

**Grades: 9-12**

### **Secrets of the Dead: “Hannibal in the Alps”**

Follow a team of experts as they solve the enduring mystery of exactly where Hannibal and his troops crossed the Alps to launch a surprise attack on Rome.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is Hannibal, and why is he known as “Hannibal of the Alps”?</li> <li>• What do elephants have to do with it?</li> <li>• Why is history uncertain of the route in which Hannibal took to cross the Alps?</li> <li>• Why is Polybius the best source (by a long way) regarding the tales of Hannibal?</li> <li>• Which of the four routes mentioned was the most plausible for Hannibal’s crossing and why?</li> <li>• The question for historians becomes not if Hannibal crosses the Alps, but how did he do it and why?</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does one make the impossible, possible?</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan what Hannibal would need to be able to cross the Alps. What volume and capacity would have to be considered? How many elephants would be needed to carry the necessary supplies?</li> <li>• Having to stop and build a road, the army lost at least three days. How did that affect their supplies? Justify your reasoning using mathematics and the answer from the previous question.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read other stories about Hannibal and the crossing of the Alps both fiction and nonfiction.</li> <li>• What is a fresco? What is the artist’s process in creating a fresco such as Hannibal at the Battle of Trasimeno?</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct Hannibal’s strategic travel plan by identifying the kinds of cargo, weapons, animals, supplies, and skilled infantry he needed to survive this journey. What kinds of knowledge were necessary to cross the Alps?</li> <li>• You are planning to trek across the Alps this summer. What do you need to know and understand? Research the travel options to navigate the Alps and determine the best option for you. Consider time, cost, areas of interest and more.</li> </ul>   |