

# ANCIENT ROMAN      GREEK TRADING CARDS

STUDENTS CREATE TRADING CARDS  
FOR ROMAN / GREEK GODS

Google 1:1 Compatible



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# A Roman "Trade":

## Create the Whole Set!

God(dess) Cards!	Picture Done?	Details Done?
JUNO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CERES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MARS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MERCURY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MINERVA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JUPITER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PLUTO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEPTUNE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### FRONT:

DRAW A PICTURE OF THE ROMAN GOD AND WHAT THEY ARE KNOWN FOR. YOUR PICTURE SHOULD MAKE IT KNOWN WHAT GOD'S CARD THIS IS.

#### BACK:

- 1.) LIST THE ROMAN AND GREEK NAME OF THE GOD
- 2.) LIST THE DOMAIN OF THE GOD (EX: GOD OF \_\_\_\_)
- 3.) LIST THE POWERS POSSESSED BY THE GOD, THEIR PERSONALITY TRAITS, AND SOMETHING THEY ARE FAMOUS FOR.

Wild Cards!	Picture Done?	Details Done?
THE COLOSSEUM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROMULUS AND REMUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWELVE TABLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PATRICIAN & PLEBEIAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JULIUS CAESAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIOCLETIAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONSTANTINE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NERO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### INSTRUCTIONS:

#### FRONT:

DRAW A PICTURE OF THE TOPIC FOR THE "WILD CARD." YOUR PICTURE SHOULD MAKE IT KNOWN WHAT YOUR CARD IS.

#### BACK:

- 1.) LIST THE NAME OF THE TOPIC FOR THE WILD CARD
- 2.) LIST THREE "HIGHLIGHTS" ABOUT THIS TOPIC

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-Good(ideas)-Cards!

**Domain:**      **(Roman Name)**      **(Greek Name)**

## Symbols:

## **Divine Powers:**

## **Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

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(Roman Name)	(Greek Name)
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**Domain:**

## Symbols:

## **Divine Powers:**

### **Personality Traits:**

#### **Famous For:**

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(Roman Name)	(Greek Name)
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**Domain:**

## Symbols:

## **Divine Powers:**

### **Personality Traits:**

#### **Famous For:**

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- 1 -

God(dess) Cards!

**Domain:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Symbols:**

**Divine Powers:**

**Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

God(dess) Cards!

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Domain:**

**Symbols:**

**Divine Powers:**

**Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

God(dess) Cards!

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Domain:**

**Symbols:**

**Divine Powers:**

**Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

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-God(dess) Cards!

**Domain:**      **(Roman Name)**      **(Greek Name)**

## **Symbols:**

## **Divine Powers:**

## **Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

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(Roman Name)	(Greek Name)
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**Domain:**

## Symbols:

## **Divine Powers:**

### **Personality Traits:**

Famous For:

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(Roman Name)	(Greek Name)
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**Domain:**

## Symbols:

## **Divine Powers:**

### **Personality Traits:**

**Famous For:**

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**Wild Cards!**

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Cards!**

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Cards!**

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Cards!**

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

**Wild Card**

**The Highlights:**

- I.
- II.
- III.

# Supreme Top God of the Roman Pantheon, Ruler of Heaven and Earth and the Father of the Gods.



Like most of the really big Roman Gods, **JUPITER** started out as a primeval nature deity. A Sky God, he was in charge of the fundamental forces of nature and ruled the weather with an iron grip and a big stick.

When Greek culture began to influence Roman thought, **JUPITER** took on the attributes of **ZEUS** — with added Latin. With his forceful personality, he became King of the Gods and the special protector of Rome.

The Romans were always keen to get the Gods on their side and **JUPITER** was

## Jupiter

**Title:** King of the gods

**Greek name:** Zeus

**Day of the Week:** Thursday

**Solar system:** planet Jupiter

**Wonder of the World:** Statue at Olympia

**Relations:** Son of Saturn

Grandson of Uranus

Husband of Juno

Brother of Neptune Brother of Pluto

Many children

**English words:** Jovial means jolly.

Jupiter was king of the Gods. The eagle was his messenger. His weapon was the Thunderbolt (thunder and lightning). All other gods were terrified of him, although he was a little scared of his wife Juno! Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto were the three sons of Saturn. They divided up the world between themselves. Jupiter took the air, Neptune had the sea and Pluto ruled under the earth, the home of the Dead.

Jupiter means Father Jove (Father in Latin is "pater"). There was a big temple on the Capitol in Rome dedicated to Jupiter Optimus Maximus (which means Jupiter Best and Greatest). The Romans thought that Jupiter guarded their city and looked after them.

definitely a force to be reckoned with — especially with his thunderbolt-hurling propensities. They awarded him many flattering titles and put him in charge of their entire legal and political system.

Worshipped as Optimus Maximus, the all-powerful good guy, **JUPITER** kept order and brought prosperity to the nation. As Jupiter Victor he led the Roman army to victory in wars and conquests time and time again. In fact he was probably the Roman Empire's greatest asset after plumbing.

Of course it all went terribly wrong in the end and the Empire fell. Perhaps **JUPITER**

was offended by the deification of human emperors, particularly the later ones who were a bit rubbishy. Or maybe the new-fangled Christianity craze was the final insult. Either way, **JUPITER** withdrew his support and sloped off, leaving the Romans to fend for themselves.

Where is he now? Enjoying a well-earned grouchy retirement? Still hurling thunderbolts? Communing with the eagles? All sightings gratefully received. You can't miss him, he has a Godly beard, holds a thunderbolt and is stark naked.

# All Hail, Madame Queen!



## Juno



**Title:** Queen of the gods

**Relations:** Wife of [Jupiter](#)

**Greek name:** Hera

Mother of [Mars](#)

Mother of [Vulcan](#)

**Month:** [June](#)

English word Junoesque means a large beautiful woman.



Juno was the wife of [Jupiter](#) and queen of the gods. She was the goddess of women and marriage. Her bird was the peacock.

The Romans believed that every man had a spirit that looked after him all his life. This was called his **genius**. Some people believed each man had both a good genius and a bad genius. Women didn't have a **genius**, they had a **juno** instead.

The first day in each [month](#) (the Kalends) belonged to Juno.



**Juno was married to Jupiter. She was the queen of all the gods, and also the goddess of marriage.**

**Juno was very jealous of her famous and powerful husband, Jupiter. Juno was rarely nice to the many**

**children Jupiter had by other mothers.**

**There are many myths about Juno's jealousy, anger, and revenge.**

**Other myths share stories about Juno's servant, Argus. Argus had 100 bright**

**eyes all over his body. He was a great guard because he never closed more than half his eyes at one time!**

# The Goddess of Cereal, the Earth

## Ceres and Proserpine

### Ceres

Title: the Earth goddess

Greek name: Demeter

Relations: Mother of Proserpine

English word: breakfast cereal

### Proserpine

Title: goddess of the Underworld

Greek name: Persephone

Relations: Daughter of Ceres

Wife of Pluto



Ceres was the Earth goddess and goddess of corn. She carried the cornucopia, a horn full of vegetables and fruit. Her daughter was Proserpine.

Pluto fell in love with Proserpine, and carried her off to the Underworld. Ceres searched everywhere, but couldn't find her. Eventually Ceres refused to let the plants grow any more, and everyone began to die of hunger. So Pluto admitted he had Proserpine, but said she could only go back home if she had eaten none of the food of the Dead. Proserpine had eaten almost nothing, as she was so sad at being kept underground, but she had eaten six seeds from a pomegranate. This means that she could go home, but had to return to her husband for six months every year. When this happens, Ceres stops everything growing, and winter comes.

Jupiter, the king of all the Roman gods, had three sisters.

Hera, his wife and sister, was the goddess of marriage and the queen of all the gods.

Vesta, another of his sisters, was a much loved goddess by the woman of Rome - Vesta was the goddess of home and hearth.

His third sister, Ceres, was in charge of the harvest. If Ceres was upset, the crops could die. Everyone, gods and mortals, worked hard to keep Ceres happy. What made her the happiest was enjoying the company of her daughter, Proserpine.

As the story goes ....

Proserpine had grown into a beautiful young woman. She had a smile for everyone. One day, while picking flowers in the fields, Pluto, her uncle, the god of the underworld, noticed her. Pluto was normally a gloomy fellow. But Proserpine's beauty had dazzled him. He fell in love instantly. Quickly, before anyone could interfere,

he kidnapped Proserpine and hurled his chariot down into the darkest depths of the underworld, taking Proserpine with him.

Locked in a room in the Underworld, Proserpine cried and cried. She refused to speak to Pluto. And she refused to eat. Legend said if you ate anything in Pluto, you could never leave. She did not know if the legend was true, but she did not want to risk it in case someone came to rescue her.

Nearly a week went by. Finally, unable to bear her hunger, Proserpine ate six pomegranate seeds. It seemed her fate was sealed. She would have to live in the Underworld forever.

Meanwhile, back on earth, Jupiter was worried about the crops. The people would die if the crops failed. If that happened, who would worship Jupiter? He had to do something. Jupiter did what he often did. He sent Mercury, his youngest son, the messenger, to crack a deal, this time with Pluto.

Even as a baby, Mercury was great at making deals. Everyone knew that. But this deal might be the challenge of his life. His uncle Pluto, king of the underworld, was really in love. This was no passing fancy.

When Mercury heard that Proserpine had eaten six pomegranate seeds, he had to think quickly. The deal he made with Pluto was that if Proserpine would marry Pluto, she would live as queen of the underworld for six months out of the year. However, each spring, Proserpine would return and live on earth for the other six months of the year. Pluto agreed. Jupiter agreed. Proserpine agreed. And finally, Ceres agreed.

Each spring, Ceres makes sure all the flowers bloom in welcome when her daughter, Queen of the Underworld, returns to her. Each fall, when Proserpine returns to Pluto, Ceres cries, and lets all the crops die until spring, when the cycle starts again.

According to the ancients, it's the reason for the seasons.



**God of War and  
Unquenchable Energy.  
Also has chocolate bars  
named after him.**

# Mars

**Title:** God of war

**Relations:** Son of [Jupiter](#)  
Father of Romulus and Remus

**Greek name:** Ares

**English word:** Martial means warlike.

**Month:** [March](#)

**Solar system:** [planet Mars](#)

**Day of the Week:** [Tuesday](#)

The Romans were great soldiers and thought Mars, the god of War, was very important. They said that he was the father of Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome. When Romulus and Remus were babies, they were left to die. But they were found by a mother wolf, who suckled them. Romulus gave his name to Rome.

The Campus Martius or field of Mars, was next to the river Tiber in ancient Rome. It was used to train soldiers and hold horse races. March was called after Mars because that was when the soldiers started fighting again after winter.



Here is a painting of Mars and [Venus](#). Mars is fast asleep. The little fauns with goats legs are playing with his armour. One of them is just about to blow his horn very loud in Mars's ear. I wonder what will happen next!

**When the Romans re-vamped the Greek Gods to fit in with their Planet Suite, ARES was upgraded to MARS. The bully boy was given a beard to impart greater dignity and his image was endowed with a more user-friendly identity.**

**He now became the father of ROMULUS and REMUS via a vestal**

**virgin named RHEA-SILVIA. This led to a most important historical act — the founding of Rome.**

**So if it wasn't for MARS the God of War, there would be no Roman Empire, no Roman Catholics, and, er, no articles like this.**

**All that Roman culture did not go to his head. He was still a lusty God of War; just a little more gregarious and willing to patronize farmers and horticulture. You can't beat a bit of cultivation after a good battle. Mustn't let all that bone meal go to waste.**

# Messenger God of Commerce and the Roman revamp of HERMES.

## Mercury

**Relations:** Son of [Jupiter](#)  
Son of [Maia](#)

**Title:** Messenger of the gods

**English words:** Mercury or Quicksilver is a liquid metal.  
Mercurial means light-hearted and active.

**Greek name:** Hermes

**Day of the Week:** [Wednesday](#)

**Solar system:** [planet Mercury](#)



Mercury was the god of travellers. He had a winged hat and sandals, so he could fly. He carried a staff which also has wings and two snakes winding round it.

He was also the god of thieves. When he was only a few days old, he stole the cows of [Apollo](#). Mercury made special shoes for the cows and made them walk backwards, so no-one could follow their tracks. Eventually Apollo noticed that Mercury was playing a new musical instrument called a lyre, strung with cow-gut and worked out that Mercury had stolen his cows. Apollo was furious with Mercury, but thought the lyre was wonderful. So they agreed that Mercury could keep the cows and Apollo would get the lyre.

Mercury was also the god of science and business. I think that he's the god of the Internet as well!



**Jupiter was the king of all the gods. And Mercury was his youngest son.**

**Mercury was born mischievous. Even as a baby, Jupiter could tell that Mercury was going to be a whole lot of fun to have around. He liked his son Mercury very much.**

**Jupiter wanted Mercury to have an important job in the world of the Greek gods. Mercury was fast on his**

**feet and very clever. Jupiter decided he would make a wonderful messenger.**

**Things were always going on in the mythical world. The job of messenger to the gods allowed Mercury to have the inside scoop on just about everything. It is no wonder that there are probably**

**more myths that include Mercury than any other god.**

**The other gods trusted Mercury. Mercury had a true warmth. He was playful enough to be interesting. He was very bright and very loyal. He was the best negotiator in the world. He was always cracking deals to get himself and others out of trouble.**

# Goddess of Wisdom and Creativity.



## Minerva

Title: Goddess of wisdom

Relations: Daughter of [Jupiter](#)

Greek name: Athene

Minerva was the goddess of wisdom. Her symbol was the owl. Her Greek name was Athene, and Athens was her city.

She had a strange birth. One day, [Jupiter](#) had a bad headache. Nothing would cure it. Eventually [Vulcan](#) split open Jupiter's head. Out jumped Minerva in armour with shield and spear! Jupiter felt much better afterwards. Don't try this at home.



Minerva was the goddess of arts and crafts. She was particularly good at weaving. Once a woman called Arachne wove a beautiful picture. Minerva tried to find something wrong with it. When she couldn't, she tore it up and turned Arachne into a spider. The spider still weaves beautiful webs.

Minerva helped the hero Perseus to kill the gorgon Medusa, who was a monster with snakes instead of hair. Anyone who looked at a gorgon turned to stone! But Minerva told Perseus to look at Medusa's reflection in a polished shield. That way he could cut the head off without looking directly at the gorgon. He gave the head to Minerva, who put it on her shield, so it would turn her enemies to stone.

**She is more than just a brand name replacement for the Greek ATHENA. In fact she was around under the Etruscans who knew her as MENRVA.**

**Amazingly intelligent, she is credited with many creative ideas such as the invention of numbers (patent still pending) — and also musical instruments and medicine.**

**She was especially beloved by Roman doctors for her medical knowledge, hence her nickname Minerva-Medica. We feel she still has a lot of offer in that — and many other — regards.**

# God of the Underworld and Judge of the Dead.



Pluto



**Title:** God of Death

**Relations:** Son of [Saturn](#)  
Brother of [Jupiter](#)  
Brother of [Neptune](#)  
Husband of [Proserpine](#)

**Greek name:** Hades

**English word:** Plutonium

**Solar system:** [dwarf planet Pluto](#)

Pluto was the god of the Dead. Romans were afraid to say Pluto's real name because they were afraid he might notice them and they would die.

Pluto sometimes got confused with the Greek god, Plutus, the god of wealth. This is not surprising, since the names sound alike and also wealth, like gold, silver or jewels, are found underground, where Pluto ruled.

The metal Plutonium is radio-active. It was discovered soon after the planet Pluto. It is not only used for nuclear bombs, it is deadly by itself. It deserves to belong to the god of Death!

When someone died, they travelled down to the Underworld. First, they had to cross the River of the Dead, called the Styx. Everyone was buried with a coin, to pay the ferryman, Charon. Then they had to get past Cerberus, a fierce dog with three heads, which would only let the Dead through. Finally they had to come before the Judges of the Dead. The only living man to fight Cerberus was Hercules, the strongest man in the world. He had to bring Cerberus back from the Underworld. (He let it go afterwards.)

The moon of planet Pluto is called Charon, after the ferryman over the Styx.



**The son of SATURNUS, he rules the gloomy roost with his part-time wife PROSERPINA. If you want to know more, consult his entry under HADES. 'Dis' is also another name for dat ole PLUTO.**

**Nowadays he's always in the picture and never misses a chance to get himself painted. Raphael, Carrache, Giordine, Walt Disney. Take your pick.**

**Note: We are happy to confirm that PLUTO is a God. Not a planet.**

# God of the Ocean. Think Trident, Beard, Sea.



## Neptune



**Title:** God of the sea

**Relations:** Son of [Saturn](#)

**Greek name:** Poseidon

Grandson of [Uranus](#)

**Solar system:** [planet Neptune](#)

Brother of [Jupiter](#) Brother of [Pluto](#)

Many children

**English words:** Jovial means jolly.

Neptune was the god of the sea. He carried a trident, which had three prongs. He rode a dolphin or a horse. When the sea is rough enough to show white tops to the waves, these are called sea horses. On the right, the back half of the seahorse is a fish.

It may seem strange that Neptune was not a more important god, since the Roman Empire was based on the Mediterranean. But the Romans were poor sailors. When Julius Caesar invaded Britain, it was considered an astounding adventure, even though he was just crossing the English Channel.



Neptune was the god of earthquakes. He was called the Earth-shaker. He was also the god of horses and horse-racing. The Romans loved watching horse-racing and had great race tracks for chariot racing, such as the Circus Maximus. You can see the ruins of the Circus Maximus in Rome today, see left.

**Neptune was the Lord of the Sea. His brothers were Jupiter - the king of all the gods, and Pluto - the king of the underworld.**

**Neptune was a good looking fellow. He had deep blue eyes and streaming green hair. He was a restless fellow, always on the move.**

**Neptune was very powerful. He could raise his hand and a new island would appear! People were terrified of Neptune, especially those who lived in coastal towns.**

**The ancient built temples to honor Neptune. They brought special gifts to the temple every day, hoping to keep him**

**happy. Sometimes it worked. Sometimes it didn't. Neptune was very moody.**

**Neptune had many wives. But his main wife was not jealous, so Neptune did not have the problems at home that Jupiter did.**

Roman Name	Greek Name
Roman name	Greek name
Aesculapius	Asclepius
Aquilo	Boreas
Aurora	Eos
Auster	Notus
Bacchus	Dionysus
Bellona	Enyo
Ceres	Demeter
Cupid (Amor)	Eros
Decima	Lachesis
Diana	Artemis
Dis Pater, Pluto, Orcus	Hades
Discordia	Eris
Fama	Pheme
Faun	Satyr
Faunus	Pan
Favonius	Zephyrus
Flora	Chloris
Fortuna	Tyche
Furies	Erinyes
Galinthis	Galinthias
Gratiae	Charites (Graces)
Hercules	Heracles
Juno	Hera
Jupiter	Zeus
Justitia	Themis
Juventas	Hebe
Latona	Leto
Lucifer	Phosphorus
Luna	Selene

Roman Name	Greek Name
Mars	Ares
Matuta	Eos
Mercury	Hermes
Minerva	Athena
Morta	Atropos
Necessitas	Ananke
Neptune	Poseidon
Nona	Clotho
Parcae	Moirae (Fates)
Pax	Irene
Proserpina	Persephone
Salacia	Amphitrite
Salus	Hygieia
Saturn	Cronus
Silvanus	Silenus
Sol	Helios
Somnus	Hypnos
Stimula	Semele
Tellus	Gaia
Trivia	Hecate
Ulysses	Odysseus
Veiovis	Asclepius
Venus	Aphrodite
Vesper	Hesperos
Vesta	Hestia
Victoria	Nike
Vulcan	Hephaestus
Vulturnus	Eurus

Greek	Roman	Description
<b>Zeus</b>	<b>Jupiter</b>	Lord of the sky and supreme ruler of the gods. Known for throwing lightening bolts.
<b>Poseidon</b>	<b>Neptune</b>	Ruler of the sea. Brother of Zeus. Carried a three-pronged spear known as a trident.
<b>Hades</b>	<b>Pluto</b>	Ruler of the underworld and the dead. Brother of Zeus. Had a helmet which rendered its wearer invisible.
<b>Hestia</b>	<b>Vesta</b>	A virgin goddess and sister of Zeus. No distinct personality or part in myths. Goddess of the Hearth, the symbol of the home.
<b>Hera</b>	<b>Juno</b>	Zeus's wife and sister. Protector of marriage, spent most of her time punishing the many women Zeus fell in love with. Likes cows and peacocks.
<b>Ares</b>	<b>Mars</b>	God of war and <u>son of Zeus</u> and Hera. Likes vultures and dogs.
<b>Athena</b>	<b>Minerva</b>	Daughter of Zeus alone. No mother.(?) She sprang from his head full-grown and in full armor. The protector of civilized life, handicrafts, and agriculture. Invented the bridle, and first to tame the horse. Likes Athens, olives, and owls.
<b>Apollo</b>	<b>Apollo</b>	Son of Zeus. <u>Master musician</u> , archer god, healer, god of light, god of truth, sun god. A busy god who likes the laurel tree, dolphins, and crows.
<b>Aphrodite</b>	<b>Venus</b>	Daughter of Zeus. Goddess of Love and Beauty. Likes the myrtle tree, doves, sparrows, and swans.
<b>Hermes</b>	<b>Mercury</b>	Son of Zeus. Wore wings on his sandals and his hat, thus was graceful and swift.
<b>Artemis</b>	<b>Diana</b>	Apollo's twin sister and daughter of Zeus. Lady of wild things and huntsman to the gods. As Apollo is the Sun, Artemis is the moon.
<b>Hephaestus</b>	<b>Vulcan</b>	Son of Hera, God of Fire. The only ugly and deformed god. Makes armor and weapons forged under volcanoes.

# The Legend of Romulus & Remus

The ancient Romans loved to hear the story of Romulus and Remus. In their eyes, this story explained why Rome had the right to rule.

According to the legend, Romulus and Remus justified their right to rule because their mother was a princess and their father was the war god Mars.

## *The legend of Romulus and Remus*

Rhea was married to Mars, the Roman god of war. Rhea had twin sons. She loved her boys, but there were plots afoot by other gods and goddesses to harm her father, herself, her husband, and her children. To protect the boys, she set them adrift on the river, hoping someone would find them. Who would not love such beautiful boys?

Sure enough, first they were found by a she-wolf who fed them. Then a shepherd and his wife adopted the boys.

As the twins grew older, they decided they did not want to take care of sheep. They wanted to be kings. They decided to build a city on the shores of the Tiber. They both wanted to be the only king. They quarreled. In a fit of rage, Romulus picked up a rock, killed his brother, and made himself king.

That's how Rome started.



The Roman Colosseum or Coliseum, originally known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, was commissioned in AD 72 by Emperor Vespasian. It was completed by his son, Titus, in 80, with later improvements by Domitian.

The Colosseum is located just east of the [Roman Forum](#) and was built to a practical design, with its 80 arched entrances allowing easy access to 55,000 spectators, who were seated according to rank. The Coliseum is huge, an ellipse 188m long and 156 wide. Originally 240 masts were attached to stone corbels on the 4th level.

Just outside the Coliseum is the **Arch of Constantine** (Arco di Costantino), a 25m high monument built in AD315 to mark the victory of Constantine over Maxentius at Pons Milvius.

Vespasian ordered the Colosseum to be build on the site of Nero's palace, the Domus Aurea, to dissociate himself from the hated tyrant. His aim was to gain popularity by staging deadly combats of gladiators and wild animal fights for public viewing. Massacre was on a huge scale: at inaugural games in AD 80, over 9,000 wild animals were killed.



## Roman gladiators

were usually slaves, prisoners of war or condemned criminals. Most were men, but there were a few female gladiators. These combats were attended by the poor, the rich, and frequently the emperor himself. As gladiators fought, vicious cries and curses were heard from the audience around the Roman Colosseum. One contest after another was staged in the course of a single day. Should the ground become too soaked with blood, it was covered over with a fresh layer of sand and the performance went on. The gladiatorial games continued until Christianity progressively put an end to those parts of them which included the death of humans.

**The Colosseum was a huge public entertainment center.**

**The Colosseum could seat 45,000 spectators. Some people were not lucky enough to have a seat in the Colosseum. If you didn't mind standing, the Colosseum could hold up to 70,000 spectators!**

**This is where the ancient Romans gathered to watch bloody combat between gladiators, and battles between men and wild animals. This is where they threw people to the lions! To see men being killed was very entertaining to the ancient Romans. On occasion, they flooded the Colosseum with water, to hold naval battles. During the battles, many competitors died.**

**The ancient Romans were great builders. They built things to last. The Colosseum was built of concrete, faced with stone, as were most amphitheaters. It was built in the early days of the Roman Empire, around 70 CE. It was designed to host huge spectacles. Anyone could attend the events in the Colosseum. Admission was free.**

Julius Caesar was a great general and an important leader in ancient Rome.

- During his lifetime, he had held just about every important title in the Roman Republic including consul, tribune of the people, high commander of the army, and high priest.
- He suggested new laws, most of which were approved by the Senate.
- He reorganized the army.
- He improved the way the provinces were governed.

The Romans even named a month after him, the month of July for Julius Caesar.

When Julius Caesar said he had something to say, the people flocked to the Forum to hear his ideas. His ideas had been good ones. The people trusted him. Julius Caesar told the people that he could solve Rome's problems.

Certainly, the Republic had problems. Crime was everywhere. Taxes were outrageous. People were hungry. Many were out of work. It was easier to use slaves to do work than hire Roman people, but the dependency on slave labor was causing Rome unemployment problem.

The people were angry that their government had not been able to solve the many problems facing the Republic. Julius Caesar spoke publicly to the people about these problems, and promised to solve them if he could.

The people supported Caesar. The people wanted to see Julius Caesar in a strong position of power so he could solve the problems facing the Republic. As Julius Caesar became more popular with the people, he also became more powerful.

# JULIUS CAESAR



Leaders in the Senate began to worry. They were afraid Julius Caesar might take over the government by force, and rule Rome as a king. After all, Caesar had his own army, one of the finest, perhaps the finest. The leaders of ancient Rome had vowed that the Roman people would never be ruled by a king again. Their worried were justified. They were right. Julius Caesar did want to take over the government.

One of the laws of the original Twelve Tables was that no general could enter the city with his army. Julius Caesar ignored this law. In 49 BCE, he entered Rome with the Roman Legion, and took over the government. The poor people of Rome, who made up the bulk of the population, were glad. The people called him "father of the homeland". The Senate was furious.

## Augustus - The First Emperor 63BC - AD14

Augustus became the first emperor of Rome when his adopted father, Julius Caesar, was murdered on the Senate floor. His real name was Octavian but he was given the name 'Augustus' by the Senate as an honor for his great achievements. He used his ruled wisely and built roads, aqueducts and buildings. Not only was Augustus the first, but he was most certainly one of the best emperors Rome ever had.



### Hadrian (117-138 CE)

Hadrian became emperor following the death of Trajan, and is perhaps most well known for the construction of a defensive wall in Britain which is known as Hadrian's Wall; the wall was built to protect the Roman Empire from invasions from tribes to the north.

As a ruler, Hadrian turned out to be relatively peaceful. He reversed the expansionist policies of the previous ruler, Trajan, which meant Rome stopped looking to acquire new land through warfare.

### Commodus 180 to 192 AD



Commodus was the son of Marcus Aurelius, one of Rome's greatest rulers. He adored the gladiatorial games, so much so that he personally entered many of them and fought alongside the gladiators, who were all criminals and slaves, etc. This severely offended the entire Empire, especially the Senate. Commodus once ordered all the cripples, hunchbacks, and generally undesirables in the city to be rounded up, thrown into the arena, and forced to hack one another to death with meat cleavers. He especially enjoyed killing animals as he once slaughtered 100 lions in one day.

### Constantine the Great 306 - 337 AD

Constantine the Great was the first Christian emperor of the Empire. He decided to move the capital of the empire from Rome to a town called Byzantium, which he renamed after himself - Constantinople. Constantine saw this move as essential since

Byzantium was located on the trade routes from East to West. For his many achievements he is known as 'Constantine the Great' and in the Christian church he is known as 'Saint Constantine', since he made Christianity the official religion of the Empire and ended the persecution of Christians.



### Diocletian

(286 - 305 AD)... came to power at a difficult time in the Empire's history. There were civil wars in the provinces, and the Empire's economy was near collapse. He was able to establish peace and stabilize the economy. He divided the empire in two to administer it more effectively, the first step toward the creation of separate Eastern (Byzantine) and Western (Roman) Empires. However, he is also known for intensifying the persecution of Christians, who still refused to worship an emperor or official Roman gods.

He demanded that all Christians convert to the Roman religion. When Christians refused, Diocletian ordered their execution by crucifixion and beheading. He also enjoyed in their torture at the Circus Maximus and Colosseum where many were fed to lions, much to the delight of the Roman citizens who worshipped Roman gods.

The murders did not truly stop until Constantine's rise to absolute power in 324.

## ROMAN EMPERORS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS (or lack thereof)

### Nero (54 - 68 A.D.)



... was known to be very friendly to people from all stations of life and possessed the ability to remember almost everyone's name who he met. He was a great supporter of the arts and staged elaborate productions for the people's enjoyment. He even enjoyed performing himself.

As his reign continued, though, his behavior became bizarre. He killed, among others, his mother, and it has been said that he sang when the Great Fire of Rome ravaged through the city. He blamed the fire on Christians and had many killed, either by crucifixion, beheading, or being "thrown to the dogs." Regardless, he had clearly become insane. After unsuccessfully ordering members of the Senate to kill themselves, he committed suicide.



### Trajan, (98 to 117 CE)

The Roman emperor Trajan was the first non-Italian emperor. Trajan was always on the offensive as he expanded Rome's territory to its farthest limits. He was a former soldier who used his military expertise to win campaigns and acquire many new lands.

The Roman people gave Trajan the title "Optimus Princeps", which means "the best of princes." This clearly attests to his popularity among the people. Trajan set up cash accounts to help raise poor children, created schools to educate orphans, assisted poor farmers, and returned property confiscated by previous emperors.