

The Romans lived constantly in the presence of the gods, and their numerous festivals, offerings, and prayers testified to their eagerness to please their deities and obtain favors. From earliest times, the imagination of the Romans saw gods everywhere in nature, and *polytheism*, or the belief in many gods, was universally practiced. There were gods who protected the crops and herds, gods of the weather and seasons, gods of the earth and sky. Gods had to be appeased, and when a disaster struck, it proved that some god was offended.

Festivals were held all the year round, the most famous being the **Saturnalia**, dedicated to the god Saturn. This holiday took place at about the time we celebrate Christmas. It was a period of riotous merrymaking when even slaves were allowed their freedom.

Since religion was the function of the state, all temples, statues, and altars to the gods were built by the government. A very important temple was the **Temple of Vesta**, where six Vestal Virgins kept the sacred fire continuously burning. The priests, including the **pontifex maximus** (chief priest), were government officials, not necessarily trained for the priesthood.

After the conquest of Greece, the Romans identified their own gods with those of Greece. Below is a list of Roman deities, their Greek equivalents, their functions, and their principal attributes.

Roman Deity	Greek Equivalent	Function	Attribute
Apollo	Apollo	god of the sun, song, and prophecy	the lyre
Aesculapius	Asclepius	god of medicine	a snake
Bacchus	Dionysus	god of wine	the vine
Ceres	Demeter	goddess of agriculture	a garland of ears of corn
Cupid	Eros	god of love	bow and arrow
Diana	Artemis	goddess of the chase and the moon	bow and arrow, spear, and stags
Faunus	Pan	god of flocks and shepherds	horns and goat's feet
Janus	(none)	god of beginnings and doorways	two faces
Juno	Hera	queen of the gods, wife of Jupiter	crown, veil, scepter, and peacock
Jupiter	Zeus	king of the gods	scepter, eagle, and thunderbolt
Lares and Penates	(none)	household gods	perpetual fire on the hearth
Mars	Ares	god of war	shield, helmet, and coat of mail
Mercury	Hermes	messenger of the gods	winged sandals and hat, and staff (caduceus)
Minerva	Athena	goddess of wisdom	owl, helmet, and spear
Neptune	Poseidon	god of the sea	trident and dolphin
Pluto	Hades	god of the lower world	the dog Cerberus and a two-pronged fork
Saturn	Cronus / Kronos	god of the harvest	sickle

Venus	Aphrodite	goddess of love and beauty	myrtle tree
Vesta	Hestia	goddess of the hearth	perpetual fire on the hearth
Vulcan	Hephaestus	god of fire	hammer and anvil

With the exception of Neptune, who lived in the sea, and Ceres, who preferred to live on earth, these gods and goddesses were believed to have lived on *Mount Olympus*.

Neptune, Pluto, Ceres, Juno, and Vesta were the children of *Saturn* (Kronos) and *Rhea*. They were each devoured at birth by Saturn because he feared they would steal his power as supreme ruler. *Jupiter*, also a child of Saturn and Rhea, was saved from this same fate by his mother. As a young man he returned and attacked Saturn. He made his father regurgitate the other five children, now fully grown, and he made himself the supreme god.

Jupiter is also the god of the sky and of weather. The thunderbolt was his weapon. In most myths he is married to *Juno*, but in some he is reported as married to various lesser goddesses.

Apollo and *Diana* were the twin children of Jupiter and Latona. *Apollo* is also the god of archery, disease and healing, and music, art, and literature. His nine assistants, the *Muses*, aided him in administering the arts. Apollo delivered his prophecies through the highly respected oracle at Delphi (on an island in the Aegean Sea). *Diana* is also the goddess of archery and of animals.

Mars was the son of Jupiter and Juno. Although he is the god of war, mythology does not picture him as a strategist, but rather as someone who causes chaos and destruction. He was an unpopular god. His emblems of war were the spear, the torch, and the vulture.

Mercury was the son of Jupiter and Maia, a low ranking goddess. One of the Mercury's principal functions was to guide the souls of the dead to the Underworld. His symbol was the **caduceus** (two snakes entwined around a rod topped with a pair of wings) which is now the symbol of the medical profession. The metal mercury, which is liquid at room temperature, and therefore, the fastest moving metal, is named for him.

Vulcan, the blacksmith of the gods, was the son of Jupiter and Juno. One-eyed monsters called the Cyclopes worked for him at forges set up on earth inside of mountains. He is, therefore, also the god of volcanoes.

Minerva was the daughter of Jupiter and Metis. She is said to have sprung forth fully grown from the skull of Jupiter. She wore a magic cloak called the **Aegis** for protection. Because she created the olive tree for the citizens of Athens, she became the patroness of that city.

Venus, the daughter of Jupiter and Dione, was also a goddess of fertility. Her three assistants, the *Graces* (Euphrosyne, Aglaea, and Thalia) helped her to dispense the gifts of sweetness.

Pluto, one of the children of Saturn and Rhea (see above), ruled the Underworld, which was the abode of dead souls. The earth was thought of as the top of a solid shape, such as a hockey puck. The underside, or the Underworld, was where the dead souls went. It was divided into many areas, the most important of which were the *Elysian Fields*, where the good souls lived in happiness, and *Tartarus*, where wicked souls suffered severe punishment.

Proserpina, goddess of the change of seasons, was the daughter of Jupiter and Ceres. She is said to have been kidnapped by Pluto and brought to the Underworld. Ceres begged Jupiter to intervene and Proserpina was released but had to return to Pluto for four months each year. During these four months Ceres, the goddess of agriculture, bemoans her daughter's fate and allows the earth to become barren. This represents the winter months, and Proserpina's return to earth is symbolic of spring.

Cupid, a son of Venus, is depicted as a mischievous child with gold-tipped arrows that caused people to fall in love. He also had a quiver of lead-tipped arrows that caused people to dislike each other.

Bacchus was the son of Jupiter and Semele, a mortal. He was the god of vegetation who sought recognition by encouraging people to develop the art of wine making. He is also known as the god of revelry.

Pan is represented as having the legs, ears and horns of a goat. He was friendly god with a great interest in music. The word "panic" is derived from his name because of his habit of frightening sheep into a stampede with his shouting and whistling.

Aesculapius was the son of Apollo and Coronis, a mortal. He himself was a mortal who was made a lesser god of healing.

ROMAN GODS: There were a few deities who were completely Roman in origin and who do not appear in other mythologies. Among them are:

JANUS, the god of gates or doors. He is depicted as having faces on both sides of his head. He was a protective god and was also the god of beginnings. Our month January is derived from his name.

THE LARES AND PENATES were the household gods. They were worshiped as the protectors of the home and the family. The Lares were the spirits of the family's ancestors; the Penates were the gods of the storeroom, who ensured that the family would have the essentials of life. Every Roman home contained a small altar with statues of its own Lares and Penates.

MYTHOLOGICAL LEGENDS: Great heroes, who were not themselves gods, were an important part of classical mythology. The Romans freely took over the most important myths of the Greeks, and so much of what follows is actually Greek in origin. In all of these legends, the gods played an important role.

Hercules, whose Greek name was Heracles, was the son of Jupiter and Alcmena, a mortal. As an infant he is reported to have slain two huge snakes that attacked him in his cradle. Juno strongly disliked Hercules, and one myth records that it was she who sent the snakes. Later in his life she caused him to become insane and he killed his own wife and children. As a punishment for this crime he was ordered to make himself a slave to his cousin *Eurystheus* who ordered him to carry out a number of dangerous tasks, which became known as the *Twelve Labors of Hercules*. These tasks were:

- (1) the slaying of the *Nemean Lion*, a monster whose hide could not be pierced by mortal weapons. Hercules attacked the lion, stunned it with a sharp blow to the head, choked it to death with his bare hands and then skinned it with its own claws. The club which Hercules made to stun the lion and the flayed skin of the lion which he wore became his most prominent symbols.
- (2) the slaying of the *Lernean Hydra*, a nine-headed monster which grew a new head whenever one was cut off. With the aid of a friend, Hercules cut off all the Hydra's heads and burned the open necks of the eight head that were mortal to prevent them from growing new heads and buried the ninth immortal head under a rock;
- (3) the capture of the *Cerynean Stag*, a miraculous animal with gold horns sacred to Diana. The stag was harmless and could not be harmed without making Diana angry. Hercules pursued it for a whole year, lightly wounded it so that he could capture it, and carried it on his shoulders back to Eurystheus. Diana found him with the stag, but was appeased when he explained the situation;
- (4) the capture of the *Erymanthian Boar*. This boar was ravaging the land around Mt. Erymanthus; Hercules had to capture the boar alive, which he did by chasing it into the snow and capturing it with nets;
- (5) the cleaning of the *Augean Stables*. King Augeas had vast herds of cattle which he kept in stable that had never been cleaned out. Hercules, when ordered to clean the stables, did so by diverting the rivers Alpheus and Peneus so that they flowed through the stables;
- (6) the slaying of the *Stymphalian Birds*. These birds had feathers which they could shoot like arrows. Hercules frightened them out of the forest where they lived by clashing cymbals which Athena gave him;
- (7) the capture of the *Cretan Bull*. This was a bull which Minos had refused to sacrifice to Poseidon who had made it come from the sea to prove Minos' divine parentage (in another version it is the bull which brought Europa to Crete). Hercules brought it back alive and released it at Marathon, where it was later killed and sacrificed by Theseus;
- (8) the capture of *Diomedes' Mares*. Diomedes, son of Ares, was a Thracian king who owned a herd of mares who fed on human flesh. Hercules tamed the mares by feeding them Diomedes himself;
- (9) the retrieval of the *Girdle* (a belt) of *Hippolyta*, the Amazon Queen, which was thought to bestow magical powers on its possessor;
- (10) the retrieval of the *Cattle of Geryon*. Geryon was a three-bodied monster who had a herd of cattle which Hercules was to capture. Helios, the sun god, gave Hercules a golden bowl in which to sail to the far west to the island where Geryon lived. Hercules killed Geryon and took the cattle home;
- (11) obtaining the *Golden Apples of the Hesperides*, who were the daughters of the giant Atlas. Atlas, who held up the sky on his shoulders, agreed to get the apples from his daughters if Hercules would relieve him of his burden. Hercules consented, Atlas (weary of eternally holding up the world) tried to make Hercules continue to do this job, and Hercules, by the clever trick of asking Atlas to take the world back for a moment so that he could prepare himself, got the apples and left Atlas holding the world;
- (12) the retrieval of *Cerberus* from the Underworld. Hercules wrestled the three-headed dog which guarded the entrance to the Underworld, brought him back to Eurystheus, who was so frightened that he made Hercules take Cerberus back.

Jason, another legendary hero, had to obtain the *Golden Fleece* in order to regain his rightful throne. He built a

ship, the **Argo**, with the help of Juno, and manned it with a crew of brave and famous warriors who were known as the *Argonauts*. After many adventures, he met *Medea*, daughter of King Aetes, who had the Golden Fleece. Medea fell in love with Jason and with her magical powers helped him to get the fleece and escape.

A third great hero of ancient legends was *Perseus*. It had been predicted before his birth that any son born of *Danaë*, his mother, would slay his grandfather *King Acrisius*. Therefore, when he was born, the king had Perseus and his mother placed in a large wooden chest and thrown into the sea. Protected by the gods the chest washed up on a distant island where the king *Polydectes* received them cordially and soon proposed marriage to Danaë. Because she rejected his offer and was supported by Perseus, Polydectes sent Perseus on a dangerous mission to get him out of the way: the task was to bring back the head of the Gorgon *Medusa*, whose appearance was so repulsive that anyone who looked at her would turn to stone. With help from Minerva, who gave him a sword and highly polished shield, and from the *Nymphs*, lesser divinities of nature, who gave him winged sandals and a magic helmet that made him invisible, he slew Medusa, brought back her head, and rescued his mother. (Other gorgons were Sthena, and Euryale.)

The legend of the Trojan War, although now recognized as an historic fact, as mythologized by *Homer* ranks as the greatest of the ancient sagas:

Eris, the goddess of discord, became angry when she was not invited to the wedding of *Thetis*, a low ranking goddess. To cause trouble she sent a golden apple to the wedding feast which was attended by almost all of the gods and goddesses. Because the apple was inscribed "for the fairest of them all," a dispute arose among Juno, Minerva, and Venus. When Jupiter was asked to decide for whom the apple was intended, he commissioned *Paris*, son of *King Priam* and *Queen Hecuba* of Troy, to be judge. After each of the three goddesses attempted to bribe Paris, he chose Venus, who had promised him the most beautiful woman in the world for his wife.

On a trip to Sparta, he met and fell in love with the wife of *King Menelaus*, *Helen*, whom he carried off to Troy. Menelaus gathered up a huge Greek army which was placed under the command of his brother *Agamemnon*, king of Mycenae. When the army had assembled at the port of *Aulis* to depart to Troy, bad weather prevented its leaving for many days until it was revealed by an oracle that the goddess *Diana* was angry and would not relent unless Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter *Iphigenia*. Agamemnon reluctantly fulfilled the demand against the wishes of his wife *Clytemnestra*, and the fleet sailed for Troy.

When the Greeks arrived at Troy, the soldiers held back because of a prediction that the first Greek to touch Trojan soil would die. Finally *Protesilaus*, a young Greek, bravely led the attack and was immediately slain in battle. Because the gods were impressed by his courage, they allowed him to return to life and spend a few hours with his wife *Laodamia*, who in despair committed suicide when he had to return to the dead.

Among the Greek warriors was the great hero *Achilles*, who had been made invulnerable as a child, when his mother had dipped him in the *River Styx*. When he became angry with Agamemnon and refused to join in the fight, the Greek cause began to falter, but when his devoted friend *Patroclus* borrowed his armor and led an attack, the Greek forces rallied. In this encounter, Patroclus fought *Hector*, son of Priam, in single combat and was slain. To avenge his friend, Achilles then challenged Hector, killed him, and dragged the body, lashed to the back of his chariot, around the walls of Troy.

In another attack against the city Achilles was struck on his heel, the one part of his body that had not been immersed in the River Styx, by an arrow of Paris and died. Paris in turn was wounded by a poisoned arrow of the Greek prince *Philoctetes* and sought aid for his former sweetheart *Oenone*, who possessed magic drugs. She refused because he had deserted her for Helen, and he also died.

Since the Greeks had been unable to penetrate the walls of Troy after nine years of fighting, under the direction of *Ulysses* (Odysseus), they devised a plan to trick the Trojans. They constructed a huge wooden horse in which they concealed a large number of soldiers and left it at the gates of Troy while they withdrew to a nearby island. When the Trojans saw that the Greeks had left, they came out to investigate the horse and the abandoned Greek camp. There they found *Sinon*, who had been deliberately left behind to deceive them. He told the Trojans that he had been chosen to be sacrificed to Athena because she was angry with the Greeks, but that he had escaped. He also said that the wooden horse was an offering to Athena and that if the Trojans brought it into the city, they would gain her favor.

Among the Trojans who did not believe Sinon's story, was the priest *Laocoön*, who warned of Greek treachery and opposed bringing the horse into the city. Suddenly two huge serpents came from the sea, entwined themselves around Laocoön and his two sons and crushed them. The Trojans interpreted this as a sign from the gods and brought the horse into the city. After celebrating the departure of the Greeks, they went to their homes in peace. During the night the soldiers came out of the horse, opened the gates of Troy for the Greek

forces which had now returned, and set fires throughout the city.

After a valiant fight the Trojans were defeated. Among the victims of the Greeks were Priam and the small son of Hector, *Astyanax*, who was thrown from the high wall of Troy. Helen was eventually reconciled with Menelaus and many of the Trojan women, including the queen *Hecuba*, her daughter *Cassandra*, who had been given the gift of prophecy by Apollo and the curse of never being believed, and *Andromache*, the wife of Hector, were carried off by the Greeks.

A number of Trojans led by *Aeneas*, the son of *Anchises* and *Venus*, escaped from Troy and after a long journey arrived in Italy. Aeneas and his son *Ascanius* (later called *Iulus*), whose exploits are the subject of Vergil's **Aeneid**, are considered the founders of the Roman race.

Homer's great epic, the **Odyssey**, is the legend of Ulysses on his journey home after the Trojan War. Although Troy was not a great distance from his home in Ithaca, Ulysses met many obstacles and took ten years to complete the journey. On this adventurous trip he met, among others, *Polyphemus*, a cyclops who trapped him and his men in a cave, *Circe*, an enchantress who turned his men into pigs, the *Lotos Plants*, which caused his men to lose all ambition, and many other obstacles. Ulysses survived all these encounters and was finally reunited with his wife *Penelope*.

Daedalus was a very inventive man who designed for King Minos on Crete the *Labyrinth*, a maze in which a fire-breathing monster called the *Minotaur* was kept. Each year the defeated Athenians were forced to supply fourteen young men and women to be sacrificed to the Minotaur. *Theseus*, an Athenian prince, volunteered to go to Crete and to slay the monster. With the help of King Minos' daughter *Ariadne*, who fell in love with him, he succeeded in killing the monster and escaping from the Labyrinth.

As punishment for the failure of the Labyrinth, King Minos imprisoned *Daedalus* and his son *Icarus* in it. *Daedalus* devised sets of wings out of feathers and wax and the two of them attempted to fly to safety. However, *Icarus* flew too close to the sun, which melted the wax, and he fell to his death in the sea.

Baucis and *Philemon* were an elderly couple who befriended Jupiter and Mercury disguised as poor travelers after everyone else had rejected them. As a result Jupiter destroyed all the other inhabitants of the area in a flood. *Baucis* and *Philemon* were made priests in a temple to Jupiter until their death, at which time they were transformed into two trees growing from one trunk so that they would never be parted.

Orpheus was a gifted musician who could enchant people, animals, and inanimate objects with his music. When his wife *Eurydice* died, Orpheus went down to the Underworld and persuaded Pluto to allow her to return to earth. Pluto agreed provided that Orpheus did not look back to see if his wife was behind him while leading her out. Near the end of the journey Orpheus yielded to curiosity and looked back. *Eurydice* was immediately returned to the land of the dead.

Prometheus was the son of the Titan *Iapetus*. Prometheus sided with Jupiter in the war with the Titans. He gave man arts, skills, and fire. He angered Zeus who took away the fire. Prometheus sneaked out of Olympus with more fire. Zeus punished him by creating the first woman, *Pandora*. She represented evil to men.

Cupid and *Psyche*. Venus was jealous of *Psyche*'s extraordinary beauty. Venus wanted *Cupid* to cause *Psyche* to fall in love with the most loathsome creature alive, but when *Cupid* saw her he fell in love with her. He carried her away as his wife, but never let her see him. *Psyche*'s envious sisters convinced her to slay him when he was asleep. *Cupid* awoke and fled.

Daphne and *Apollo*. *Cupid*, angry at *Apollo* because he was teased by him, caused him to fall in love with *Daphne*, the daughter of the river god *Peneus*. *Cupid* then shot *Daphne* with a lead-tipped arrow to make her dislike *Apollo*. *Apollo* pursued *Daphne*, hoping to win her, but she fled his every approach. Weary of the continual chase, she prayed to her divine father to help her escape. Through her prayer, she was turned into a laurel tree ("Daphne" means "laurel" in Greek). *Apollo* adopted the laurel wreath as his symbol in her honor.

Arachne and *Minerva*. *Arachne* was a skilled weaver who boasted that she wove better than *Minerva*, the patron goddess of weavers. *Minerva* challenged *Arachne* to a weaving contest, in the course of which *Arachne* was transformed into a spider. This is the origin of the term *arachnid* for spiders.

Midas was the King of Phrygia. He prayed for and was granted the power of turning whatever he touched into gold, but he neglected to set limits to his wish. Consequently, **everything** he touched turned to gold, even food and drink.

Pyramus and *Thisbe* were two young lovers whose parents refused to give consent to their marriage. They made a plan to meet outside the city and run away together. Thisbe arrived at the meeting place first, was frightened off by a lion which had just eaten its catch, and left her shawl when she escaped. The lion's bloody mouth left traces on the shawl, so that Piramus, when he arrived, assumed that Thisbe had been killed and killed himself in his distress.

The Mythology of the Founding of Rome:

Romulus and *Remus* were twin sons of Mars, the god of war, and Rhea Silvia, the daughter of King Numitor. Numitor's wicked brother Amulius had usurped the throne from his brother. After the twins were born, Rhea Silvia was put to death and the twins were put in a basket and set afloat in the river, on the assumption that they would drown. The basket came to rest, however, at the future site of the city of Rome, where the twins were suckled by a she-wolf. Shortly thereafter, a shepherd named Faustulus found the boys, took them home, and raised them. They became shepherds. In a skirmish between rival shepherds, Remus was captured, was taken before Numitor who was living in quiet retirement, and was sentenced to death, but the arrival of Romulus, who had been told by Faustulus of his and Remus' rescue, led to a reuniting of grandfather and grandsons. Romulus and Remus deposed Amulius and restored their grandfather to the throne of Alba Longa. They then decided to found a city on the site of their rescue by the she-wolf. In order to decide which one would give his name to the city, they waited for a sign from heaven. Twelve birds flew over Remus, who thought he had been designated by the gods to give his name to the city, but just then twenty-four birds flew over Romulus. Romulus set about building the city, first marking off the sacred **pomerium** (boundary). He then began to build the walls on the pomerium; Remus leapt over these walls, a blatant act of sacrilege, and in his anger Romulus killed him. At first the new city had no female inhabitants, only men, and their attempts to persuade neighboring tribes to let them marry daughters from these tribes were rebuffed. Romulus hit upon the plan of inviting his neighbors to a celebration in the newly created Circus Maximus. The Sabines, as the neighbors were called, brought their wives and daughters to the celebration. At a given signal, the men of Rome rushed in and kidnapped the marriageable women. This led to a state of war, which was eventually brought to an end by the intervention of the women themselves, who were now wives and mothers of Romans.

Historical Outline of Rome I: The Regal Period to the First Punic War		218-202	The Second Punic War, during which Hannibal crosses the Alps. After long guerilla warfare, Hannibal leaves Italy; Rome is triumphant.
<u>THE REGAL PERIOD - MONARCHS</u>			
753 B.C.	Traditional date for the founding of Rome (April 21)	200-146	Wars against the Macedonians in the east, and the destruction of Corinth.
753-715	Romulus (founds city; creates Senate)	149-146	The Third Punic War and the destruction of Carthage.
715-673	Numa Pompilius (peace-loving; religious and legal institutions)		
673-641	Tullus Hostilius (strong military leader; conquers Alba Longa)		<i>The Late Republic</i>
641-616	Ancus Marcius (first bridge across Tiber; founds Ostia)	133-122	The Gracchi (Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus) carry out land reforms; the kingdom of Pergamum is bequeathed to Rome.
616-579	L. Tarquinius Priscus (Etruscan; begins construction of the Capitolium; lays out Circus Maximus; drains valleys of Rome)	112-98	The rise of Marius (a <i>novus homo</i>): army reforms; Marius holds 6 consulships in 8 years.
579-534	Servius Tullius (Etruscan; Servian Wall; new constitution)	90-88	Social War (allies in Italy striving for citizenship).
534-509	L. Tarquinius Superbus (Etruscan; completes Capitolium; overbearing; he is expelled; attempt to recapture Rome fails)	88-82	Battle for power between Marius and Sulla
		82-79	The dictatorship of Sulla (strong support for Senate).
		70	Consulship of Pompey and Crassus.
		63	Consulship of Cicero and the quelling of the Catilinarian conspiracy.
		60	Formation of the "First Triumvirate" (Pompey, Caesar, Crassus).
		58-51	Caesar's conquest of Gaul.
		56	Conference at Luca (terms of the "First Triumvirate" extended).
		53	Defeat and death of Crassus at Carrhae (in Asia Minor).
		52	Pompey sole consul.
		48-44	Caesar's dictatorship (3 stages: 48-47; 46 granted for 10 years; January 44 granted for life).
		44	Assassination of Caesar.
		44-30	Civil War (Second Triumvirate [Octavian, Antony, Lepidus]; alliance and strife between Octavian and Antony; Battle of Actium 31; death of Antony 30).
		27	Octavian given title "Augustus".
Historical Outline of Rome II: The Punic Wars to the Dissolution of the Republic			
264-241	The First Punic War against Carthaginians. Rome becomes a maritime power.		
237-219	The Carthaginians conquer Spain and found New Carthage.		
			Historical Outline of Rome III: The Principate to the Accession of Nerva
			<u>THE EMPIRE</u>

27 BC - AD 14	Principate of Augustus
AD 14-37	Principate of Tiberius
37 - 41	Principate of Caligula
41 - 54	Principate of Claudius
54 - 68	Principate of Nero
68 - 69	Year of the Four Emperors (Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian)
69 - 79	Principate of Vespasian
79 - 81	Principate of Titus
81 - 96	Principate of Domitian
96	Accession of Nerva

FAMOUS PEOPLE IN ROMAN HISTORY:

Aeneas — Trojan leader and reputed ancestor of the Romans. He displayed exemplary devotion to father, country, and the gods.

Augustus (Gaius Iulius Caesar Octavianus) — grandnephew and adopted son of Caesar; he brought to an end the civil wars of the first century B.C. and paved the way for the new form of government called the Principate

Brutus — Rome's first consul (509 B.C.). He was known for his heroic devotion to duty by putting to death his own sons for plotting treason.

Caesar (Gaius Iulius Caesar) — Rome's greatest general and one of her outstanding historians; his assassination in 44 B.C. set in motion the downfall of the Republic and the ascendancy of the Principate.

Cato the Elder — Roman censor famed for his frugality, self-sacrifice, and devotion to duty. He lived in the second century B.C.

Cicero (Marcus Tullius Cicero) — consul in 63 B.C.; Rome's greatest orator

Cincinnatus — Roman farmer-patriot who was called from his plow to lead the Roman army. After defeating the enemy, he modestly returned to his farm, rather than continue in high position. He lived in the period of the first years of the Republic.

Decius Mus — Roman consul and general. He rushed into the midst of the enemy and sacrificed his life, thereby bringing victory to the Romans. He lived in the early period of the Republic (4th century B.C.).

Fabricius — Displayed integrity of character by refusing to be bribed by Pyrrhus, the famous Greek general. He was consul in 282 and 278 B.C.

Gracchi brothers (Gaius and Tiberius) — Sons of Cornelia. As tribunes of the people, both showed sympathy for the underprivileged and tried to enact

laws in their favor. In the course of duty, they were slain by their opponents (Gaius in 132 B.C. and Tiberius in 122 B.C.).

Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus) — 65-8 B.C. Rome's greatest lyric poet.

Horatius — Courageous Roman who defended a bridge over the Tiber to delay the Etruscans who were advancing on Rome. He belongs to the first years of the Republic.

Mucius Scaevola — Roman patriot. Ordered to be burnt alive by King Porsena, Mucius showed extreme physical endurance and open defiance of the Etruscans by thrusting his right hand into the fire prepared for his execution. This so impressed Porsena that he released Mucius. Subsequently he was nicknamed "Scaevola" (left-handed), since he lost the use of his right hand. He belongs to the first years of the Republic.

Regulus — Roman general captured in the First Punic War. He kept his word of honor to return to his Carthaginian captors, even though he knew that it meant death.

Remus — Twin brother of Romulus.

Romulus — Legendary founder of Rome.

Vergil (Publius Vergilius Maro) — 70-19 B.C. Rome's greatest epic poet.

ad infinitum, without end
ad nauseam, to the point of disgust
alma mater, college (nourishing mother)
ante bellum, before the war
ars artis gratia, art for art's sake
ars longa, vita brevis art is long, life is short
bona fide, in good faith
carpe diem, seize ("pluck") the day
cave canem, beware of the dog
corpus delicti, the facts (body) of a crime
cum grano salis, with a grain of salt
de facto, in fact; actually
de jure, by right; legally
de mortuis nil nisi bonum, speak only good of the dead
errare est humanum, to err is human
et tu, Brute! even you, Brutus!
exit; exeunt, he goes out; they go out (*stage directions*)
ex libris, from the books (of)
ex officio, by virtue of office
ex post facto, enacted after the fact; retroactive
ex tempore, on the spur of the moment
festina lente, make haste slowly
in absentia, in absence
in hoc signo vince, by this sign you will conquer
in loco parentis, in the place of a parent
in medias res, into the midst of things
in memoriam, in memory (of)
in re, in the matter of; concerning
in toto, in its entirety
ipso facto, by the very fact itself
lapsus linguae, a slip of the tongue
mens sana in corpore sano, a sound mind in a sound body
multum in parvo, much in something small
pater patriae, father of his country
pax vobiscum, peace be with you
per annum, by the year
per capita, by heads; individually
per diem, by the day
per se, by itself; essentially
persona non grata, an unwelcome person
post mortem after death
prima facie, on first sight or appearance

pro and con(tra), for and against
pro bono publico, for the public welfare
pro tempore, for the time being
quid pro quo, something for something
semper fidelis, always faithful
semper paratus, always prepared
sic transit gloria mundi, thus passes the glory of the world
sine die, indefinitely, with setting a day
sine qua non, indispensable; a necessity
status quo, the existing state of affairs
te Deum laudamus, we praise thee, God
tempus fugit, time flies
terra firma, solid ground
terra incognita, unknown land
vade mecum, a constant companion (go with me)
veni, vidi, vici, I came, I saw, I conquered
verbatim, word for word
via, by way of
vice versa, the other way around
viva voce, by spoken word
vox populi, vox Dei, the voice of the people is the voice of God

Latin Abbreviations used in English

A.D. *annō dominī*, in the year of our Lord
ad lib. *ad libitum*, at pleasure
a.m. *ante merīdiem*, before noon
cf. *confer*, compare
e.g. *exemplī grātiā*, for example
et al. *et alii (aliae, alia)*, and others
etc. *et cētera*, and the rest and so forth
ibid. *ibīdem*, in the same place
i.e. *id est*, that is
M.D. *Medicīnae Doctor*, Doctor of Medicine
N.B. *notā bene*, note well
op. cit. *opere citātō*, in the work cited
per cent *per centum*, by the hundred
p.m. *post merīdiem*, after noon
pro tem. *prō tempore*, for the time being
P.S. *post scrīptum*, postscript, written afterwards
q.v. *quod vidē*, which see
℞ *recipe*, take (as directed)
viz. *vidēlicet (vidēre licet)*, one may see, namely
vs. *versus*, against