






Ancient Rome: GODS AND MYTHOLOGY

The Romans believed in many **gods**. They looked and acted like humans. The Romans thought the gods controlled everything that happened, from rain to people getting sick. They took on many of the gods from the people they conquered, especially **Greek** gods. Romans had a **shrine** in their house to worship their personal household god.

ROMAN GODS

Much of Greek mythology was adopted by the Romans. They took most of the Greek gods and gave them Roman names. Below are some major Roman gods who came from the Greeks:

ROMAN GOD	GREEK EQUIVALENT	DESCRIPTION
Jupiter	Zeus	-King of the gods -god of thunder and lightning -Patron God of Rome
Juno	Hera	-Jupiter's wife -queen of the gods -Protector of Rome
Mars	Ares	-god of war -Jupiter and Juno's son
Mercury	Hermes	-god of trade
Neptune	Poseidon	-god of the sea -brother of Jupiter -Patron of horses -Weapon was a great trident
Venus	Aphrodite	-god of love and beauty
Apollo	Apollo	-god of music, poetry, and archery -twin sister, Diana
Diana	Artemis	-goddess of the hunt, archery, and animals -symbols: moon, snake, bow & arrow
Minerva	Athena	-goddess of wisdom

ROMAN GOD	GREEK EQUIVALENT	DESCRIPTION
Ceres 	Demeter	-goddess of agriculture and the seasons -word "cereal" comes from Ceres
Vulcan	Hephaestus	-blacksmith for the rest of the gods -god of fire -word "volcano" comes from Vulcan 
Bacchus	Dionysus	-god of wine and theatre -youngest of the major gods -mortal 
Pluto	Hades	-God of the Underworld 
Proserpine	Persephone	-Goddess of the Underworld 

ROMULUS AND REMUS

According to Roman mythology, Rome was founded by two twin gods named **Romulus** and **Remus**. Both wished to found a new city. Romulus wanted it to be on **Palatine Hill**, but Remus wanted it on **Aventine Hill**. They fought and Romulus killed Remus and founded the city of Rome.

IMPERIAL CULT

The emperors of Rome were deified, or turned into god status starting with **Julius Caesar**. This gave Roman leaders even more power. Most emperors were made into gods except for certain bad ones, like **Nero** and **Tiberius**. This practice lasted until Emperor **Constantine** converted to **Christianity**.



CHRISTIANITY

Because the Romans believed in many gods and **Christians** believed in just one true God, Christians were often persecuted by Romans. Christians were told at one point to either worship and sacrifice the Roman gods or they would be killed in the arenas by lions. Emperor **Constantine** converted to **Christianity** when he came into power, stopping the persecution.

Name _____

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IDENTIFY: Use the word bank to identify each description.

Romulus	Jupiter	Caesar	shrine	Pluto
Venus	Greeks	Neptune	Mars	Constantine

	1. Roman leaders were turned into gods, starting with him
	2. Much of their mythology was adopted by Romans
	3. Goddess of love and beauty
	4. God of war
	5. Roman leader who converted Rome to Christianity
	6. Romans had these in their homes to worship their gods
	7. God of the sea
	8. Founded the city of Rome
	9. King of gods
	10. God of the underworld

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

11. Which of the following best completes the analogy below?
Neptune : Trident :: _____ : Bow and Arrow

- A. Persephone
- B. Hades
- C. Mars
- D. Diana

12. Which Roman god or goddess has the **same** name in Greek mythology?

- A. Jupiter
- B. Apollo
- C. Mars
- D. Venus

13. Which Roman god or goddess controlled the seasons?

- A. Jupiter
- B. Persephone
- C. Ceres
- D. Diana

14. Which two Roman gods or goddesses were twins?

- A. Diana and Apollo
- B. Hades and Persephone
- C. Mars and Jupiter
- D. Venus and Neptune

15. How were Christians in Rome mostly treated prior to Constantine's rule?

- A. They were allowed to practice Christianity freely.
- B. They were persecuted and threatened.
- C. They were exiled from Rome.
- D. They were viewed as criminals.

