

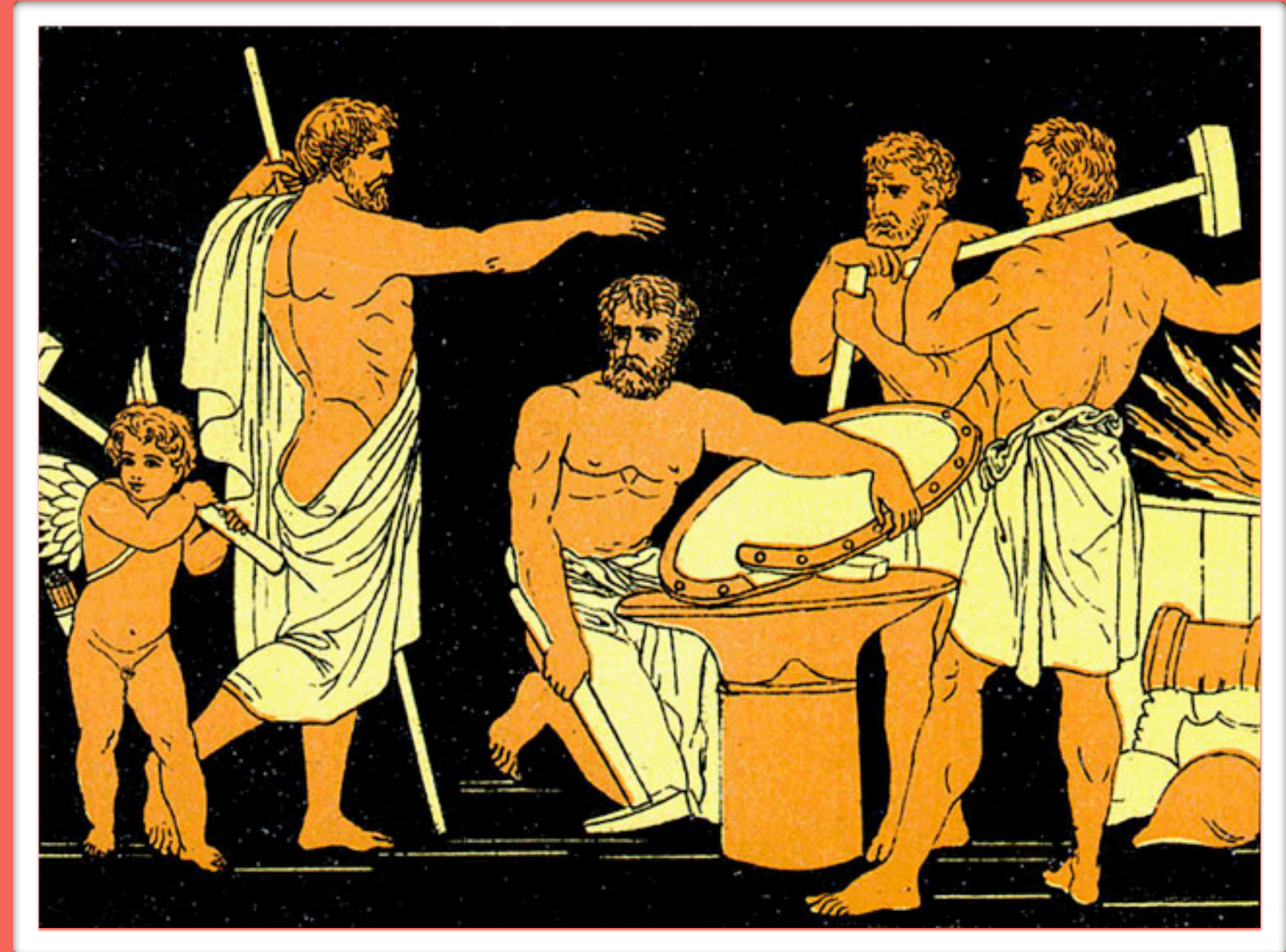


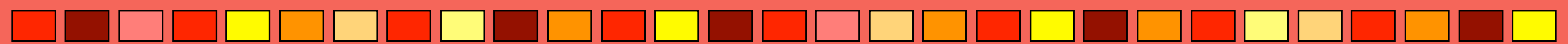
The Romans

Learning Objective:

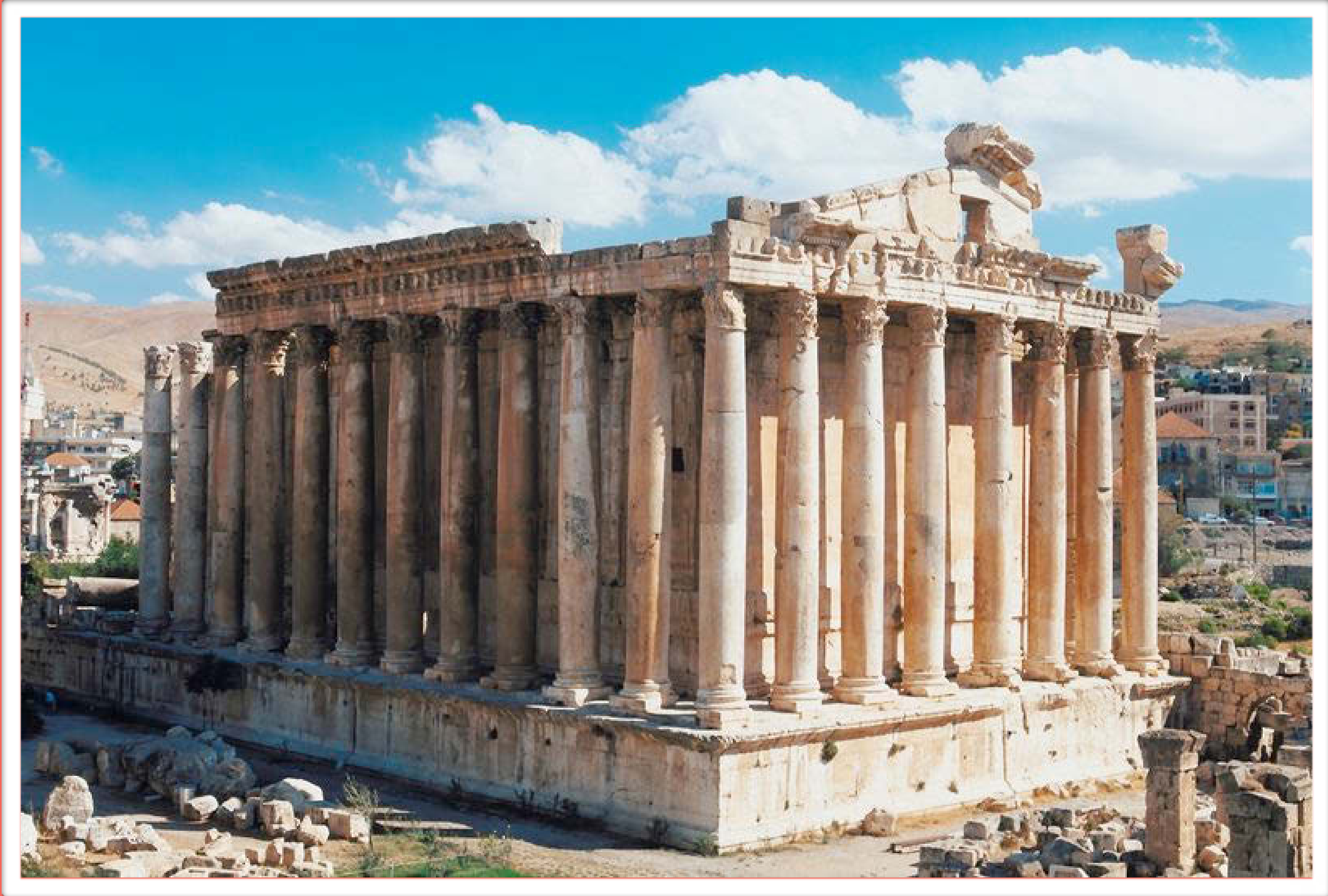
To find out what the Romans believed and to investigate the gods and goddesses of ancient Rome.

Religion was a part of everyday life in ancient Rome. The Romans didn't believe in just one god but had many different gods and goddesses. They believed that the gods controlled different aspects of their lives and that the gods were all around them. As the Roman empire expanded, new gods were adopted into Roman religion. Many of the Roman gods were also the same as the ancient Greek gods except with different names.





The ancient Romans would go to the temple everyday to give offerings of meat and other gifts such as flowers to the gods. In the temples and in different places around the city there were also lots of statues of different gods and goddesses.

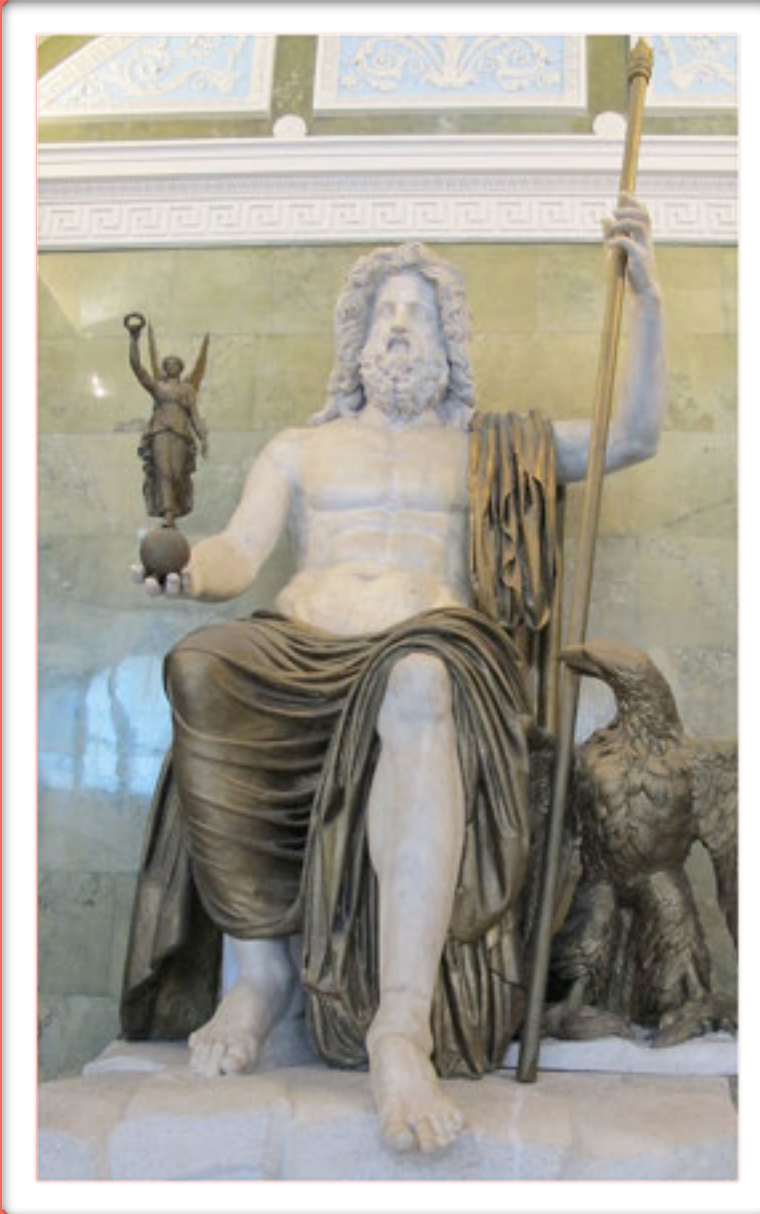


Remains of a Roman temple

Statute of Venus, a Roman goddess



Jupiter



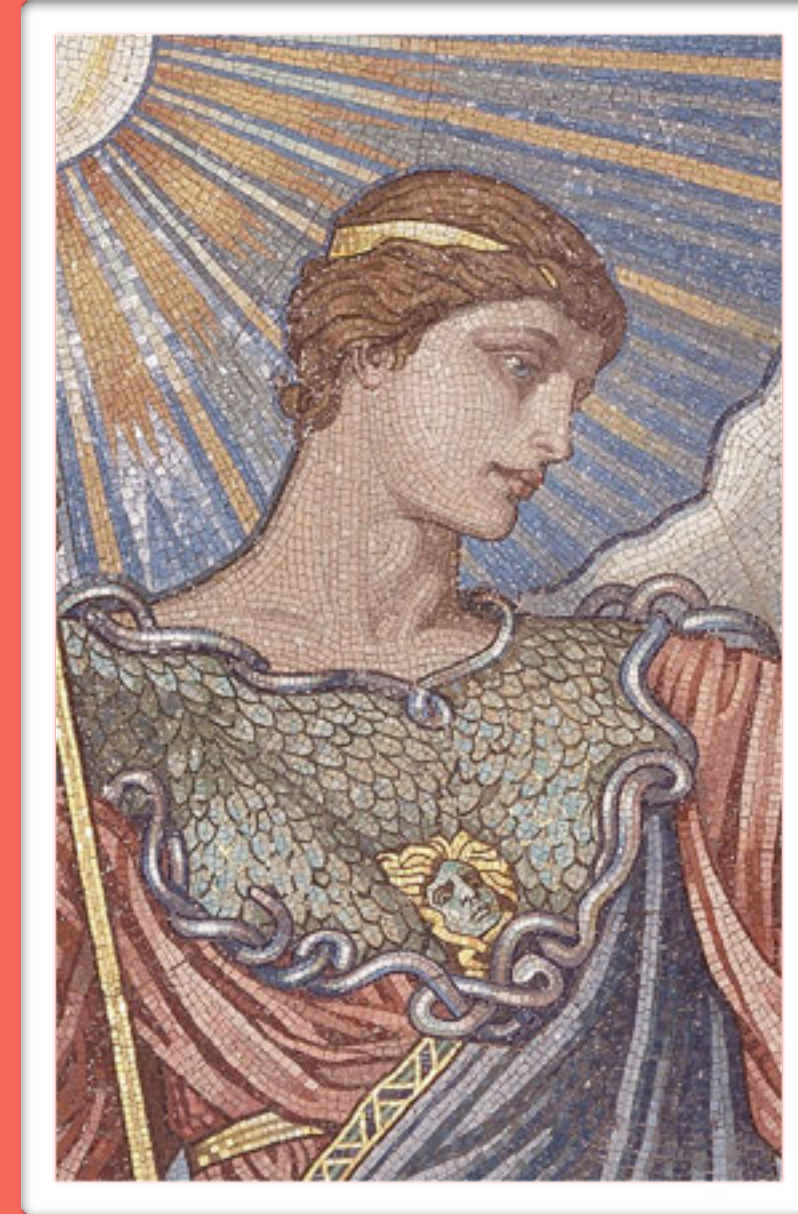
Jupiter is the supreme Roman god. He was the son of Saturn. Jupiter is the god of light and sky. His Greek name is Zeus.

Juno



Juno was the wife of Jupiter. She was the protector of Rome and guarded over the finances of the empire. Her Greek name is Hera.

Minerva



Minerva was the goddess of wisdom. She was also the goddess of poetry, medicine and warriors. Her Greek name is Athena.

Vesta



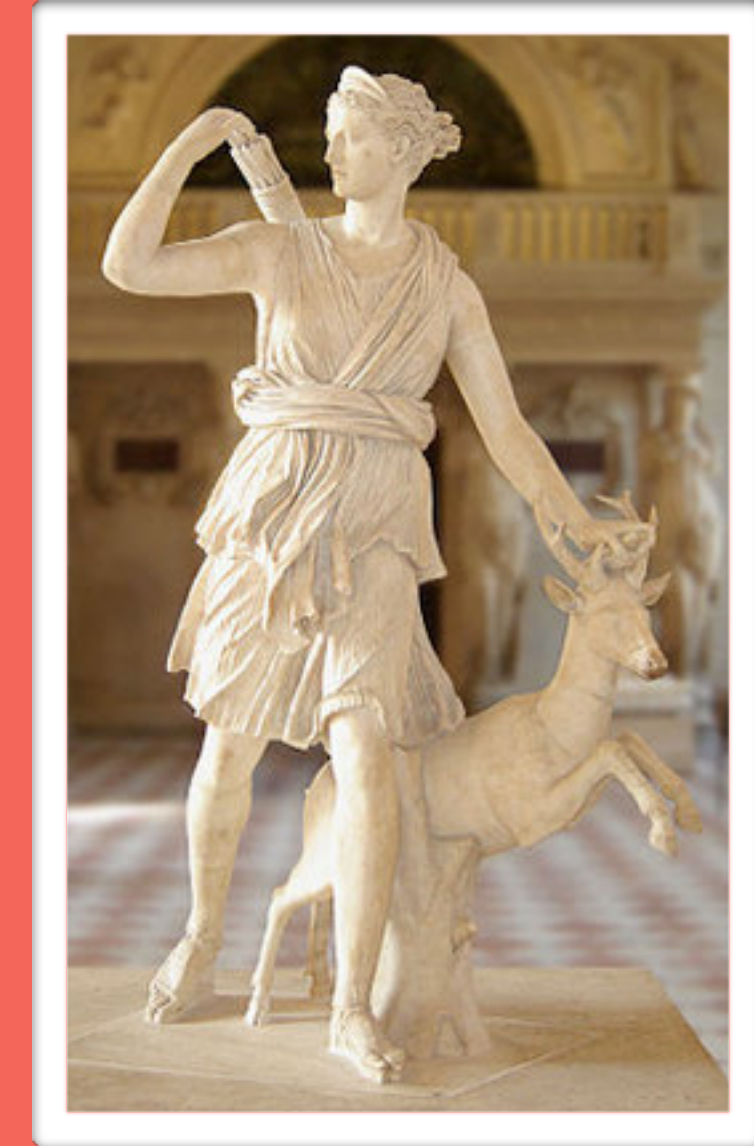
Vesta was the goddess of the hearth. She was worshipped in people's homes and was one of the most popular deities. Her Greek name is Hestia.

Ceres



Ceres was the daughter of Saturn and Rhea. She was the goddess of crops and motherly love. Her Greek name is Demeter.

Diana



Diana was the goddess of hunting and the moon. She was favoured by the lower classes in Rome. Her Greek name is Artemis.

Venus



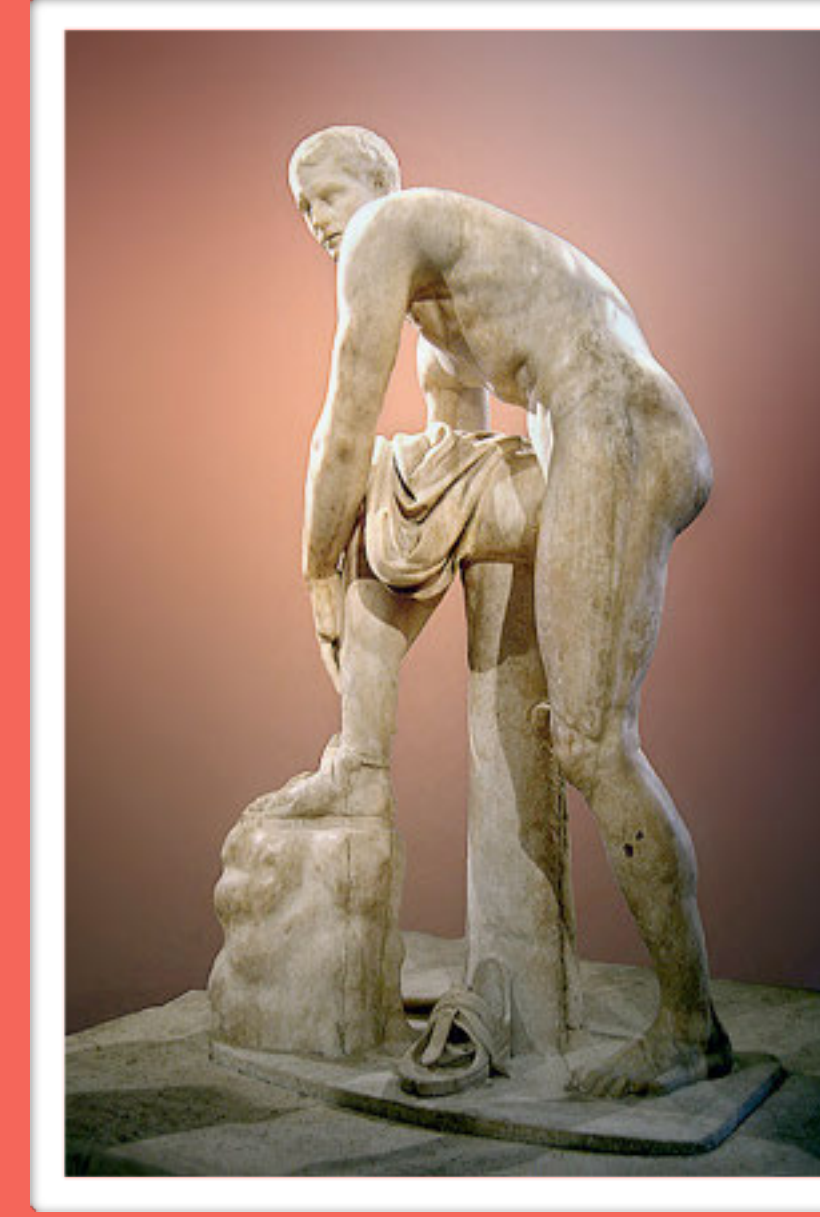
Venus was the goddess of love and beauty although originally she was the goddess of plants. Her Greek name is Aphrodite.

Mars



Mars was the son of Jupiter and Juno and was the Roman god of war. He was a very popular god. His Greek name is Ares.

Mercury



Mercury was originally the god of trade and merchants but in later times became the messenger god just like the Greek Hermes.

Neptune



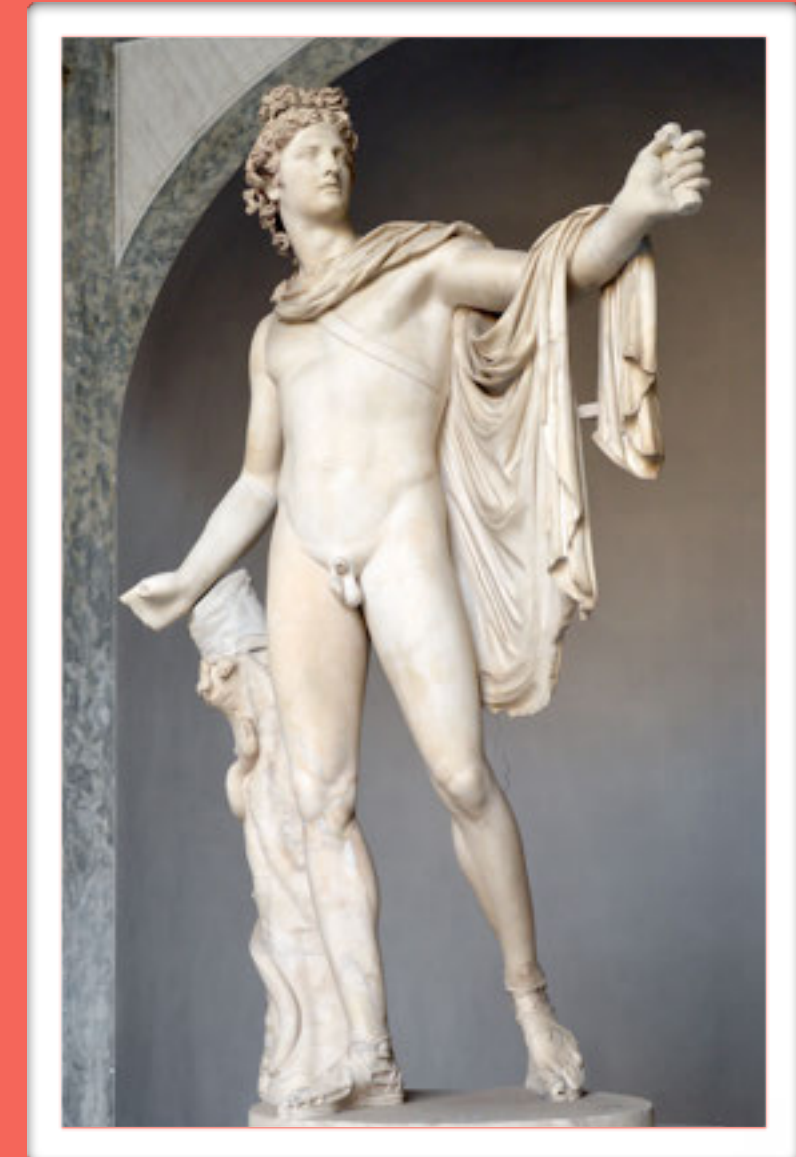
Neptune was the brother of Jupiter and Pluto and the Roman god of the sea. His Greek name is Poseidon.

Vulcan



Vulcan was the husband of Venus. He was the god of fire as well as the god of iron work, arms and armour. His Greek name was Hephaestus.

Apollo



Apollo was the god of healing, dance, prophecy and music. Apollo was not originally a Roman god but a Greek god.