



# WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

## Pretest 31

*Jeopardy.* I provide the answers, you give me the right question for each from the list below. Draw neat lines in different colors to connect them.

- |              |                        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. Elephants | 5. Paper               |
| 2. The Alps  | 6. Antiochus Epiphanes |
| 3. Salt      | 7. Oil                 |
| 4. Silk      | 8. Dedication          |

What Seleucid ruler sacrificed a pig on the Jewish altar?

What was the greatest trade item made by the Chinese?

What animal did Hannibal use to fight against the Romans?

What was miraculously provided at Hanukkah?

What mountains did Hannibal cross with his war elephants?

What substance was scattered across Carthage to ruin it?

What does the word "Hanukkah" mean?

What did the Chinese invent during the Han dynasty?

## HANNIBAL, ELEPHANTS, AND THE PUNIC WARS

### LESSON 91

Far away from China at about the same time that Qin started the Great Wall, trouble was stirring between two important cities. The city of Rome was determined to rule over all the Mediterranean. However, one city, Carthage, wasn't going to let this happen very easily.

Carthage, an ancient city and state located in northern Africa, was a threat to Rome because it was a great trading city. Look on a historical map now and find both Carthage and Rome. They are really quite close to one another although they are on two different continents. Only the beautiful Mediterranean Sea separated them.

The fighting between these cities became known as the Punic Wars. It was called that because the Romans used the word "Punic" for "Phoenicians." What do the Phoenicians have to do with it? Glad you asked that question. It was the Phoenicians of long ago who first settled the city of Carthage in the Mediterranean. It was what we call a "colony" of Phoenicia for many years.

During the First Punic War, the Carthaginians fought with the Romans over the island of Sicily. That is the small island that looks like it is being "kicked" by the peninsula of Italy. (Archimedes was from there.) Carthage lost that battle.

Twenty years later, though, a brilliant general named Hannibal rose to power in Carthage. He would greatly challenge the Roman rule. While just a boy, Hannibal developed an intense hatred for Rome. His father once asked him to make an oath that he would never be friends with a Roman. Hannibal kept that oath all his life.

The most amazing thing Hannibal ever did was to completely surprise the Romans in an attack. You will have to look at a map to appreciate this strategy. Rather than trying to attack Rome from the south where Carthage was, Hannibal marched to



*In an incredible effort to attack Rome, Hannibal crossed rivers and scaled the Alps with 37 war elephants!*

Rome by heading west through Africa, north at the Strait of Gibraltar, and east across the perilous Alps mountains! This man and his army, who lived south of Rome and across a sea, attacked Rome from the northwest. It was a brilliant idea.

To make the endeavor even more astounding, Hannibal took 37 war elephants with him! Can you imagine elephants climbing the Alps? To be honest, they didn't do a very good job. On the way, all but one died from either the freezing conditions or from falling to their deaths. One-third of Hannibal's men died for the same reasons, along with the fact that some men just starved to death.

Still, Hannibal was very courageous. It is said that he himself often hiked or rode his horse to the next highest peak, yelling back to the men that it was safe for passage. I can picture him shouting and waving. Both he and his men were subject to slippery ice, deep snow, and freezing weather. It is incredible that they made it at all.

Over the next 15 years, the mighty Hannibal managed to defeat the Romans at three different battles within Italy, but he was yet to meet up with the best that Rome had to offer in generals. His name was Scipio (SIP ee oh).

While Hannibal was in Italy far from home, Scipio took his men straight to Carthage to attack by way of the sea. News of that forced Hannibal to head back to Carthage the same way he came. In 202 B.C., Scipio and Hannibal finally met face to face to fight at the Battle of Zama. The fate of the rule of the Mediterranean was at stake. The result of this battle was to shape the rest of history!

Since you've probably never heard of Carthage before this lesson, you can probably guess who won this decisive battle. Hannibal and his men were unable to win this time. The powerful Romans claimed the final victory over the Second Punic War, which was just the beginning of showing how strong they could be.

Hannibal, on the other hand, left the army of Carthage and worked on rebuilding his city instead. He was so successful that he again posed a threat to the Romans. They set out to have Hannibal ousted from Carthage once and for all. He had to flee far from his own country to save his life.

After 10 years, the Romans finally caught up to Hannibal while he was in hiding on the island of Crete. That is the same island where the Minoans once lived. Rather than suffer the humiliation of being captured, Hannibal ended his own life. He supposedly drank poison that he kept stored in a secret ring on his finger.

Some of Hannibal's last words were "Let us now put an end to the great anxiety of the Romans, who have thought it too lengthy, and too heavy a task, to wait for the death of a hated old man."<sup>1</sup> Ironically, Hannibal's old enemy Scipio died that same year.

Both men died without the knowledge that Carthage was later obliterated by the Romans in the Third Punic War. The destruction was one of the worst in all of history as the entire city was burned over two weeks and any survivors were carried away into slavery.

As a final act of cruelty and to ensure that Carthage wouldn't rise again, the Romans contaminated the burned city with salt. The strategy behind this was to ruin the town's farmland. The salt in the soil would have made the land incapable of growing food crops. Without anything to eat, no one could live there. This obliteration of the great trade city of Carthage certainly would have broken Hannibal's heart.

## **ACTIVITY 91**

### **91A—Younger Students**

Write a story about what it would be like to have a pet elephant. What would you want him to do for you? Where could he take your family? Where would he sleep, and how much would he eat? To make your story believable, read some information about elephants in the encyclopedia and weave these facts into your story. Dictate the story to your teacher and include it in your Student Notebook under "Africa: Tunisia." (Tunisia is the modern country in Africa where Carthage used to be.)

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1. As quoted in Don Nardo, *The Punic Wars*. San Diego: Lucent Books, 1996; p. 82.

### **91B—Middle Students**

Pretend you are a soldier with Hannibal's army. Write a diary page of what it is like to travel with the elephants. Although it was not a funny expedition, you could write your diary page in a humorous fashion. Use your imagination. File your page under "Africa: Tunisia."

### **91C—Older Students**

1. Write a synopsis of each of the three Punic Wars. These wars were considered pivotal to history, and the tactics of Hannibal are ingenious. Pay attention to the name Scipio. There was more than one. File your research under "Africa: Tunisia."
2. Are you a war buff? If you like battle scenes, research the details on the Battle of Zama, Scipio versus Hannibal. It was quite a showdown.