



0. UMBRIA and TUSCANY - Story Preface

1. CORTONA

2. THE ETRUSCANS

3. UMBRIA and TUSCANY

4. FRANCES MAYES

5. BRAMASOLE

Anthony Majanlahti took this photo, depicting a typical Umbrian countryside scene, during June of 2005. Image online via Flickr; license: [CC BY 2.0](#). Click on the image for a greatly enlarged view.

No one knows for sure how the Umbrians of [central Italy](#) got their name.

Inhabiting their lands for at least a thousand years before [Julius Caesar](#) crossed the [Rubicon](#) - signaling [the end](#) of the Roman Republic and fueling [the start](#) of an Empire - this ancient Indo-European people ultimately gave their name to a [land-locked](#) region of the country.

[Caesar](#), who [died tragically](#) at the [hands of friends](#) - on the Ides of March, 44 B.C. - posthumously gave his name to Roman-Empire rulers who followed him. The story of his murder was also immortalized by Shakespeare in [Julius Caesar](#), his famous play.

Writing centuries after the Umbrians arrived, Pliny (historian of the ancient world) speculated these ancient people moved to the Italian peninsula after the Great Flood. Archeological excavations, in fact, reveal that man has lived in the region since prehistoric times.

The first historical [documents](#) referring to Umbrians, per se, did not appear (insofar as current scholarship is concerned) until the Oscan-Umbrian tribe settled north of Rome around 1,000 B.C. That was about [the time](#) David was King of Israel.

Known today as the "Green Heart of Italy," Umbria is also the site of interesting burial chambers. Some of the most fascinating are near the town of [Spoleto](#) and date back to the Bronze or Iron Ages.

The Umbrians formed towns which still exist:

- [Assisi](#)
- [Terni](#)
- [Todi](#)
- [Gubbio](#)

The Etruscans were not content to rule their own territory to the west of Umbria. They forced the Umbrians to concede much of their land, causing them to retreat to the region's valleys and plains.

Some of the Etruscan-formed settlements in Umbria still reflect those ancient beginnings with cities (like [Perugia](#), [Orvieto](#), and [Citta della Pieve](#)) evolving around ridge roads instead of central squares (like Roman towns).

Although the Etruscan and Umbrian civilizations, standing alone, were over when they could not resist the might of Rome, their lasting effects have been enormous. At the battle of Sentino, in 295 B.C., Roman legions ended the Etruscan alliance. A once-flourishing culture was soon assimilated into the Roman sphere of influence. By 90 B.C., Umbrians had become Roman citizens.

More than 2,000 years later - in 1990 - an American professor of creative writing decided to buy a 200-year-old farmhouse near the Tuscan-Umbrian border. The sun, which had once shone on the region's prehistoric people, would now shine on Frances Mayes.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/UMBRIA-and-TUSCANY-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/UMBRIA-and-TUSCANY-Under-the-Tuscan-Sun>



View of the Umbrian Countryside

Anthony Majanlahti took this photo, depicting a typical Umbrian countryside scene, during June of 2005.

Click on the image for a greatly enlarged view.

Anthony Majanlahti, also known as "Antmoose," took this photo in June of 2005.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-the-Umbrian-Countryside>



Umbria - Map Locator

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Map of Umbria

Image online, courtesy the lavoro.gov.it website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Umbria>



Spoleto

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

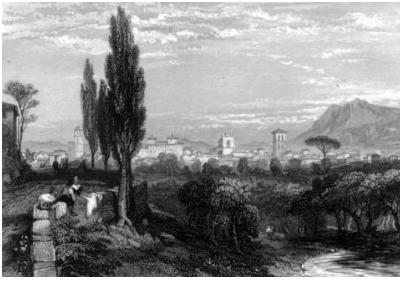
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Assisi

This photo was taken by Roberto Ferrari. Online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License:CC BY-SA 2.0.

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Terni - Drawing of the Town

Image, described above, included in *The Landscape Annual for 1833: The Tourist in Italy* by Thomas Roscoe. It was published, in London, by Jennings and Chaplin, in 1833.

Image scanned by George P. Landow and placed [online via Victorian Web](#).
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Todi - View of the Town

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

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Perugia

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Perugia->



Orvieto

Image online, courtesy the italianweddingevent.com website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Orvieto>



Citta della Pieve

Image online, courtesy the denzlingen.kk-cms.de website.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Citta-della-Pieve>

Julius Caesar - Animated Version, Part 2

Clip from *Shakespeare: The Animated Tales* (also known as *The Animated Shakespeare*). Originally broadcast in 1992, the series contains thirty-minute adaptations of different Shakespeare plays. This clip, from Series Two, was first aired in 1994.

The producer of this BBC-commissioned series was the Dave Edwards studio in Cardiff, the scripts were authored by Leon Garfield, the academic adviser was Professor Stanley Wells and the animations were created by Russian directors and animators at the Christmas Films Studio in Moscow.

Clip online, courtesy BBC Worldwide Channel at YouTube. Copyright, BBC, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

Director:

Yuri Kulakov

Screenplay:

Leon Garfield

Julius Caesar:

Joss Ackland

Cassius:

Hugh Quarshie

Mark Anthony:

Jim Carter

Brutus:

David Ropp

Portia:

Judith Sharp

Casca:

Peter Woodthoper

Narrator, Octavius:

Andrew Wincott

Calphurnia:

Frances Tonelty

Cinna, Decius:

Tony Leader

Soothsayer, Trebonius:

Dillewgn Owey

Lucius:

John Miers

Series 2, of *Shakespeare's Animated Tales*, originally aired on BBC2 from November 2 - December 14, 1994.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Julius-Caesar-Animated-Version-Part-2>



Julius Caesar - Animated Version, Part 3

Clip from *Shakespeare: The Animated Tales* (also known as *The Animated Shakespeare*). Originally broadcast in 1992, the series contains thirty-minute adaptations of different Shakespeare plays. This clip, from Series Two, was first aired in 1994.

The producer of this BBC-commissioned series was the Dave Edwards studio in Cardiff, the scripts were authored by Leon Garfield, the academic adviser was Professor Stanley Wells and the animations were created by Russian directors and animators at the Christmas Films Studio in Moscow.

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