1) Italy is a Peninsula that is found almost directly in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

2) Italy is surrounded by the:
   - Tyrrhenian Sea (West)
   - Adriatic Sea (East)
   - Mediterranean Sea (South)

3) The Appenine Mountains range from the North to the South of the Peninsula.

4) Italy has large fertile plains; ideal for farming:
   - Po River Valley (Northern Italy)
   - Plain of Latium (central Italy)

Impact of Geography on Italy:
- Appenine Mountains bisected Italy but were less rugged than the mountains of Greece.
  -- It did not divide the Peninsula into isolated communities.
- More productive farmland enabled Italy to have a larger population than Greece.

City of Rome:
- Located 18 miles inland
- Tiber River provided access to the sea
- Rome was built on 7 hills = good protection
- Rome is located in the middle of the Peninsula
  -- Central location = good trading location

Italian Peninsula divided the Mediterranean Sea
  -- Acted as a crossroads for sea trade
  -- Made it easier to control the Mediterranean Region.

Early Inhabitants of the Italian Peninsula:
1) The Greeks
   - The Greeks started to colonize Italy around 500 BCE
   - They primarily settled in the Southern half of the Peninsula and on the Island of Sicily.
   - The Greeks introduced agriculture, system of writing, architecture, and religion to the Italians.

2) The Etruscans
   - The Etruscans settled to the north of Rome
   - They established towns which grew into cities
   - They took over Latium; which is where Rome was founded.

3) The Latins
   - The Latins were farmers and shepards and were the original inhabitants of Latium (Rome)
   - They built the original settlement of Rome.
Early Rome (753 - 509 BCE)
- Early Rome had been under the control of 7 Kings
- Rome emerged as a city around 600 BCE
- The Etruscans began to build roads, temples, markets, shops, and houses around this time
- By 509 BCE the last Etruscan King was overthrown
- Nobles of Rome lost power and wanted to establish a new government which they could use to maintain their power

The Romans established a "Republic"

Republic = form of government in which the citizens vote to select their leaders

Roman Republic (509 - 264 BCE)
** In the early Republic two groups struggled with one another for political power
Patricians = Aristocratic landowners who had political power
Plebeians = Farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population
** Roman Republic blended elements of a Monarchy, Aristocracy, and a Democracy to form their government

Consuls = Two officials elected by the assembly for a 1 year term
-- They acted like Kings; directed the government and were in charge of the military

Senate = 300 members of the aristocracy (Patricians) who were members for life
-- They determined foreign policy and financial decisions

Assemblies = Democratic part of the Roman Republic
-- Citizen soldiers were members of the Centuriate Assembly (elected consuls)
-- Tribal Assembly was organized by the Plebians; they made laws for the common people

Roman Republic cont...

Dictators could be elected in times of crisis
- They made all political decisions but were only allowed to rule for a period of 6 months

** Roman citizens = free, adult males who owned land

Twelve Tables of Rome
- Written law code which became the basis for Roman law
- The laws were written on 12 tablets and placed in the forum (center of Rome)
- All free citizens of Rome (Patrician and Plebeian) had the same protection under the 12 tables