Romans worshiped gods and goddesses as part of the everyday life. The actions of gods explained things they didn’t understand or couldn’t control. If there was a lightning storm, it was because Jupiter was throwing lightning. If the army lost a battle, it was because they had lost favor with Mars, god of war.

**Sacrifices**
Animal sacrifices were made to gain favor with the gods. Mars, god of war, decided who won in war so Roman soldiers would pray to Mars before a battle and sometimes Roman commanders would sacrifice an animal to Mars.

**Temples**
One of the ways Romans worshiped their gods was to build temples. Most temples were dedicated to just one god or goddess but some were built for many gods. This type of temple was called a pantheon. Romans believed the gods lived in their temples. Citizens would come to the temple to pray and make animal sacrifices.

**Shrines**
Romans would make a shrine to a god in their home where they would pray or leave offerings.

**Greek Influence**
Early Romans believed there were spirits in everything. Later, they adopted gods from different cultures and eventually worshiped thousands of gods and goddesses as part of their daily life. The Romans had a particular fondness for the Greek gods. Some Greek gods names were kept the same, like Apollo, but more often they would slowly be merged with Roman gods and take on the Roman name. Roman gods even live on Mount Olympus, a mountain in Greece! Many Roman myths were similar to the Greek myths, only the gods had Roman names and there was more importance placed on Roman values like war, practicality and achievements.
**JUPITER**

Greek Name: Zeus

**Role**
- God of sky & thunder
- King of the gods
- Patron god of Rome

**Symbol**
Thunderbolt

**Special Powers**
- Throwing thunder
- Shapeshifting

**Namesake**
Planet Jupiter

**Fun Fact**
Rode a flying horse called Pegasus.

**Myth**
The queen of a bee hive complained to Jupiter that humans were stealing her honey and asked him for a way to protect the honey. Jupiter granted her wish and gave all the bees a stinger but told the queen that if any bee used their stinger, they would die. To this day, many bees drop dead if they sting someone.

**JUNO**

Greek Name: Hera

**Role**
- Queen of the gods
- Protector of women
- Goddess of marriage
- Patron goddess of Rome

**Family**
Wife (and sister) to Jupiter

**Sacred Animal**
Peacock

**Namesake**
Month of June

**Fun Fact**
Juno was celebrated by the married women of Rome every March 1st.

**Myth**
Unfortunately, Jupiter was not a very faithful husband, and this made Juno angry. She found out that Jupiter had a baby, named Hercules, with a mistress. In a fit of jealousy, she sent snakes to the baby’s crib. Hercules was so strong, that even as a baby he strangled the snakes and survived Juno’s wrath.

**MERCURY**

Greek Name: Hermes

**Role**
Messenger of the gods

**Family**
Son of Jupiter

**Symbol**
Winged helmet and winged sandals

**Special Powers**
- Could fly fast

**Namesake**
Planet Mercury and the element mercury

**Myth**
Mercury once stole a herd of cattle, but his deed was witnessed by a slave. He told the slave that if anyone asked, he was to say he saw nothing. Later, Mercury returned in disguise and asked the slave where the cattle were. The slave told him everything so Mercury went ahead and turned him to stone!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MINERVA</strong></th>
<th><strong>NEPTUNE</strong></th>
<th><strong>VENUS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Greek Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Greek Name</strong></td>
<td><strong>Greek Name</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athena</td>
<td>Poseidon</td>
<td>Aphrodite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goddess of wisdom</td>
<td>God of sea and fresh water</td>
<td>Goddess of love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron of arts, trade and strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Patron of women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughter of Jupiter</td>
<td>Brother of Jupiter</td>
<td>Wife of Vulcan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sacred Animal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Symbol</strong></td>
<td><strong>Namesake</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owl</td>
<td>Trident</td>
<td>Planet Neptune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fun Fact</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fun Fact</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fun Fact</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerva was born from Jupiter’s head.</td>
<td>Neptune was moody and unpredictable, much like the sea.</td>
<td>Venus had a golden carriage pulled by doves. Also, she was born from sea foam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Myth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Myth</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerva’s dad, Jupiter, swallowed her mother, Metis while she was pregnant. Metis went ahead and had her baby. One day Jupiter had a headache and Vulcan tried splitting his head open with an ax to relieve it. Out popped Minerva, fully grown.</td>
<td>Neptune fancied a sea goddess named Salacia but she ran away and hid from him. Neptune was determined, so he asked the dolphin king to find her. It took a long time, but eventually the dolphin king found Salacia and persuaded her to marry Neptune. The sea god was so pleased, he made a constellation in the shape of the dolphin king.</td>
<td>A shepherd named Paris was tasked with deciding which goddess would get a golden apple inscribed with the words 'For the Fairest.' Juno bribed him with wealth and power. Minerva bribed him with wisdom. Venus bribed him with marriage to the most beautiful woman, Helen. Paris chose to marry Helen, and took her to Troy where she became known as Helen of Troy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Mars

**Greek Name**
Ares

**Role**
God of war
Founder of Rome
Patron of soldiers

**Family**
Son of Jupiter and Juno

**Symbol**
The Ancile (a sacred shield)

**Namesake**
Planet Mars and month of March

**Fun Fact**
Mars was tall and handsome, but he was vain and the other gods didn’t like him much.

**Myth**
Mars had a crush on Minerva but she rejected him, so he asked Anna Perenna, an old goddess, to help him. Anna thought Mars was handsome. She agreed to help, but instead of getting Mars and Minerva together, she put on a veil and pretended to be Minerva. Mars was fooled and married Anna.

### Diana

**Greek Name**
Artemis

**Role**
Goddess of the hunt

**Family**
Jupiter’s daughter and Apollo’s twin

**Symbol**
Bow and Arrow

**Namesake**
Planet Mars and month of March

**Fun Fact**
Diana brought out the moon each night.

**Myth**
Diana loved the huntsman named Orion, but her twin brother, Apollo, did not approve. Apollo thought up a plan. He challenged his sister to an archery contest, to see who could hit a black dot floating in the water. Diana fired an arrow and to her glee she hit the target, but Apollo had tricked her. The black dot was Orion’s head. Diana was crushed and asked Jupiter to put a constellation in the sky to honor Orion.

### Pluto

**Greek Name**
Hades

**Role**
God of the underworld

**Family**
Jupiter’s brother

**Symbol**
Helmet of invisibility

**Special Powers**
Invisibility

**Namesake**
Planet Pluto

**Fun Fact**
Romans were afraid to say Pluto’s name in case it attracted his attention.

**Myth**
A soldier died and went to the underworld, but he missed his wife terribly. He went to Pluto and asked to be return to the land of the living. Pluto denied his request but Pluto’s wife Proserpina was moved by the soldier’s story, so Pluto granted him one last day with his wife.
### CUPID
**Greek Name**
- Eros

**Role**
- God of love

**Family**
- Son of Venus and Mars

**Symbol**
- Bow and arrow, torch

**Special Powers**
- Making people fall in love by shooting them with his bow and arrow, has wings and can fly

**Fun Fact**
- Cupid could give love to others, but not himself.

**Myth**
- Cupid once complained to his mother of a bee sting, but Venus was unsympathetic, telling him he was also small, but delivered the sting of love.

### APOLLO
**Greek Name**
- Apollo

**Role**
- God of music and medicine

**Family**
- Son of Jupiter

**Symbol**
- Bow and Arrow

**Special Powers**
- Could cure disease and see the future

**Fun Fact**
- Apollo brought up the sun and chased it across the sky.

**Myth**
- Apollo’s father was Jupiter but he had a mortal mother. Juno was jealous of his mother so she sent a snake, Python, to kill her. When Apollo was just four days old (but fully grown - gods grow up so fast!) he shot Python with a bow and arrow and killed it.

### CERES
**Greek Name**
- Demeter

**Role**
- Goddess of agriculture

**Family**
- Sister of Jupiter

**Symbol**
- Sheath of grain

**Special Powers**
- Controls fertility

**Fun Fact**
- Cereal is named after Ceres.

**Myth**
- Demeter’s daughter Proserpina spent six months a year with her mother and six months in the underworld with Hades. Ancient Greek believed that while Proserpina was with her mother, Demeter was happy, and crops thrived. But when her daughter was away, Demeter was unhappy, and that is why the crops wilt for half the year.
### Vulcan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Greek Name</strong></th>
<th>Hephaestus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Role**       | God of fire  
Blacksmith of the gods |
| **Family**     | Son of Juno  
Husband of Venus |
| **Symbol**     | Blacksmith’s hammer |
| **Fun Fact**   | Created Pandora, the first mortal woman from clay.  
Volcanoes would erupt when he was angry. |
| **Myth**       | Vulcan was such an ugly baby that his mother, Juno, threw him off Mount Olympus. Vulcan broke his legs but sea nymphs rescued him and raised him. |

### Saturn

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Greek Name</strong></th>
<th>Chronos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td>God of time, agriculture, wealth and war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Father of Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symbol</strong></td>
<td>Scythe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Namesake</strong></td>
<td>Planet Saturn and Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fun Fact</strong></td>
<td>Saturn taught Romans agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myth</strong></td>
<td>Saturn fled his father and moved to Rome where he was welcomed by the Roman god Janus. They ruled together during a golden age. Saturn taught the Romans how to be civilized and grow crops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Vesta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Greek Name</strong></th>
<th>Hestia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role</strong></td>
<td>Goddess of the hearth, the home, and domestic life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family</strong></td>
<td>Brother of Jupiter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symbol</strong></td>
<td>Eternal flame, kettle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sacred Animal</strong></td>
<td>Donkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fun Fact</strong></td>
<td>Romans always kept a fire burning in Vesta’s shrine in Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myth</strong></td>
<td>Vesta was beautiful and both Apollo and Neptune asked for her hand in marriage. However, she did not want to marry. Vesta asked her brother Jupiter if she could stay unmarried and he granted her request.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Match the Roman gods and goddesses to their Greek equivalent.

- **Mars** → Zeus
- **Juno** → Ares
- **Minerva** → Hades
- **Jupiter** → Aphrodite
- **Venus** → Hera
- **Pluto** → Athena
FACT FILE

Create a fact file for your favourite Roman god or goddess.

Name:

Role:

Draw a picture:

Description:

Special powers:

Interesting facts:
1. Name three ways the Romans worshiped their gods.

2. Which gods most influenced the Roman gods?

3. What did Romans think was the cause of lightning?

4. Which god would Roman soldiers pray to before battle?

5. Which goddess is cereal named after?

6. Which god is the Greek version of Mercury?

7. What is unusual about the birth of Minerva?

8. Name three roles of the goddess Juno.
MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. How did the Romans worship their gods?
   - Building temples
   - Making sacrifices
   - Festivals
   - All of the above

2. Which gods most influenced the Roman gods?
   - Hindu
   - Egyptian
   - Mayan
   - Greek

3. What did Romans think was the cause of lightning?
   - Electricity
   - Jupiter throwing lightning bolts
   - The anger of Hera
   - Thor’s hammer

4. Which god would Roman soldiers pray to before battle?
   - Ares
   - Vesta
   - Anubis
   - Mars

5. Which goddess is cereal named after?
   - Diana
   - Cheerio
   - Cerberus
   - Ceres

6. Which god is the Greek version of Mercury?
   - Demeter
   - Hermes
   - Hephaestus
   - Hades

7. Which god had the same name for both the Greeks and the Romans?
   - Apollo
   - Artemis
   - Zeus
   - Vulcan
Circle T (True) or F (False) for each of the following statements.

1. Romans built shrines to worship their gods.  
   T  F

2. Egyptian gods most influenced the Roman gods.  
   T  F

3. Romans thought Thor’s hammer caused lightning.  
   T  F

4. Soldiers prayed to Mars before battle.  
   T  F

5. Cereal is named after the goddess Diana.  
   T  F

6. The Greek version of Mercury is Hades.  
   T  F

7. Artemis had the same name for both the Greeks and the Romans.  
   T  F
This game works the same as the traditional memory game except you can match the god/goddess card with the description. Alternatively, you could print out two copies of each card and match either the description or the identical card.

These cards can also be combined with the cards in Ancient Roman Mythical Beasts lesson.

**PRINTING**

Card Paper: We recommend 220gsm card paper for inkjet printers. Optionally you can use the pattern page provided to print on the back of the cards.

Plain Paper: You can print on plain paper as well. If so, the optional back pattern will show through to the front of the cards.

**ARRANGEMENT**

Using one copy of all 30 cards you can have six columns and five rows.

**GAME PLAY**

If a player does not make a match it is the next player’s turn. If they do make a match they put the matched cards in their pile face-up and play again. Try getting the players to call out the name of the god or goddess on the card they flip. Make sure they let their opponents see the cards. Each player counts the number of cards in their pile at the end to determine the winner.
**JUPITER**

- **Greek Name**: Zeus
- **Symbol**: Thunderbolt
- **Special Powers**: Throwing thunder & shapeshifting
- **God of sky & thunder**
- **King of the gods**
- **Patron god of Rome**

**NEPTUNE**

- **Greek Name**: Poseidon
- **Symbol**: Trident
- **Family**: Brother of Jupiter
- **God of sea and fresh water**

**VULCAN**

- **Greek Name**: Hephaestus
- **Symbol**: Blacksmith’s hammer
- **Family**: Son of Juno, Husband of Venus
- **God of fire**
- **Blacksmith of the gods**

**VENUS**

- **Greek Name**: Aphrodite
- **Symbol**: Roses, myrtle, pearls
- **Family**: Wife of Vulcan
- **Godess of love**
- **Patron of women**
**CERES**
Greek Name: Demeter
Family: Jupiter's sister
Symbol: Sheaf of grain
Special powers: Controls fertility

**JUNO**
Greek Name: Hera
Family: Wife (and sister) to Jupiter
Sacred Animal: Peacock
Special powers: Queen of the gods, Protector of women, Patron goddess of Rome

**DIANA**
Greek Name: Artemis
Family: Apollo's twin
Symbol: Bow and Arrow
Special powers: Goddess of the hunt

**MERCURY**
Greek Name: Hermes
Family: Jupiter's son
Symbol: Winged helmet
Special powers: Messenger of the gods, Could fly fast

**Diana**
Greek Name: Artemis
Family: Apollo's twin
Symbol: Bow and Arrow
Special powers: Goddess of the hunt
1. How did the Romans worship their gods?
   A. Building temples
   B. Making sacrifices
   C. Festivals
   D. All of the above

2. Which gods most influenced the Roman gods?
   A. Hindu
   B. Egyptian
   C. Mayan
   D. Greek

3. What did Romans think was the cause of lightning?
   A. Electricity
   B. Jupiter throwing lightning bolts
   C. The anger of Hera
   D. Thor’s hammer

4. Which god would Roman soldiers pray to before battle?
   A. Ares
   B. Vesta
   C. Anubis
   D. Mars

5. Which goddess is cereal named after?
   A. Diana
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6. Which god is the Greek version of Mercury?
   A. Demeter
   B. Hermes
   C. Hephaestus
   D. Hades

7. Which god had the same name for both the Greeks and the Romans?
   A. Apollo
   B. Artemis
   C. Zeus
   D. Vulcan
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Name three ways the Romans worshipped their gods.
   - *Sacrifices, temples, shrines and festivals*

2. Which gods most influenced the Roman gods?
   - *The Greek gods*

3. What did Romans think was the cause of lightning?
   - *Jupiter throwing lightning bolts*

4. Which god would Roman soldiers pray to before battle?
   - *Mars*

5. Which goddess is cereal named after?
   - *Ceres*

6. Which god is the Greek version of Mercury?
   - *Hermes*

7. What is unusual about the birth of Minerva?
   - *She was born from Jupiter’s head*

8. Name three roles of the goddess Juno.
   - *Queen of the gods, Protector of women, Goddess of marriage, Patron goddess of Rome*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>True or False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Romans built shrines to worship their gods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Egyptian gods most influenced the Roman gods.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>The Greek version of Mercury is Hades.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Artemis had the same name for both the Greeks and the Romans.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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