



## ***Student Activity***

### **Phoenicians: the Alphabet & Carthage's Hannibal**

#### **Cultural Legacies of Ancient Civilizations Series**

##### **Vocabulary:**

maritime, antiquity, cisterns, diligent regime, bumper crops, burgeoning, innovative, mercenaries, assembly line, invincible, audacious, guerillas, motley, deputations, waned, ultimatum, concerted, blockaded, siege

##### **Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

Do you know where the English alphabet originated? What ancient culture would you imagine first used the alphabet? What makes you think so?

Who were the Phoenicians? Why were they such a successful culture?

On a present-day map of the Mediterranean, where would Phoenician city-states be located? (Lebanon, Tunisia, Sicily, Spain, and Morocco) When Phoenicians engaged in trade, where would they travel?

Who were the uncontested rulers of the Mediterranean at the time the Phoenicians traded?

##### **Post-Viewing Discussion:**

Why did Carthage become a successful trading center?

What Roman request seemed inconceivable to the Carthaginians? Why didn't they want to relocate their city?

What is your opinion of Hannibal's decision to invade Rome by land? Why has his story become legendary?

What legacy or legacies have we inherited from the Phoenicians?

##### **Further Activities:**

Some people believe that the Phoenicians' contributions to the ancient world have not been properly recognized or may have even been suppressed. Find out who thinks this and why they hold this opinion.

Find out what trade goods the Phoenicians exported. Also investigate who purchased these exports.

Investigate how the Phoenicians' new approach to writing differed fundamentally from the scripts in use in the world up to the second millennium B.C. in Egypt, Mesopotamia and China.

Further investigate the character and achievements of Hannibal Barca.