**Romulus and Remus**

A Roman priestess called Rhea once gave birth to two twin boys. She told people the god Mars was their father but we don’t know if he really was. But no one would protect her from the cruel king, not even the gods. Rhea was thrown into prison, the boys were taken away to be thrown into the river. It happened that the Tiber was then flooding. The king’s men left the children in the river close to the shore. This was a lonely and wild place.

The story goes on to say that the floating basket with the children was left on dry land. Then a thirsty she-wolf from the surrounding hills, attracted by the crying of the children, came to them. She gave them her milk to drink and was so gentle towards them that the king's shepherd found her licking the boys. According to the story, the shepherd’s name was Faustulus. He took the children to his hut and gave them to his wife Larentia to bring up. As the boys grew to be young men they too became shepherds but their favourite activity was hunting in the forest. As their strength and courage developed, they hunted fierce beasts and bandits. They distributed what they took among the shepherds.

**Questions**

1. Who is Mars?
2. What were the boys’ names?
3. Why do you think Rhea was sent to prison?
4. Who or what found the twins?
5. What was their favourite activity?
6. Do you like the twins? Think of what they do at the end of the story.
7. Who do you think is going to found Rome?