The Etruscans

Notice how the Greeks influenced the Etruscans and how the Etruscans influenced the Romans.

This PowerPoint was taken from a variety of sources and modified.
The culture that immediately preceded that of the Etruscans is known as Villanovan, and Italian version of the great Urnfield culture found from about the twelfth to the seventh century B.C. Urnfield culture, so called from its practice of burying the cremated remains of the dead in urns placed side by side by the hundreds, consisted of settled agricultural communities of some size that produced cereals and used the traction plough in place of the hoe or digging stick. Every known Etruscan city is preceded by a Villanovan settlement, a fact that has led to the debate about whether the Etruscans were transformed Villanovans or whether the new culture should be explained by the arrival of immigrants from somewhere else. (Nagle, p. 261.)

Cinerary Urn
This biconical cinerary urn dates to the Villanovan period (9th century BCE). Cremation was a common practice at this time, with the ashes of the deceased wrapped in linen or crimson colored fabric, placed in large vases of clay or bronze and buried with a few grave objects in an underground pit.
The Etruscans excelled in the therapeutic use of herbs, animal substances, minerals and special waters. They also were capable surgeons. The terracotta pot and bronze saucers were likely used to store and mix medical ointments. The bronze probes were used for surgery. These instruments date from the 6th–2nd centuries B.C.
Pyrgi Tablets
ETRUSCAN TOMBS
Aerial View of Bandittaccia cemetery
ETRUSCAN TOMBS
Interior of the Tomb of the Capitals, Banditaccia cemetery, Cerveteri, Italy
Tomb of the Reliefs, Tarquinia (4th century B.C.)
Francois Tomb: Vanth, Etruscan death god (2nd century B.C.).
Tomb of Hunting and Fishing, Tarquinia (6th century B.C.)
Tomb of the Leopards: Banqueting scene (6th century B.C.)
Sarcophagus of the Married Couple, from Cerveteri, dating from 550 B.C.
Cinerary Urn

Made from alabaster from the 3rd century B.C.
Sarcophagus of the "Magistrate"
Burial sarcophagus of an Etruscan official featuring a sculpted scene in low relief.
Reconstruction of Etruscan temple
Haruspices (singular, haruspex) were priests who practiced divination by the inspection of the entrails of animals.
Famous bronze sculpture of Romulus and Remus. The she-wolf is an Etruscan work, made around 500 B.C.; the two infants were added by a Renaissance artist, 2,000 years later.

The Founding of Rome
The Seven Hills of Rome were the hills upon which the ancient city of Rome was built, including the Palatine (traditional site of the founding of the city) and the Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Quirinal, and Viminal hills.
Legend of Remus and Romulus
According to ancient legend, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by the twin brothers Romulus and Remus. Their grandfather, Numitor, was king of a nearby city, Alba Longa; a rival had ousted him, killed off his sons and daughters, and threw the twin boys into the Tiber River, whereupon they were saved and nursed by a she-wolf. A shepherd found the infants and raised them; when they grew up they learned their identity, sneaked to the house of the royal usurper, and killed him in an ambush. Old Numitor got his throne back, and Romulus and Remus left to build a city of their own, since Alba Longa was already overcrowded.
They decided to build it right on the spot where the shepherd found them. However, so many years had gone by that nobody knew where that was. Romulus and Remus went to separate hills with their followers, and waited for a favorable omen. Remus thought he had one when he saw six vultures fly over him. Then twelve vultures flew over Romulus; thinking that was twice as good, he picked up a plow and started marking where he wanted the walls to be. Remus jumped over the furrow made by the plow and declared that such walls would never protect a city.
• Romulus was so enraged that he shouted, "So perish all who cross these walls," and struck Remus dead. Afterwards, though, he regretted the murder, and when he became king, he put an empty throne next to his own with a scepter on it, letting everyone know that he felt he should have ruled with his dead brother.

• Turning from fable to fact, modern scholars believe that in the eighth century B.C. the inhabitants of some small Latin settlements in the Tiber valley united and established a common meeting place, the Forum, around which the city of Rome grew.
Etruscan Art

- Concerned with emotion rather than realism
- Some religious topics
- Some light-hearted topics
Importance of Banquets
Dance and Music
Fashion
Apollo of Veii
Sarcophagus of a Married Couple
Tomb of Hunting & Fishing
Tomb of Augers
The examination of the entrails of sacrificed animals, particularly the liver, was one of the principal branches of the *disciplina Etrusca*, the Etruscan art of divination. It was thought that the liver reflected the state of the world at the moment the sacrifice was made and thus could reveal the will of the gods as well as the future to those who could read the signs. In the ancient Near East the art of examining livers had been reduced to a standardized technique, and model terra-cotta livers were created to assist in the process of interpretation. In northern Italy, near Piacenza, a similar model liver in bronze was found in 1877. It is divided into 16 compartments with 24 inner division to which the names of various gods have been assigned. According to Cicero, the divisions on the left side of the sacrificial liver were unfavorable and those on the right favorable. Markings and unusual shapes and colorations could then be given a positive or negative interpretation by the priest and the results were passed on to the inquirer. (Nagle, pp. 258-259.)