

Great gods

The Romans believed that there were many gods and goddesses who controlled different areas of life. Neptune, for example, was the god of the sea and if you went on a boat trip, you would have prayed to him to protect you. Venus was the goddess of love and beauty, so if you had a crush on someone and didn't know how to tell them, you would have asked her for help. Temples were built to honour

JUPITER

He was the king of the gods and the most important and powerful god for the

JUNO

The queen of the gods and Jupiter's wife, this goddess protected women,

MINERVA

The daughter of Juno and Jupiter was the goddess of arts, crafts and knowledge.



Did you know...?
Only emperors were allowed to wear the colour purple.

ROME RULES!

For the first 250 years, Rome was ruled by kings. Then, it became a republic governed by a council of 600 rich men (the senate) and two consuls. In 27BC,

Augustus took all the power for himself, founded the Roman Empire and became its first emperor. Take a look at the faces of some famous Roman leaders. Can you



1. LIVIA

This powerful and clever empress reigned together with her husband, Augustus. There were statues of her all over the empire and she

2. NERO

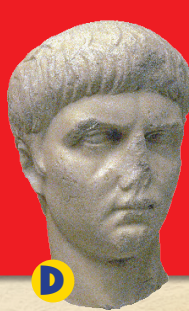
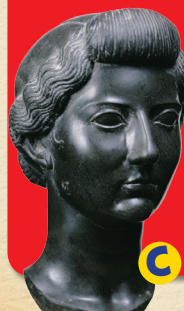
Not-so-nice Nero was perhaps the cruellest Roman emperor. He persecuted hundreds of Christians, and killed his two wives and his

3. CAESAR

The most famous Roman leader and commander wore a laurel wreath to hide his lack of hair! Caesar was in love with Cleopatra, who became

4. AUGUSTUS

Rome's first emperor has the month of August named after him. Legend has it that Augustus died of poisoned figs offered to him by his wife,



Answers: A, 3, B, 4, C, 1, D, 2.

Army in action!

How did the Romans manage to build such a big empire? With a strong army which conquered new lands! During battle, a Roman soldier or "legionary" first hurled his throwing spear towards the enemy, then he fought him with a sword. To protect himself, he carried a shield of wood and wore a helmet and armour made from metal. Some soldiers used giant catapults to fire rocks or balls of burning tar at the enemy – yikes! When they weren't at war, legionaries secured the frontiers in military bases throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. After some 20 years of service,



CLEVER COMBAT

The Roman legionaries used clever methods. For example, they could turn themselves into a 'tortoise'! That's what they called a special fighting technique where



Did you know...?
The Roman army could march up to 40km a day!



Building an empire



The Romans didn't spend all their time fighting - they were also amazing architects and engineers! They built roads, walls and aqueducts – things we take for granted today, but which were new ideas in Roman times! The roads were made from big, flat stones that were laid on layers of clay, chalk and gravel. They were slightly higher in the middle than at the sides so that rain water could drain off. Roads were important for the Romans because they allowed them to move their army quickly to an area if there were riots. The Romans also erected stone walls to keep out 'barbarians' and to mark their

SHOWTIME!

In their capital, Rome, the Romans built the largest arena of their empire: the Colosseum. In this amphitheatre, men and women fought against each other, or against tigers

