

The Punic Wars: Questions to Ponder

1. The first Punic War was caused when the Romans wanted to take over the island of Sicily. The Romans started to attack the Carthaginian areas of the island, this made the Carthaginians mad and they fought back. The Carthaginians lost the first Punic War.
2. The Romans knew about the Carthaginians and were afraid of them. They wanted to put a lot of distance between Carthage and themselves. They gained control of Sicily and then went after the islands of Corsica and Sardinia. Gaining those 3 islands moved the Carthaginians farther away.
3. Hannibal knew that to be able to beat the Romans they must be surprised. The Romans would be expecting an attack from the sea, so he decided that he would attack from land instead. This had never happened before.
4. Yes, he obviously thought that it was worth the loss of men or he would have turned back during the journey as people started to die off, or he would have taken a shorter route.
5. The Romans were very afraid of the Carthaginians and they felt that the only way to prevent Hannibal from trying to beat them again was to kill him. Yes, they were right. He was determined and had tried more than once to defeat them. Death was probably the only way to stop him.
6. If I had been in Carthage at this time and there was an army heading for us, I would want the people in charge to do everything they could to protect us. Of course, we would all be in danger from the Romans, but we could hope for mercy and understanding.
7. The Romans felt that since they had defeated the Carthaginians, they had to make sure that they didn't have the chance to come back to their home and rebuild their empire. After the Carthaginians' defeat, the Romans tore everything down and put salt in the soil because the salt made it so nothing would grow.