

Name:

Date:.....

Roman gods and goddesses

Read the information about each of the Roman gods and create your own Top Trump style cards.

<p>God/Goddess name:</p> <p>Qualities/powers:</p> <p>Symbol:</p>	<p>God/Goddess name:</p> <p>Qualities/powers:</p> <p>Symbol:</p>	<p>God/Goddess name:</p> <p>Qualities/powers:</p> <p>Symbol:</p>
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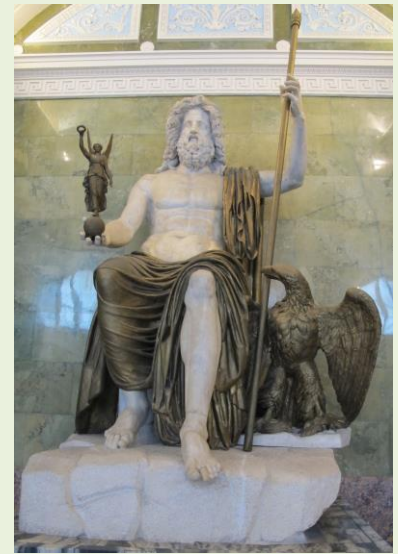
Greek god and goddess information

Jupiter

Jupiter means father.

Jupiter was king of all Roman gods. He carried a thunderbolt as his weapon. All other gods were scared of him. They believed he was married to the goddess Juno.

A large temple in Rome called the Optimus Maximus was dedicated to Jupiter who was one of the most well-known Roman gods. Many people living in the city thought that Jupiter guarded the temple and kept them safe from attack.



Juno

Juno was believed to be the daughter of Saturn and the wife of Jupiter making her the queen of the Roman gods.

She was believed to be responsible for looking after the women of Rome and for overseeing all marriages.

All Roman women were thought to have a spirit which looked after them for all of their lives. This was called their Juno in recognition of the goddess.

She is not usually pictured carrying a weapon, but her clothing, features and stance show that she was considered ready for war by her followers.



Neptune

Neptune was the god of the sea and brother to Jupiter. He carried a trident (three-pronged spear). He is often pictured riding an animal which resembles a cross between a dolphin and a horse.

He was believed to be very powerful, controlling the movement of the sea and even causing earthquakes. Many Romans viewed him as a moody god to be beware of!



Diana

Diana was the goddess of the moon. Her twin brother Apollo was the god of the sun. She was also the goddess of hunting so she was always armed with a bow and arrows and is often shown wearing hunting boots.

A popular legend said that when she caught a hunter called Actaeon spying on her whilst bathing she turned him into a stag!

Her mother Leto was thought to have given birth to Diana and Apollo very easily, so Diana was a goddess often prayed to by pregnant women.



Apollo

Apollo was the Roman god of the sun. He was believed to drive a chariot (horse-drawn buggy) across the sky, moving the sun to bring day and night

He was prayed to for a number of different things. He was believed to be able to heal the sick, create music, find the truth and more!

His main power was to harness the light of the sun.



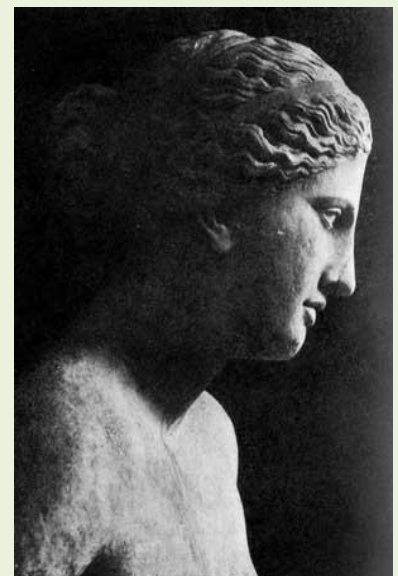
Venus

Venus was the Roman goddess of love, beauty and fertility. She was believed to have been born in the sea and is sometimes depicted in a large scallop shell!

She was thought to be both kind and ruthless when it suited her.

She was one of the most popular gods and even attracted her own groups who thought that she was the most important god. These were known as cults of Venus.

Julius Caesar (a Roman Emperor) claimed that she was his ancestor.

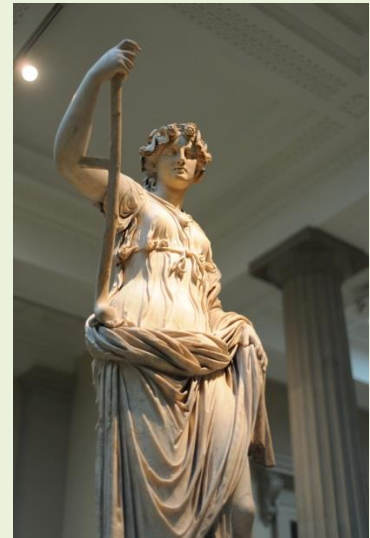


Minerva

Minerva was the goddess of wisdom. She was often pictured carrying an owl which was thought to be a wise creature. It was common for the Romans involved in schools and business to follow her.

She was believed to have had a very unusual birth, popping directly out of her father Jupiter's head!

Some writings suggest that she was also the goddess of medicine and doctors.



Mars

Mars was the Roman god of war. He was believed to be the father of Romulus and Remus who founded Rome. He was the second most important god to the Romans. It was common for him to be worshipped by Roman legionaries (soldiers).

Although he is often thought to represent conflict and fighting, he was most commonly represented holding a shield for defence. This was because the military power of Rome was thought of as a way to secure peace.



Cupid

Cupid was the son of Venus and the god of desire and affection. He carried a bow and arrow which were the source of his power. Anyone hit by him was overwhelmed by love!

He was considered quite mischievous by the Romans.



Name:

Date:.....

Roman gods and goddesses

Design your own god or goddess.

God/goddess name:

Qualities/powers:

Symbol:

A picture of my god/goddess:

Teaching notes

Starter

Ask children to sketch a picture of what a god might look like. Ask children to hold up or share their sketches with the people around them. Are there any common features? It is likely that a large proportion of your children will have drawn a bearded man in the clouds!

Explain that many of our pictorial representations of god have their roots in Roman religious beliefs and that children are going to find out more about their key ones.

Main tasks

Task 1

Distribute the Roman god cards around the classroom. Explain the following key facts:

- The early Romans believed in many different gods.
- They would pray to different gods for different things as each god had unique powers e.g. the god of war, the god of wisdom etc.
- Each god had stories attached to them, for example, to explain their birth or how they used their power.

Ask children to move around the room and look at the information to create a Top Trump-style card for each god including their name, their qualities/powers and to draw a symbol to represent them. Work through an example whole class to explain how to complete the task. For support, children could work in pairs to gather information.

Task 2

Ask children to create their own god or goddess using the fact file template. They can also draw and colour what their god looks like.

Plenary

Set up an art gallery in the classroom wherein everyone shares their own god fact file. Ask children to select one or two they like best and give a reason for their choice. Randomly select a few children to share their opinions (e.g. lollipop sticks).

Extension/ consolidation ideas

- Play Guess Who? with the Roman gods. Ask children to choose one of the gods they have made notes on and read out their qualities and powers. Can the other children guess who the god is from their notes?
- Children can go on to create their own mythical Roman story involving their god or goddess.

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