



CHAPTER 14:

VIRGIL AND OVID - Epic Poetry

The influence of Greek literature on Roman writers

1. What did the Romans feel was an indicator of a well-educated person?

Epic poetry

2. Who was Homer and which works are usually attributed to him?

3. List three features of 'epic poetry'.

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Didactic epic

4. What is the difference between epic poems such as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* and didactic epic?

5. Who is the earliest known writer of didactic epic?

6. In your own opinion, do you think poetry is a good medium for learning? Why or why not?



Roman epic

6. What is the topic of the first Roman epic? _____

7. Who were the two most famous writers of Roman epic and what did they write?

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- _____

Virgil: love and war

8. Virgil's *Aeneid* is often considered to be influenced by the works of Homer. How is this influence shown?

9. Virgil's *Aeneid* tells of Rome's distant past: how did Virgil make this story relevant to contemporary Rome?

Consider Figure 14.3

- The muses of history and tragedy are seen standing behind Virgil in this mosaic. Why do you think the artist chose these muses?



Ovid: mock epic

10. Explain the meaning of the term *mock epic*. _____

11. Explain the meaning of the word *metamorphosis*.

12. List three of the metamorphoses Ovid writes about. You may wish to consider Figure 14.4 to help you.

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