**Geography of Ancient Rome**

Italy is a rocky, mountainous peninsula 600 miles long and 150 miles wide. The Apennine Mountains form its “backbone” and stretch from north to south, with the Tiber River cutting through them in central Italy. The Italian peninsula was perfect for a strengthening of power within Italy and a growth of power from Italy to other parts of the area. Rome was built 15 miles inland on the crest of seven hills. Small streams ran through the hills, surrounded by the Tiber River. The steep banks of the river served as natural protection to the people and land. The Mediterranean climate of hot, dry summers and wet, mild winters created fertile land and was perfect for crops and healthy animals.

According to the passage above, do you think that Rome had a good chance of being a successful civilization?

**State your answer in black.**

**Explain your answer in red.**

**Support your answer in blue.**