



# The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire

**KEY VOCABULARY****Punic Wars**

**three wars between Rome and Carthage**, which Rome won

**assassinate**

to **kill someone** for political reasons

**Pax Romana**

a **period of two hundred years** when the **Roman Empire was very peaceful and rich**

**persecution**

**hurting someone**, often for their religious beliefs or ethnicity

**barbarian**

an **insulting word** the Romans used for the different tribes attacking the empire in the 5th Century CE

**sack**

to **destroy an enemy city** and steal anything of value

**the Roman Empire 117 CE**