy? Explain how this fear might have made the war last longer and include more land than it did at first.

3) Describe the way that Hannibal surprised the Romans in the Second Punic War.

4) Do you think Hannibal thought it was worth the huge loss of men in order to surprise Rome with an attack? Why or why not?

5) The Romans felt that the only way to prevent Hannibal from plotting against them was to have the Carthaginians hand him over to Rome so they could kill him. Do you agree with their thoughts on this matter? Why or why not?

6) Imagine that you are in Carthage after the treaty had been signed, Carthage swore that it could never go to war with any country unless Rome gave its approval, but now there is a country Masinissa and their army is heading towards Carthage, ready to attack. Do you think your city should break the treaty with Rome to defend itself? Why or Why not? What other options are there?

7) Explain, why the Romans plowed the area where Carthage stood and then covered it with salt.
