

# Romans

## Gods and Goddesses



# Aim

- I can understand what religious beliefs the Romans had and know about some of the gods and goddesses that they worshipped.

# Success Criteria

- I can explain the different elements of Roman religion.
- I can tell you the names of some of the main Roman gods and goddesses and write about what they represented to the Roman people.

# Roman Religion

In the earlier Roman times, the Roman people believed in many different gods and goddesses whom they believed controlled different aspects of their lives.

They did not have a central belief system of their own as such, but rather borrowed gods, rituals and superstitions from a number of sources and adapted them to suit their own needs. The Romans believed in good and bad omens and they performed many rituals in the hope of receiving good luck. Prayer and sacrifice was important and the Romans held festivals every month to honour the gods. They would worship their gods and goddesses at temples.



# Elements of Religion



Read through the Roman religion information text. Discuss the words below with your partner and work out what they mean. You can use dictionaries to help you. Why did the Romans have/do these things?

omen

prayer

ritual

superstition

sacrifice

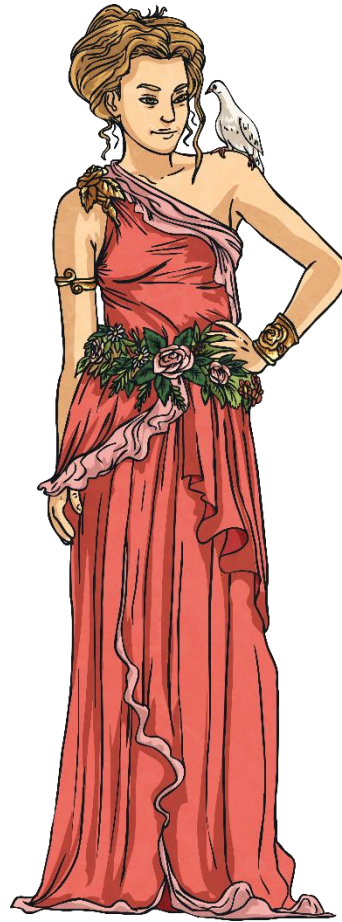
festivals

worship



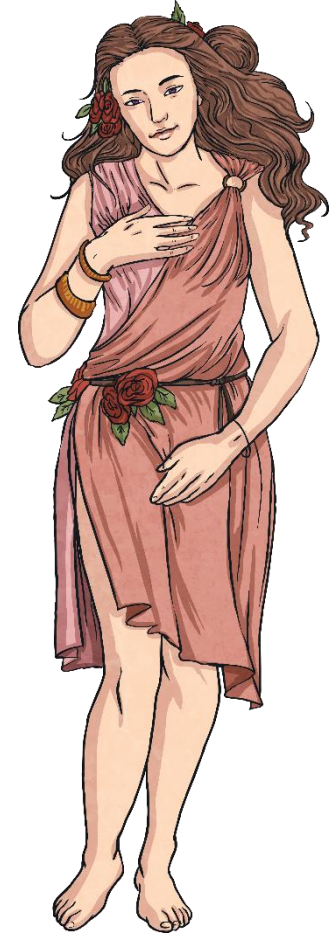
# Roman Gods and Goddesses

The Romans had lots of gods and goddesses. Many of their gods and goddesses are the same as the Greek gods, but with different names. They make things very confusing! We are going to look at some of the more popular Roman gods and goddesses. If they sound familiar, the table on the following slide might help you to recognise the Greek gods and goddesses of the same name.



Aphrodite

or...



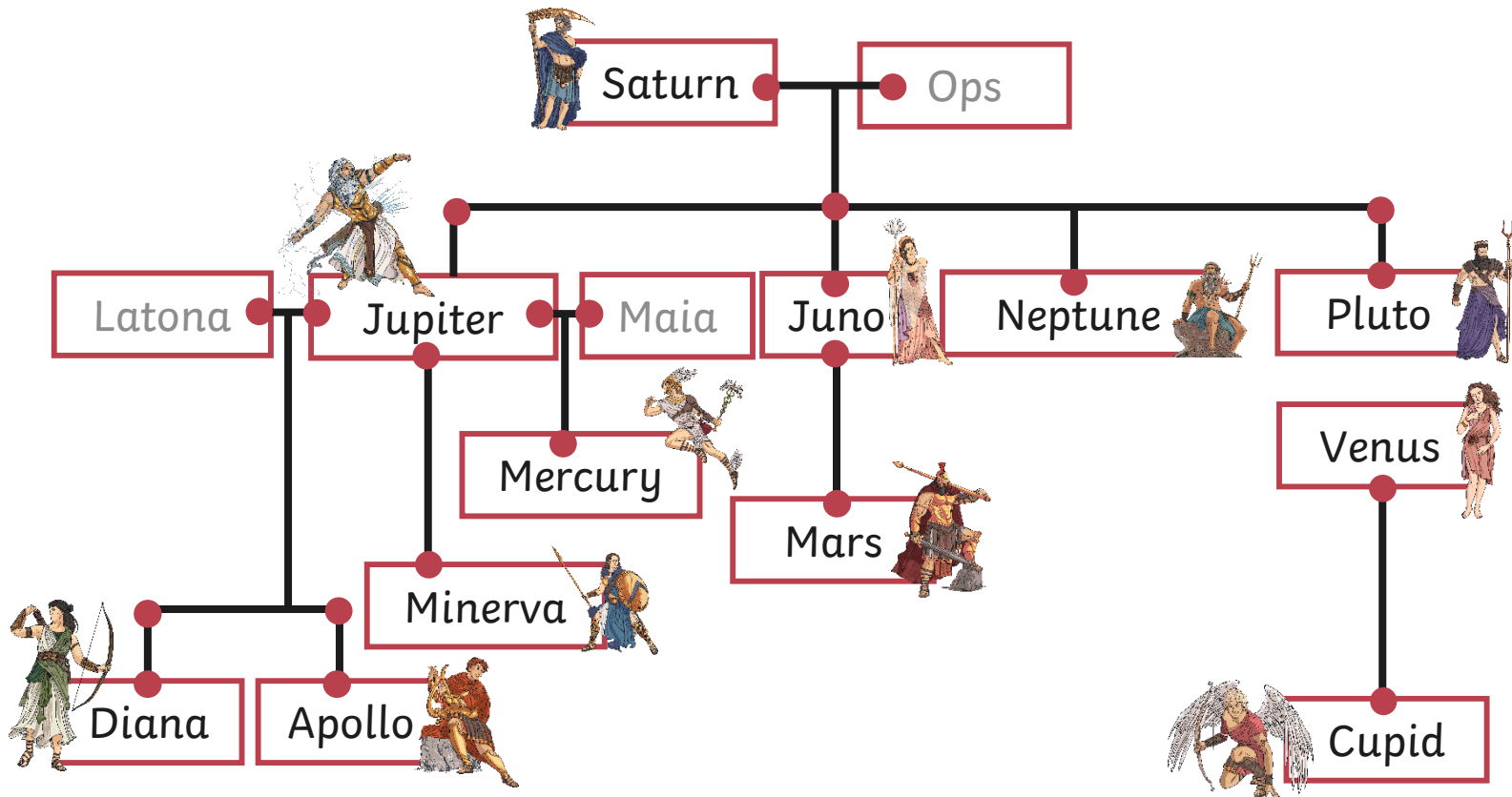
Venus?

# Comparing Gods

Roman God	Greek God	God/Goddess of...
Saturn	Cronus	God of Time
Jupiter	Zeus	King of the Gods
Juno	Hera	Queen of the Gods
Neptune	Poseidon	God of the Sea
Pluto	Hades	God of the Underworld
Minerva	Athena	Goddess of Wisdom
Mars	Ares	God of War
Venus	Aphrodite	Goddess of Love
Mercury	Hermes	Messenger to the Gods
Apollo	Apollo	God of the Sun
Diana	Artemis	Goddess of the Moon
Cupid	Eros	God of Love

# A God Family Tree

Most of the gods and goddesses were related to each other. Have a look at this family tree to see how our twelve gods and goddesses were linked.



# Gods and Goddesses Details

Now let's have a closer look at some of the Roman gods.





# Saturn: God of Time

**Father of Jupiter, Pluto, Neptune, Juno, Ceres and Vesta.  
Married to Ops, Mother Goddess.**

The Saturnalia festival lasted seven days and was similar to our Christmas today.



# Jupiter: King of the Gods and Heavens

**Son of Saturn. Brother of Pluto and Neptune.  
Married to Juno, who was also his sister.**

Jupiter could shape-shift (make his body look like something else, e.g. an animal) and throw his voice.

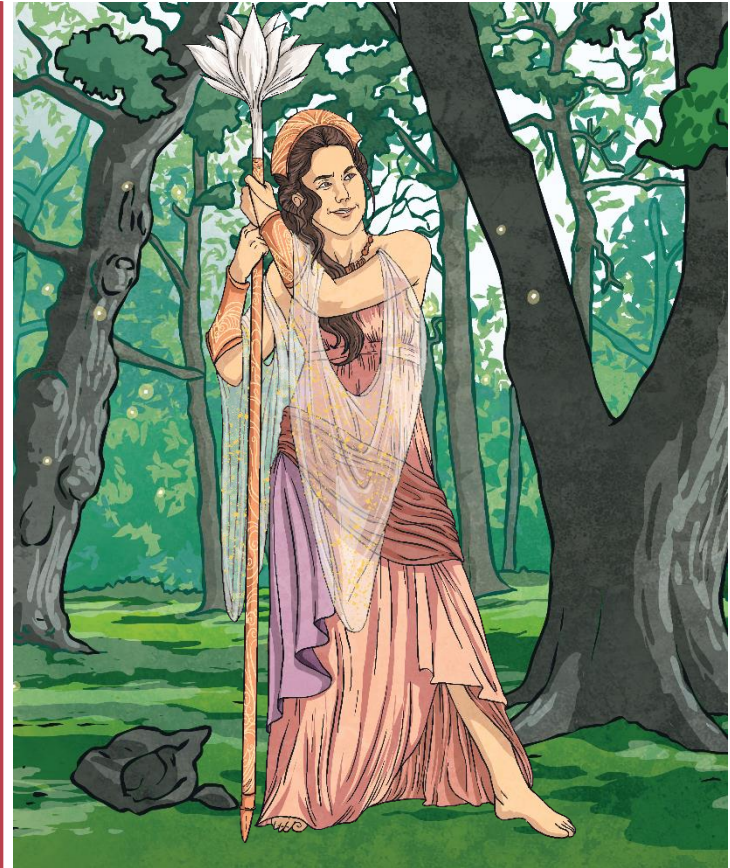


# Juno: Queen of the Gods

**Married to Jupiter.**

**Mother of Mars, Natio, Juventa and Vulcan**

There was a festival every year on the  
1<sup>st</sup> March to honour Juno.



# Neptune: God of the Seas

Brother of Jupiter and Pluto.

Neptune was also the god of earthquakes, known as the **Earth-Shaker**.



# Pluto: God of the Underworld

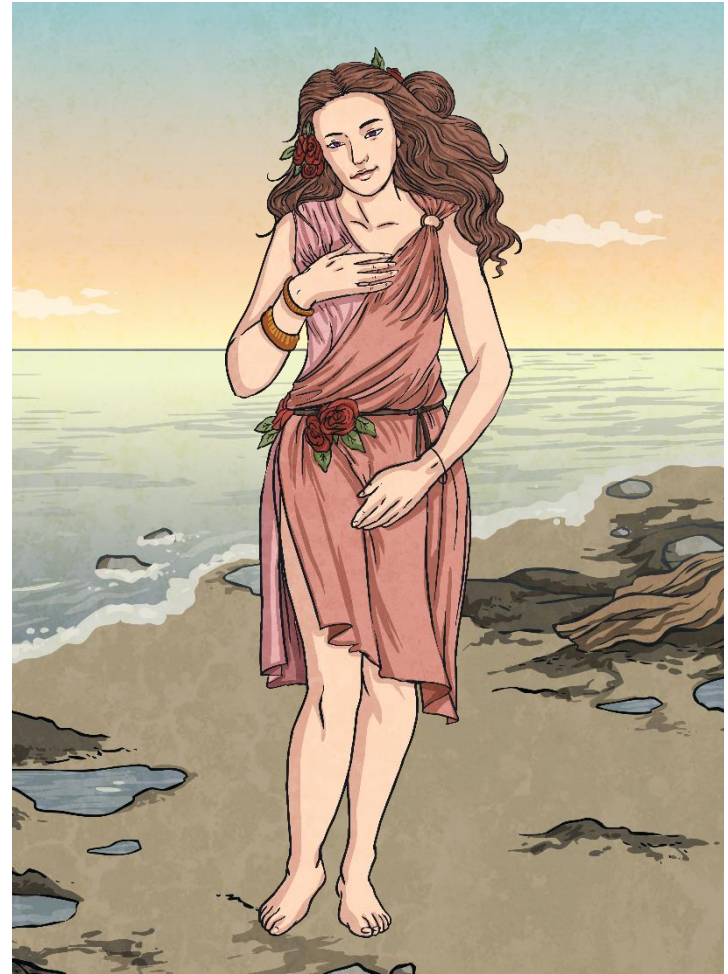
Brother of Jupiter and Neptune.

He had a three-headed dog called Cerberus.

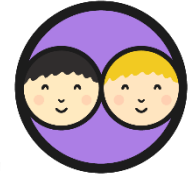


# Venus: Goddess of Love and Beauty

Her sign was a rose.



# Gods Games



Work with your partner to play or make a game to help you learn and remember facts about the Roman gods and goddesses.

## ★ Match up the Gods Pairs Game

I can tell you the names of some of the main Roman gods and write about what they represented to the Roman people.

### How to Play

Play with a partner. Lay all of the cards face down on the table in a random pattern. Take it in turns to turn over two cards. Read the fact on the card out loud. If the facts are about the same god or goddess, you can keep the matching set and take another turn. If the cards do not match, put them back down and try to remember where they are. It is then the next player's turn.

The winner is the player who collected the most matching pairs.



fact fact obstacle bonus fact

## Roman Gods

Fact Cards

Obstacle Cards

Bonus Cards

fact

fact

fact

**Mars**  
God of War

Power	Skills
Weapon	Importance

Fact

Mercury was the youngest son of Jupiter.

# What Have You Learnt?

Can you think of an interesting fact to share?





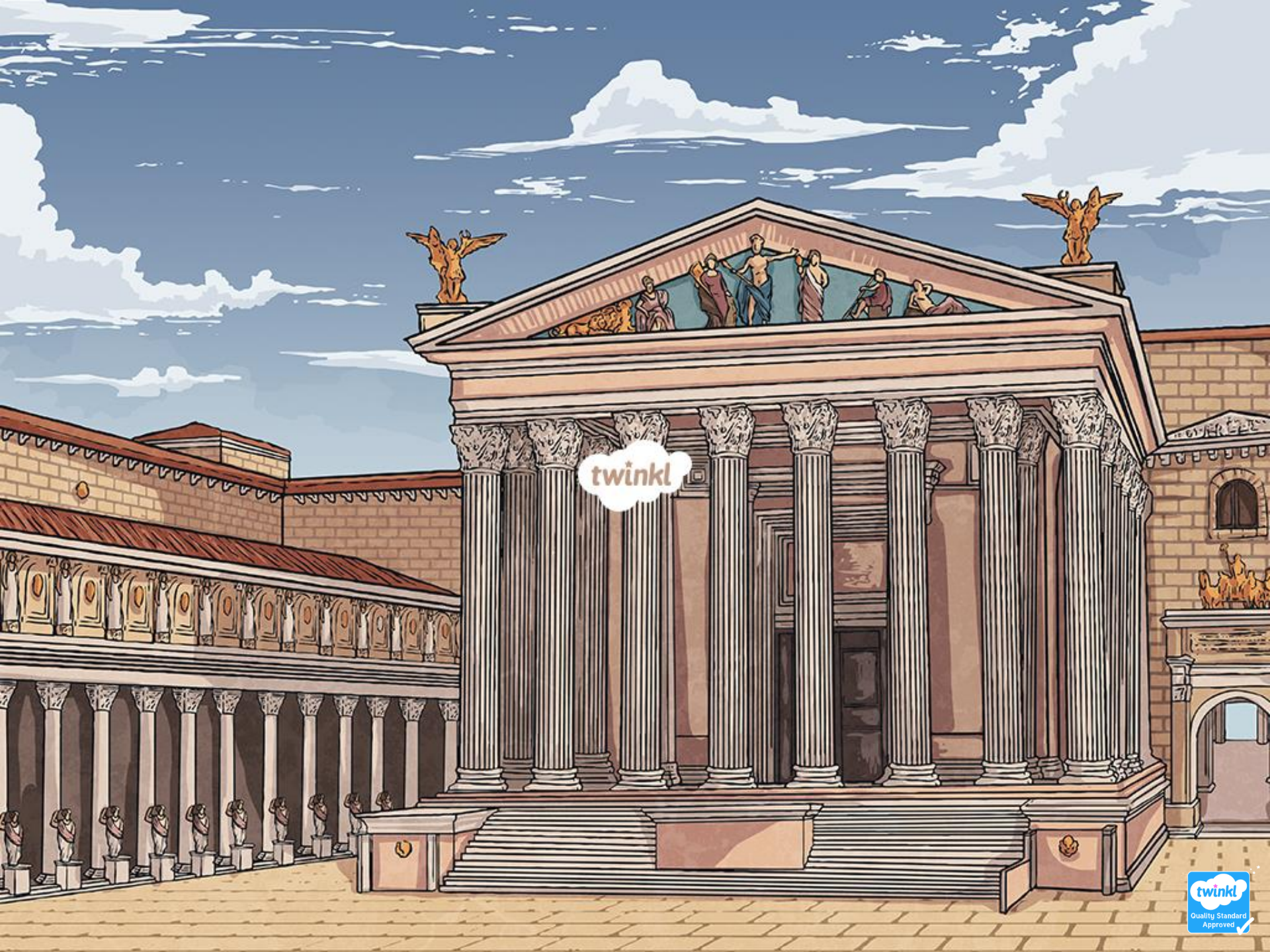
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