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COMMUNITY GORP Trivia

Tune in every other week for a new GORP Trivia question. What do you really know about the world's people, places, and things? The first five correct answers to any question always **win a small bag of GORP.com GORP**. Special bags for creative answers too.

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Carthaginian Founder
Question by Ethan Gelber

The Question:

The history of the ancient world is dominated by descriptions of the exploits of men. There were, however, soaring and world-changing events made possible by women who often demonstrated an able intelligence that their conquering male counterparts sometimes lacked. One of these artful women – considered a proto-feminist by some scholars – is believed to have founded the great Phoenician city of Carthage.

Who was she?

The Answer:

Princess Elyssa of [Phoenicia](#), also known as the Carthaginian Queen Dido, is commonly believed to be the founder of Carthage. According to legend, in the 9th century BC, Elyssa-Dido fled from her brother Pygmalion, the king of [Tyre](#) (in today's Lebanon), when he killed her husband, Sychaeus. When she landed on the site of what was to be Carthage, the local chieftain, Iarbas, and his population agreed to give her a plot of land on

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the condition that it be no greater than an area that could be defined by a cowhide. Dido agreed but then had the hide cut into a large number of very, very thin strips, which she then used to outline a huge area: [Carthage](#). Another story tells that Dido was sought after by Iarbas, but stabbed herself on a funeral pyre to avoid having to marry him.

Carthage became a huge maritime and trading empire, encompassing much of North Africa, Sicily, and Spain. In fact, by the 5th century BC, Carthage was the largest of all existing Mediterranean ports and played an important role in the development of life in the Mediterranean world. Carthage minted its own coins and produced cloths, ceramics, glassware, arms, and woodworks. By the 3rd Century BC, Carthage's supremacy worried the rising Roman Republic. The subsequent rivalry between these two great powers resulted in three wars known to us as the Punic wars. (It was during the Second Punic War, which began in 218 BC, that the famous Carthaginian General Hannibal used Carthage's expansion into Spain as the base for a bold invasion of Roman Italy. To the Romans' amazement, he marched his army, complete with elephants, through the Alps to northern Italy. In two decisive battles, Hannibal soundly defeated the Romans, but never actually captured Rome itself. Rome ultimately won and oversaw the total destruction of the city and dismantling of its influence throughout the region.

THANKS for your contributions!



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