

THE WORLD OF ANCIENT ROME

Vocabulary

aqueduct: a channel for carrying the main water supply to a Roman town, usually built above ground and supported by stone arches.

auditorium: a Latin word meaning "a place for listening."

barbarian: the word used by Romans when referring to all foreigners not part of the empire. Later, this came to refer to uncivilized, violent, mostly Germanic and Asian tribes that attacked the empire.

Britannia: the Roman province of Britain, today's England; first conquered by the emperor Claudius in 43 A.D. and abandoned in 410 A.D.

Caesar: a Latin word meaning "hairy one" that was the family name of Julius Caesar. The title Caesar was adopted by emperors from Augustus in 27 B.C., up until Hadrian in 117 A.D. The word Caesar was modified by the Russians to "czar," a title for their king, and by the Germans and Austrians to "kaiser" for some of their rulers.

cauldarium: the hot room of Roman baths with the hottest bathing pools.

circus: a racetrack or a circle.

civilized: a word taken from the Roman word "civitas" meaning the citizens of Rome.

centurion: an army officer in charge of a century.

century: a unit of the Roman army made up of 60-80 men.

cloaca: a large underground drain. Rome's Cloaca Maxima is still in use today.

cohort: an army unit of 600-800 men.

consul: one or two supreme heads of state during the Roman Republic that were elected each year.

colosseum: a large amphitheater where gladiator contests were held.

emperor: a supreme ruler of the Roman Empire.

forum: a large, open square. The Roman Forum and the Imperial Forum were the locations of ancient Rome's main buildings of government, greatest monuments and most important temples.

frigidarium: the cold room of Roman baths that contained the cold pools.

gladiator: an armed man who fought to the death with other gladiators and with animals. Most gladiators were slaves or criminals.

hypocaust: an underfloor heating chamber through which hot air from the furnace passed to warm a Roman building.

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insula: a block in a Roman town or a block of apartments for the common citizens of Roman towns.

Imperator: the Latin word for emperor.

Latin: the language of the ancient Romans that gave rise to the French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian languages and contributed many words to the English language.

legion: the largest division of the Roman army consisting of 4000-6000 men.

magistrate: certain elected officials who governed Rome during the Republic.

monotheism: a religion, such as Christianity, that recognizes only a single, all-powerful god.

orchestra: the semi-circular area in front of the stage of a Roman theater.

Patricians: wealthy and powerful Roman noblemen.

Pax Romana: The "Roman Peace." The term of peace imposed by Rome on any of its dominions; a general term referring to roughly 200 years of Roman peace and prosperity from about 27 B.C. to 180 A.D.

Plebeians: the common people of Rome.

province: a conquered territory of Rome; from the Latin word "provincia" meaning area of command.

polytheism: a religion based on many gods and goddesses, such as the ancient Roman religion.

senate: a council of 300 important citizens whose task was to advise the consuls during the Roman Republic, but who, in fact, practically ruled Rome during most of this period.

stadium: another Latin word for racecourse.

tepidarium: the warm room of the Roman baths containing the warm pools.

thermae: Latin word for baths.

toga: the flowing garment worn by Roman men.

tribunes: government representatives of the common Roman people.

Name _____

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Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Rome

Listed below are some of the gods and goddesses of Ancient Rome.

Lares and Penates: Household gods to whom daily offerings were made. Lares guarded the house and Penates guarded the food cupboard.

Janus: God of the doorway to the house.

Vesta: Goddess of the hearth or fireplace.

Jupiter: King of the gods; equivalent to the Greek god Zeus.

Juno: Wife of Jupiter, same as the Greek goddess Hera; the goddess of the sky.

Bacchus: The god of wine and parties; same as the Greek god Dionysus.

Ceres: Earth mother and goddess of the harvest; same as the Greek goddess Demeter.

Diana: Moon goddess and goddess of hunting; same as the Greek goddess Artemis.

Fortuna: Roman goddess of luck.

Mars: The god of war; same as the Greek god Ares.

Mercury: Messenger of the gods and protector of trade; same as the Greek god Hermes.

Minerva: The goddess of wisdom and crafts; same as the Greek god Athena.

Neptune: Brother of Jupiter and god of the sea; same as the Greek god Poseidon.

Saturn: God of farming; same as the Greek god Cronus.

Venus: Goddess of love and beauty, mother of Cupid; same as the Greek goddess Aphrodite

Vulcan: God of fire and blacksmithing; same as the Greek god Hephaestos.