



CHAPTER 3: THE ROMAN GODS

Romans and the Olympians

1. The Romans believed that Jupiter protected the city of Rome. List three ways in which the Romans honoured Jupiter.

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Why was Venus very special to the Romans? _____

3. What could you have seen on the Campus Martius in ancient Rome? _____

Household gods: Vesta, Lares and Penates

4. Why was Vesta such an important goddess? _____

5. What was the difference between the Lares and the Penates? _____

Consider Figure 3.2: Lararium from the House of Menander in Pompeii

- What was this object used for? _____

- What evidence is there that this object belonged to a wealthy family? _____



6. Who were the Vestal Virgins? What was their role and why was it so important? _____

Janus

7. Janus was the god of _____

8. What was unusual about the way Janus looked? _____

9. What did it mean if the doors of the temple of Janus Geminus were closed? _____

Personified deities

10. What sort of gods were personified deities? _____

Men become gods: Quirinus and Julius Caesar

11. After Romulus died, what name was given to him as a god? _____

12. What sign appeared after Julius Caesar died that made the Romans think that he had become a god? _____

Romans and the gods from other communities

13. Why did the Romans combine their own gods with the gods of other communities?

