



## CHAPTER 6: PROPHECY

### Fate and prophecy

1. What is a prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_

2. List the Roman names for the three Fates and the role each Fate had.

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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the Romans, was it possible to change your destiny? \_\_\_\_\_

### Omens

4. What is an omen? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What omen did Gaius Marius receive? What did he believe it meant? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How did the Romans interpret the omen of thunder? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Auspices and augurs

7. What role did an augur have? What were auspices? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Consider Figure 6.3: Bronze liver

- What name was given to the priests who inspected the organs of sacrificial animals?

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- What was the purpose of this bronze liver? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. The Romans believed that the gods could communicate with people through the appearance and behaviour of birds. How did the sacred chickens communicate the will of the gods to the Romans?

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**Oracles: the Sibyl and the Sibylline Books**

9. What was a Sibyl? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. One Sibyl offered to sell nine books of prophecy to the Roman king, Tarquinius Superbus. Why did he only buy three of them? What happened to the books that he bought? \_\_\_\_\_

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