**Vocabulary List for The Roman Forum**

**General Vocabulary List**

**Aniconic -** lacking a visual or literal representation, often in the case of a religion or belief system.

**Attribute -** an object closely associated with someone or something.

**Centumviral Court -** a civil court which dealt with private matters such as wills and loans. *Centumviri* means 100 men, which was the original number of judges chosen to serve on the court. The Court met in the Curia Julia.

**Deification -** the act of making one a god or an object of worship. Some emperors and empresses were deified after death.

**Fascinum -** a sacred phallus that was kept in the Shrine of the Vestal Virgins.

**Military Standards -** a flag or banner that identified a Roman military unit and helped rally soldiers

**Palladium -** a small wooden statue of the goddess Athena, according to tradition, was not made by human hands but fell to earth near Troy. When Troy was destroyed, the Trojan prince Aeneas saved the Palladium and brought it to Italy. After being venerated elsewhere, it eventually made its way to the Temple of Vesta, establishing a link between Rome and Troy.

**Phrygian Cap -** a conical cap, which is often worn by Parthians as shown in art and monuments.

**Polychrome -** painted in different colors.

**Architectural Terms**

**Acroteria -** decoration or sculptureat the edge or corner of the roof of a building.

**Anaglyph -** a carving done in low-relief.

**Architrave** - the lowest part of the entablature that rests directly on top of the column capitals.

**Basilica -** a large public building that served multiple functions. They were typically rectangular and open along one side or end. Most forums in Rome and elsewhere in the Roman world had at least one basilica. Basilicas

**Brick stamps -** identifying marks used in buildings that sometimes included information about the year the bricks were produced, thereby helping establish the “post-quem” date, or a date “after which” the building must have been made. This can often have a dramatic impact on our understanding of a Roman building.

**Cella** - the inner area of a temple, especially the area where the cult statue is housed.

**Cipollino** - a white-and-green marble from Euboea in Greece. This is a very commonly used marble in Roman Imperial architecture.

**Clerestory** - A high section of a wall with high windows above eye level that allow natural light to illuminate the interior of a building.

**Corinthian -** one of the Classical orders (styles) of architecture. Corinthian columns have acanthus leaves decorating the capital, or top portion of the column.

**Cornice** - the top most portion of an entablature.

**Dei Consentes** - listing of the 12 major Olympian gods. There was a sanctuary dedicated to the gods known as the Porticus Deorum Consentium, or Portico of the Harmonious Gods.

**Doric -** one of the Classical orders (styles) of architecture. Doric columns have a simple circle at the top or capital portion of the column.

**Entablature -** the horizontal section of a classical building that rests on top of columns, generally broken into three sections: the architrave, frieze and cornice.

**Façade** - One side, generally the front of a building, often with special architectural treatment.

**Forum -** A “forum” is a large, open-air civic space used for a variety of purposes. In English, we would call such a space a “plaza” or a “square.” The Roman Forum was undoubtedly the most versatile, as well as the most significant, of the public plazas in Rome. “Forum” is related to the word “foris”, which means “outside,” “out of doors.”

**Frieze** - the middle section of an entablature, often decorated.

**Hexastyle prostyle -** when a building has a row of 6 columns across the front.

**Ionic -** one of the Classical orders (styles) of architecture. Ionic columns have a scroll-like shape at the top or capital.

**Mausoleum -** a large tomb or freestanding structure that was used to house the dead.

**Nave** -a central hall or section of a basilica or later, church. See Basilica Aemelia stop.

**Octastyle -** when a building has a row of 8 columns across the front.

**Peperino -** adark gray stone local to the area around central Italy.

**Peripteral -** a building that has a single row of columns all the way around, on all four sides.

**Pycnostyle -** a building where the columns are placed close together.

**Rostra -** Speakers platform The structure was the most important of several places where Rome’s leaders stood to address the citizenry standing in the central plaza of the Forum to listen. Initiated by Julius Caesar two years before he was murdered, the Rostra was finished by his adoptive son and heir, Augustus. He also added a symbolic monument on the back the Golden Milestone, which in effect centered the entire Roman Empire on this spot the Golden Milestone, which in effect centered the entire Roman Empire on this spot.

**Triumphal Arch -** a monumental structure with one or more arched passageways that were used to mark a triumph or commemorate a person or an event.

**Architectural Landmarks, Temples, and Monuments**

**Augustus Triple Arch** - dating to 19 BC, the arch of Augustus is the first triple-bayed arch in Rome. The scenes on it represent diplomatic success, not military success: the return of soldiers and standards that were taken years before.

**Antoninus and Faustina, Temple of -** the temple was built in 141 AD and was dedicated at first to the Empress Faustina the Elder, wife of Emperor Antoninus Pius. When she fell ill and died Antoninus was so deeply grieved and had her deified, or made into a goddess. The entablatureof the temple has the original inscription recording the dedication of the building “To the Divine Faustina by Order of the Senate.” When the emperor himself died twenty years later, the temple was chosen to house his cult, too and a second inscription was added on the frieze of the temple, dedicating it to the Divine Antoninus.

**Basilica Aemelia** - the basilica Aemelia was located on the north side of the Forum between the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina and the Curia Julia. We don't know what activities were conducted in this large basilica, but it was possibly used for the law courts, as was the case with the Basilica Julia on the opposite side of the Forum plaza. The structure had a two-storey arcaded porch facing the Forum and behind this was a row of 10 shops. Two staircases took you to the second and third stories, where there were more shops and offices. The basilica was first built in 179 BC, and rebuilt by L. Aemilius Paullus (hence the name) in 55/54 BC.

**Basilica Julia -** the Basilica Julia is located on the southern side of the Forum between the Temple of Saturn to the west and the Temple of Castor to the east. The building was used as a law court and also had shops that housed, among other things, moneylenders. The Basilica underwent three major building phases: the first in 169 BC, when it was first constructed by the censor Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus and had the name “Basilica Sempronia”; the second under Augustus, when it received its new name of “Basilica Julia”; and the third, when it was restored under Diocletian after the great fire that raged through the Forum in 283 AD. What little survives of the building comes from the Late Antique phase. Judging from the remains of two statue bases found in the modern excavations and inscribed with the names of famous Greek sculptors, the basilica was decorated with important works of art.

**Campus Martius -** the“Field of Mars” was originally a large open space on which military exercises were held. By the first century BC, it was covered with buildings.

**Carcer** - the two-story prison of the Roman state; restored around 40 AD by Marcus Vibius Rufinus and Marcus Cocceius Nerva. The structure had just two prison cells, one atop the other. Citizens found guilty of a crime faced punishments ranging from a fine to infamy or exile and even execution.

**Castor and Pollux, Temple of -** the temple was dedicated in 485 BC and also later by the emperor Tiberius to his dead brother, Drusus. It served as the cult center for the worship of Castor and Pollux and was associated with the Equestrian class (those wealthy enough to own horses). The temple was for a time the meeting house for the senate in the late Republic and could also function as a rostra, or speakers platform. The temple also housed the office of weights and measures and even a dentist’s office.

**Concordia or Harmony, Temple of -** the temple was located on the northwest side of the Roman Forum and housed works of art and is often called a “temple-museum” by scholars. Ancient authors mention statues here of gods such as Vesta, Apollo, Juno, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and Minerva. The temple survived intact until at least the beginning of the fifth century AD, after which it started to be robbed of its marble blocks, which were reused elsewhere in the city or melted down to make the lime needed for Medieval buildings.

**Divine Julius Caesar, Temple of the -** temple that housed the cult of the divine Julius Caesar. It was built on the site where the crowd attending his funeral cremated his remains after the rousing funeral oration of Mark Antony. The temple was vowed in 42 BC and completed in 29 BC. The cult statue housed inside the temple showed Caesar dressed as an augur, the priest responsible for interpreting the will of the gods.

**Cloacina** - the shrine, named for its location situated above a section of the Cloaca Maxima, or Great Drain, which took wastewater from this area of the city and carried it underground to the nearby Tiber River. According to Pliny the Elder it marks the spot where Romulus’ first Romans and the Sabines reconciled after the kidnapping of the Sabine women.

**Column of Phocas** - the tallest of a group of eight sculptures on top of honorific columns running along the facade of the Basilica Julia. It is not known who the Column of Phocas was dedicated to originally, but was rededicated to Phocas, who was a famously cruel Byzantine emperor (602 - 610 AD).

**Comitium** - the place of public assembly in early Rome, where the people would come together to vote and pass laws. It was an open air space that was in use into the second-century BC. Its location has been determined by archaeologists at the north-west corner of the Forum.

**Curia Julia** - the main headquarters of the senate. The building was begun by Julius Caesar in 44 BC and finished after his death in 29 BC.

This structure was in use until 283 AD, when a fire swept through this part of the Roman Forum. Under Diocletian, the building was rebuilt, probably with much the same orientation and design as Caesar had given the building. The building remains intact due to the fact that it was converted into the church of St. Hadrian in the seventh century AD. The church was de-consecrated in the 1930s, and the building was restored to its original appearance as the Late Antique Roman Senate House.

**Forum -** in Roman cities,a centrally located public space with an open area and public buildings.

**Gemonian Stairs** - a staircase known as the Gemonian Stairs located between the prison (Carcer) and the Temple of Concordia. Its nickname was the “Stairs of Mourning” because the staircase was used as one of several places where important criminals were literally thrown to death. The stairs are first mentioned in records dating to the reign of Tiberius (14-37 AD)

**Golden Milestone** - a monument, most likely originally gilded, that marked the center of the vast road system of ancient Rome. It was incorporated into the back of the Augustan Rostra by Julius Caesar, who had begun its construction before he died.

**Janus, Shrine of -** the shrine dedicated to the god Janus, the double-headed god of beginnings and doorways, had a specific meaning and function: when its doors were open, that meant that Rome was in a state of war. When the doors were closed, there was peace. Its rough location can be determined based on ancient literary sources and we can reconstruct it with some accuracy because of coins that illustrate it. They reveal that it was a small, squarish building with double doors on each side. The structure dates to the earliest days of the city of Rome and survived intact until at least the sixth century AD.

**Jupiter Stator, Temple of -** a temple dedicated to the god Jupiter that was destroyed in the great fire of 64 AD and no longer exists. The Temple of Castor and Pollux was originally misidentified as the Temple of Jupiter Stator.

**Lacus Curtius** - in Latin, “lacus” is a lake or, as in this case, a basin, which is now a dodecagonal (twelve-sided) stone basin. This is a minor monument that the Romans cherished as it was preserved and periodically renovated throughout antiquity. Three stories were told to account for its origins, all of which had two common elements: a figure called “Curtius” and a memorable event. In the first story, Mettius Curtius was a Sabine horseman who rode into this swampy part of the Archaic city while fighting against the Romans, and he lived to tell the tale.

In the second story, he was a Roman living during the early Republic who sacrificed himself by riding his horse into a sinkhole that had opened up in this part of the Roman Forum. Finally, the third story told of how the site marked the place where lightning had struck, something in all periods that the Romans viewed with religious awe. In this case, it was a consul named Curtius who was responsible for sanctifying the site.

Judging by a relief showing the first or second horseman riding bravely into the swampy area, that was the most popular legend associated with the Lacus Curtius. The archaeological record shows that the site was marked out no later than the second century BC. A second phase is associated with the repaving of the Forum during the dictatorship of Sulla in the 70s BC.

**Lapis Niger** - a small dark gray pavement, “the Black Stone,” or in Latin, the “Lapis Niger,” which marked a very important spot in the city. Exactly what made this spot important though, was not entirely clear to the Romans. It was rediscovered in 1899 and hailed as an exceptional discovery because ancient sources told of its existence and importance. Three stories are associated with its importance: First, it might have marked the spot where Romulus would have been buried had he not been miraculously wafted to the heavens and deified after his death. Second, it may have been the place where Romulus’ foster parent, the shepherd Faustulus, was buried. Finally, it could have been the tomb of the grandfather of Rome’s legendary third king, Tullus Hostilius. Archaeologists located a U-shaped altar, a column, and a stela with an Archaic Latin inscription about 5 feet beneath the pavement. The pavement itself dates to the Sullan period (138 - 78 BC) and that was always thereafter preserved in the Forum plaza.

**Marforio** - sculpture of a monumental water-god. It is not certain what water-god is represented but possibly could be a personification of the Tiber River known as Tiberinus. Fifteenth-century documents call the sculpture Marforio, but why is unclear. But it was under this name that our statue joined the short list of Rome’s famous “talking statues” in the sixteenth century.

**Naevius Surdinus Inscription** - a 40-foot long inscription written with bronze letters running north from the Column of Phocas past the statue group of Marsyas toward the Trajanic Anaglyphs is. It still largely survives and dates to the age of Rome’s first emperor, Augustus.

The text records how the Forum was re-paved in travertine marble by Lucius Naevius Surdinus the praetor. Surdinus was a high-ranking official in Augustus’ government. His pavement remained in use in the 4th century.

**Pantheon -** A temple dedicated to all the gods and is the most well preserved ancient Roman monument. It was begun by Agrippa, one of Augustus’s close friends, and rebuilt by the emperor Hadrian (117 - 135 AD). Since 609 AD it has been in use as a Catholic church.

 **The Porticus Deorum Consentium, or Portico of the Harmonious Gods** - a platform structure with seven vaulted shops on the lower level and statues of 12 harmonious gods facing the side of the Temple of Vespasian. The “Harmonious Gods” seem to be the 12 Olympian deities who ruled over human beings.

**Regia -** a temple closely associated with the college of important state priests known as the pontiffs. The small structure was trapezoidal in plan with a courtyard off of which were three rooms. The rooms housed the priests’ archive, a shrine of the war-god Mars, and another shrine of the goddess Ops Consiva.

**Rostra, Augustan -** the structure was the most important of several places where Rome’s leaders stood to address the citizenry standing in the central plaza of the Forum to listen.

Initiated by Julius Caesar two years before he was murdered, the Rostra was finished by his adoptive son and heir, Augustus. He also added a symbolic monument on the back: the Golden Milestone, which in effect centered the entire Roman Empire on this spot.

**Rostra Gothica -** an addition addedin the late third century AD to the Augustan Rostra extending it north. Motivating this addition was the need to have room to add an honorary column topped with a statue commemorating the emperor Claudius Gothicus (268 - 270). The addition is conventionally known as the Rostra Vandalica because an inscription was found here recording the victory of the urban prefect Junius Valentinus in a war fought against the Vandals in 470 AD. But the inscription was added some 200 years after the rostra had been extended for the new honorary column. Thus, by all rights, the modern name of the addition should not be Rostra Vandalica but Rostra Gothica.

**Rostra, Late Imperial -**  The Late Imperial Rostra dates to the late third-century AD and stands in front of the older speaker’s platform located on the front edge of the platform of the Temple of the Divine Julius Caesar. It is not known why the temple’s rostra needed to be replaced by this new structure.

**Rostra Vandalica -** The conventional name for the late third century addition to the Augustan Rostra based on an inscription found here recording the victory of the urban prefect Junius Valentinus in a war fought against the Vandals in 470 AD. But the inscription was added some 200 years after the rostra had been extended for the new honorary column. Thus, by all rights, the modern name of the addition should not be Rostra Vandalica but Rostra Gothica.

**Saepta Julia -** a building on the Campus Martias conceived by Julius Caesar and completed in 26 BC where citizens cast their votes.

**Saturn, Temple of -** this temple housed the ancient cult of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. The temple served as the public treasury and the headquarters of the treasury officials known as quaestors. The Temple of Saturn was dedicated in the early Republic, perhaps on the site of an Archaic open-air altar, and is, along with the temple of Vesta, one of the oldest temples on record.

**Schola Xanthi -** anoffice, serving the needs of the scribes and heralds of the curule aediles. It was restored in the reign of Tiberius (14 - 37 AD) by the imperial freedman Bebryx Drusianus and his colleague Aulus Fabius Xanthus

**Septimius Severus, Arch of** - A triumphal arch honored the emperor Septimius Severus (193 - 211 AD) and his sons Caracalla and Geta for their conquests in the East at the turn of the third century AD. The arch stands almost 70 feet high. Coins illustrating the monument show a roof topped with a triumphal chariot with Septimius and Caracalla drawn by six horses. Unfortunately, no trace of this statue group survives. The surface is heavily decorated including reliefs of foreign captives and historical reliefs showing decisive battles in the Parthian wars.

**Spring of Juturna -** the spot where the heroes Castor and Pollux were reportedly seen watering their horses after helping the Romans at the Battle of Lake Regillus, which took place early in the fifth century BC. Their temple was built near this spring.

**Shrine of Vesta** - This round building was the central shrine in Rome of the ancient goddess Vesta. Known for housing the eternal flame as well as some secret sacred objects including the Palladium and the fascinum.

**Tabularium** - a building that is traditionally called the Tabularium, or the state record office, although there is no definitive proof of this identification. The building dates to the first half of the first century BC and its lower stories survive practically intact. It rises from the level of the Forum to the top of the adjacent Capitoline Hill. Today, it hosts the office of Rome’s mayor and the chambers where the city council meets and is connected to the Capitoline Museum. The earlier Temple of Veiovis, which survives along with its cult statue of the handsome young god abutted the building on the side opposite the Roman Forum.

**Tiberius, Arch of -** given in 16 AD as a gift of the senate and Roman people to the emperor Tiberius and to his nephew Germanicus for recovering two of the three military standards lost by the Roman general Quintilius Varus at the infamous Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in northern Germany in 9 AD.

**Titus, Arch of -** An triumphal arch built in 81 AD by the Emperor Domitian to honor his brother and former emperor, Titus’s victory in the Jewish War (66-74 AD). The arch is located at the south-east end of the forum on the Via Sacra.

**Veiovis, Temple of -** a temple dedicated in 192 BC to the Roman god Veiovis. Veiovis was associated with healing and had Etruscan origins.The temple survives along with its cult statue of the handsome young god and the temple abuts the building we call the Tabularium on the side opposite the Roman Forum.

**Vespasian and Titus, Temple of** - a temple dedicated to the first two Flavian emperors Vespasian (69 - 70) and Titus (79-81 AD). Both father and son were highly respected by the senate, which decreed them divine honors after their death. The work was carried out by Vespasian's younger son, the emperor Domitian (81 - 96 AD). This structure was in turn restored by Septimius Severus at the turn of the third century AD.

**Venus Cloacina, Shrine of -** this small shrine existed by at least the second century BC and was dedicated to “Venus of the sewer” and stood in front of the Basilica Aemilia. The name is related to its location above a section of the Cloaca Maxima, or Great Drain, which took wastewater from this area of the city and carried it underground to the nearby Tiber River. The earliest ancient sources call the shrine “Cloacina'' which was also an Estruscan goddess of cleansing that presided over the Cloaca Maxima. Only later, in the first century AD, does it start to get the longer name “Venus Cloacina.” Pliny the Elder tells us it marks the spot where Romulus’ first Romans and the Sabines reconciled after the kidnapping of the Sabine women. It is not certain how Venus became associated with the shrine, Cloacina and the site.

**Trajanic” Anaglyphs -** the two so-called Trajanic “anaglyphs” (or “reliefs”) were found in 1872 during the demolition of a Medieval tower undertaken during excavations in the Roman Forum. In Late Antiquity, the reliefs were erected on two travertine plinths aligned to the Augustan Rostra. It is generally assumed that their find spot is not where they were originally set up. Later the reliefs were moved inside the Curia Julia, where they were moved some years ago to protect them from weathering. That is where you will see them when you visit the Forum today.

The two reliefs are invaluable to us because they illustrate the Roman Forum in about the years 110-125 AD, including the statue group of Marsyas. The buildings of the Forum form the backdrop for several historical events shown over which an emperor presides. Some scholars think the emperor is Trajan, others his successor Hadrian.

**Political and Religious Positions**

**Augur -** A priest responsible for interpreting the will of the gods.

**Consul -** one of two elected officials in the Roman Republican government; they presided over the Senate and commanded armies among other things. Their term of office was only one year. When the Empire began under Augustus, consuls lost much of their power, although the position remained.

**Curule aediles -** two annually elected officials were in charge of the city, its streets, sewers, and public buildings. They oversaw the markets, including checking the accuracy of weights and measures and procuring grain whenever a shortage threatened. Finally, they organized the public games.

**Flamen Dialis -** theFlamen Dialis were three priests of Ancient Rome that were part of the College of Pontiffs. Each was dedicated to one of three gods: Jupiter, Mars and Quirinus (deified Romulus).

**Pontifex Maximus -** the chief priest of Rome and head of the College of Pontiffs, the priests of the Roman State religion. The Pontifex Maximus’s headquarters was the Regia.

**Praetor** - an elected magistrate that had legal power and served under the two consuls.

**Princeps -** Princeps means “first citizen” and was a position and title created by Augustus, one that had never existed before.

**Quaestor -** “Investigator” a low ranking magistrate who was initially in charge of the treasury, but later, these duties were expanded to include collecting taxes and recruiting new soldiers.

**Senator -** to become a senator, you had to be a citizen and be elected to a major office. In the Republic, the presiding officer was usually one of the consuls. Later, the emperor could also run the meetings. The senate could only give advice, not pass laws.

**Tetrarchy -** a Greek word meaning "the rule of four,” and is the term used to describe the government established by Diocletianin 293 in which 2 senior emperors *augustii* ruled with 2 junior *caesares* who would be successors. This system of ruling did not last very long.

**Vestal Virgins** - priestesses that tended the sacred fire in the Temple of Vesta and also fetching sacred water from a pure spring outside the city. There were six priestesses, who were were chosen as girls and served for a term of 30 years, during which time they had to be celibate. Any violation of the vow of chastity was considered menacing to the welfare of the community and so was severely punished.

**Key Figures**

**Alaric -** A Visigoth general who led the sack of Rome in 410 AD**.**

**Appius Claudius** - a powerful but unscrupulous leader who took a liking to Virginia, a young woman already betrothed to another man. Appius had one of his followers, Marcus, kidnap her and claim that Virginia was really his slave. Virginia’s father objected and brought a legal action to free his daughter from the clutches of Marcus and Appius. The case, unfortunately, was tried before Appius, who upheld the view of Marcus. Virginia’s father succeeded in getting permission to see his daughter at the shrine of Cloacina. As soon as father and daughter were reunited, the father stabbed Virginia to death, shouting that death was the only way to restore her honor and her freedom.

**Arminius -** (c. 18/17 BC – 21 AD) Arminius was a German chieftain who served as an auxiliary in the Roman army and became a Roman citizen. He is most well-known for a battle that took place in 9 AD in the Teutoburg Forest, modern Kalkriese Germany where the Romans were defeated by an alliance of German tribes, led by Arminius. Originally sent to aid the Roman general Varrus in subduing the German tribes, Arminius led Varrus and his men into a trap which brought about the destruction of three Roman legions, the loss of standards and the suicide of Varus himself on the battlefield. This defeat was considered one of the worst Roman defeats and was of great heartache to Augustus who Suetonius tells us cried out repeatedly in the months after this disaster: “Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions!” Arminius was never captured. He did, however, die by poison two years later by rivals in his own tribe.

**Bibulus, Marcus Calpurnius -** a conservative Roman Republican politician whoserved as co-consul alongside Julius Caesar in 59 BC. In that same year, Bibulus was prevented from mounting the steps of the temple of Castor and Pollux in order to block Julius Caesar’s proposed law giving land to veterans, which was being considered by an assembly in front of the building. The mob covered Bibulus with dung and spited him by passing the law.

**Cato the Younger** - 95 - 46 BC,a Roman statesman who fought to keep the Republic alive and allied with Pompey the Great against Julius Caesar. He committed suicide in 46 BC in Utica (in modern Tunisia) not long after nearby forces fell to Caesar.

**Cattilarian Conspirators and Catiline Conspiracy** - was a plot in 63 BC to overthrow the Roman Republic. It was led by Catiline with the help of a group of aristocrats. Cicero exposed the plot which forced Catiline to flee from Rome and some of his conspirators were executed in the Carcer. Catiline died the following year in a battle with Roman military forces.

**Cicero -** Marcus Tullius Cicero(106 - 43 BC) was a leading political figure of the time. Among other things, he was a senator, consul, lawyer, orator and more throughout his career. He wished to uphold the power of the senate and the Roman Republic and his writings have had a profound impact on the Western world.

**Crassus, Marcus Licinius -** was a Roman general and statesman. He was a member of the First Triumvirate, an unofficial alliance with Pompey the Great and Julius Caesar. Crassus suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Parthians at the Battle of Carrhae in which seven legions were lost, thousands of Romans were killed, and Crassus himself died. The 10,000 soldiers who survived were taken captive to Parthia as were the army’s symbolically important gold standards topped by eagles. This was a disastrous defeat for the Romans.

**Cyprian - (**c. 210 - 258 AD) was an early Christian writer and bishop of Carthage.

**Faustina the Elder -** Empress and wife of Antoninus Pius. She was deified upon her death by Antoninus and honored with the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina. Less is known about Faustina than about her husband the emperor. She was the mother of two sons and two daughters and in 141 BC, when she was in her forties, she fell ill and died. Antoninus was deeply grieved and honored her with the temple and deification.

**Germanicus -** (15 BC- 19 AD) Germanicus Julius Caesar wasNephew of the Emperor Tiberius, father to the Emperor Caligula and was a beloved figure in the early Roman Empire. He was a successful general who was responsible for (along with Tiberius) recovering two of the three military standards lost by the Roman general Quintilius Varus at the infamous Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in northern Germany in 9 AD. Germanicus died under mysterious circumstances in Syria in 19 AD, poison was suspected.

**Gracchus, Gaius and Tiberius Sempronius -** (Tiberius 163 - 133 BC) (Gaius 154 - 121 BC) known as “The Gracchi” they were Roman brothers who were politicians who represented the plebs, or commoners, in the Roman government. They attempted to reform Rome's social and political structure in order to help the lower classes in the 2nd century BC. Both died due to their political views and it is thought by some that the events they brought to light signaled the beginning of the end of the Roman Republic.

**Jugurtha -** (c.160 – 104 BC) King of the kingdom of Numidia (Northeastern Africa) who fought to free his people from Roman rule. He was captured and executed in the Carcer in 104 BC.

**Julius Caesar -** (100 - 44 BC) Julius Caesar was a Roman general and politician. In 61 he formed the First Triumvirate with Pompey the Great and Marcus Licinius Crassus. After Crassus’s death in 53, Pompey and Caesar fell out and ultimately went to war. In 49 Caesar defied the Senate and provoked civil war by crossing the Rubicon in pursuit of Pompey, who fled east with his navy. Ultimately victorious in the civil war against Pompey, Caesar named himself dictator for life of the Roman Empire, a rule that lasted less than one year before he was famously assassinated by political rivals on the Ides of March (March 15) 44 BC.

**Lepidus, Marcus Aemilius -** (c. 30 BC – 33 AD) Roman politician, Senator, and general son of a consul and a relative of Rome’s first emperor, Augustus. He is responsible for the restoration of the Basilica Aemelia in 22 AD.

**Marc Antony** - (70 - 30 BC) a Roman general and statesman, ally and right hand man of Julius Caesar. After Caesar’s assasination in 44 BC, Mark Antony allied with Caesar’s heir, Octavian (future Augustus). This alliance broke down over time and plunged Rome into another civil war with Antony, supported by Cleopatra VII of Egypt. Ultimately, Antony and Cleopara were defeated at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC.

**Numa -** legendary second king of Rome after Romulus. He was famous for his piety and for establishing many of Rome’s religious institutions. Tradition attributed construction of the Regia to him.

**Phocas -** Byzantine Emperor 602 - 610 AD who was overthrown and murdered in 610. Represented on the Column of Phocas, the original gilded statue that topped the column was taken down or replaced with Heracleiois (his successor).

**Pliny the Elder -** ( 23 - 79 AD) a Roman Natural Historian who wrote Natural History, a book that chronicled his scientific observations on the natural world of his time. Despite its uneven accuracy, it was a main source of information through the middle ages. Pliny dies during the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.

**Pompey the Great -** (106 - 46 BC) Statesman and general of the Roman Republic with a very prestigious military career. Some of the highlights of his career include: fighting for Sulla against Marius in the Social War, destroying the army of Spartacus and his followers (71 BC), famously demolishing the pirates of the eastern Mediterranean (from 67 BC), and consolidating and expanding the eastern provinces. In 61 he formed the First Triumvirate with Julius Caesar and Marcus Licinius Crassus. After Crassus’s death in 53 BC, Pompey and Caesar fell out. By 52 BC, with Rome in a state of anarchy, Pompey was named sole consul. In 49 BC Caesar defied the Senate and provoked civil war by crossing the Rubicon in pursuit of Pompey, who fled east with his navy. After being defeated at the Battle of Pharsalus by Caesar’s troops in 48 BC, Pompey fled to Egypt, but was killed before even setting foot on land. Pompey had not realized the Egyptians sided with Caesar.

**Postumius -** Dictator who dedicated the temple of Castor and Pollux in 485 BC

**Suetonius -** (c. 69 - after 122 AD) was a Roman writer whose most well-known work *Lives of the Caesars*, a biography of Julius Caesar and the first 11 emperors of Rome.

**Sulla -** (138 - 79 BC) a Roman statesman and general who was Dictator from 82 - 79 BC, but also fought for reforms that would strengthen the Roman Republic.

**Symmachus -** Quintus Aurelius Memmius Eusebius Symmachus, (c. 345—402) was an orator, statesman and writer who was dispatched to emperor, Valentinian II in 384 AD, to plead the case for restoring the statue of Victory and its altar in the Curia Julia that were removed in 382 AD. Symmachus’ plea is preserved and while he made an eloquent case for religious toleration, the Victory monuments remained banished from the Curia Julia until 394 AD, when they were returned for a brief period before the emperor Theodosius II commanded their removal yet again.

**Tertullian** - (c. 155 - 220 AD) an early Christian writer who was from Carthgae and considered an important church father.

**Titus Tatius,** became the joint ruler of Rome with Romulus. Tatius founded the cult of Cloacina here, according to tradition. (Cloacina stop)

**Varus, Publius Quinctilius -** (c. 46 BC - 9 AD) was a Roman general and politician during the time of Augustus. Varus is most remembered for the Battle of Teutoburg Forest in which he was deceived by the German leader Arminius and led into a trap which brought about the destruction of three Roman legions, the loss of standards and the suicide of Varus himself on the battlefield. This defeat was considered one of the worst Roman defeats and was of great heartache to Augustus who Suetonius tells us cried out repeatedly in the months after this disaster: “Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions!”

**Vercingetorix -** (c80-46 BC) A Gallic (from Gaul) king and chieftain from the Arverni tribe that helped unite other Gallic tribes against the Romans commanded under Julius Caesar. Vercingetorix surrendered and was brought to Rome and executed in the Carcer.

**Virginia** - the young woman at the center of a story that took place at the site of the Venus Cloacina shrine. In 451 BC a powerful but unscrupulous leader named Appius Claudius took a liking to Virginia, who was already betrothed to another man. Appius had one of his followers, whose name was Marcus, kidnap her and claim that Virginia was really his slave. Virginia’s father objected and brought a legal action to free his daughter from the clutches of Marcus and Appius. The case, unfortunately, was tried before Appius, who upheld the view of Marcus. Virginia’s father succeeded in getting permission to see his daughter at the shrine of Cloacina. As soon as father and daughter were reunited, the father stabbed Virginia to death, shouting that death was the only way to restore her honor and her freedom.

**Vitruvius -** first century BC Roman architect who wrote a handbook for Roman architects called: *De architectura* (*On Architecture*).

**Verres -** (c. 120 - 43 BC) a Roman magistrate who is remembered for being a corrupt governor of Sicily.

**Gods, Goddesses, Mythological, and Heroic Figures**

**Aeneas -** Trojan son of the goddess Venus and herder Ascanius, he fought in the Trojan war and fled the burning Troy, ultimately landing in Italy. He is the central subject of *The Aeneid*, by Roman poet Vergil.

**Agamemnon** - Agamemnon was the King of Mycenae, a powerful Greek city-state. He was married to Clytemnaestra and led the Greek army in the Trojan War.

**Apollo** Apollo is a god associated with the Muses, medicine, and prophecy.

**Castor and Pollux -** Famous twin horsemen and brothers to Helen of Sparta/Troy and Clytemnaestra. They were considered benefactors of mankind, and are represented in the night sky as two stars, the brightest in Gemini Constellation

**Ceres** Roman Ceres is equivalent to Greek Demeter. She is the goddess of agriculture. Her attribute is an ear of grain, which symbolizes her responsibility for agriculture.

**Clytemnaestra -** Clytemnaestra wasborn to Leda and Tyndareos of Sparta. She was sister to Helen of Troy and Castor and Pollux and wife to Agamemnon of Mycenae. Clytemnaestra figures prominently in the Trojan War story.

**Diana** Greek Artemis corresponds to Roman Diana. She is the sister of Apollo and, like her brother, is a fearsome archer. Her attributes are the bow and the quiver.

**Dionysus** - also called Bacchus, was the god of wine, theater, revelry, madness and fertility among other things.

**Helen of Troy/Sparta** - In Greek and Roman mythology, Helen was considered the most beautiful woman in the world and the cause of the Trojan War. Helen was married to Menelaus, King of Sparta, but ran off with Paris, a Trojan prince, thus causing war between Troy and the Greeks led by Menelaus and Agamemnon.

**Janus** - Double-headed god of beginnings and doorways, shown as a bearded, older man. His cult was one of the first in the Archaic Roman city, but also one of the last to die out at the hands of the Christian authorities.

**Juno** Juno is the Roman equivalent of Greek Hera. She is married to Jupiter and is the queen of the gods. Her attribute is the scepter, indicative of her royal authority.

**Jupiter** Jupiter is the Roman equivalent of Greek Zeus and is king of the gods. He is shown as a mature male with a full head of hair and a beard. His symbol is the eagle and his attribute the staff.

**Leda -** Queen of Sparta, mother of the Dioscuri or twins Castor and Pollux, Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra. Myth holds that Helen and Pollux were born from Leda’s union with Jupiter (Zeus) in the guise of a swan while Castor and Clytemnestra were born to Leda and her husband, Tyndareos, on the same night.

**Mars** Roman Mars is equivalent to Greek Ares, the god of war. His attributes are martial or military implements such as the helmet, spear, and shield.

**Marsyas -** a famous character in Greek mythology. He was a half-goat, half-human creature known as a satyr. Satyrs lived in the woods and wilds and are closely associated with the wine-god Dionysus.

**Mercury** Mercury is the Roman equivalent of Greek Hermes, the messenger of the gods and the protector of travelers. He is generally shown holding his attribute, the caduceus, which was a winged staff encircled by two snakes.

**Minerva** Minerva is the Roman equivalent of Greek Athena. She is the goddess of the arts, crafts, wisdom, and warfare. She is generally shown wearing a military helmet and holding a spear. She is often symbolized by an owl.

**Neptune** The Greek god Poseidon corresponds to Roman Neptune, the god of the sea and also of earthquakes. A father-god like his brother Jupiter, he holds his attribute, the trident, a three-pronged spear which symbolizes his authority over the ocean and its creatures.

**Ops Consiva**. A goddess who brought a good harvest. Her shrine was housed within the Regia.

**Saturn** - a Roman god of agriculture equated with the Greek Cronus.

**Remus -** Twin to Romulus and one of the mythical founders of Rome. Remus was slain by Romulus after a quarrel over where to base the site of the new city.

**Romulus -** Twin to Remus and one of the mythical founders of Rome. Romulus killed Remus in a quarrel over where to base the site of the new city. Romulus chose the Palatine Hill and named the city after himself.

**Venus** Venus is the Roman equivalent of Greek Aphrodite, the goddess of love. The Romans had a special attachment to her since she was the mother of the Trojan prince Aeneas, who led the surviving Trojans to central Italy where, transplanted, they mixed with the native people and became the ancestors of the Romans.

**Vesta** - Goddess of the hearth and is the equivalent of the Greek Hestia. She is symbolized by the eternal fire tended by her six Vestal Virgins.

**Victory** - Known as Nike to the Greeks, Victory was goddess of victory, particularly in battle. Victory is depicted as a winged goddess. The goddess was a fixture of the local religion in the city-states of Greece and worship of Victory came to Rome as early as 294 BC. The statue of Victory in the Curia Julia was originally dedicated in the southern Italian city of Tarentum to commemorate the defeat of the Romans by the Greeks in 280 BC. The sculpture was ultimately brought to Rome later after one of their occupations of Tarentum. By the time Augustus opened the Curia Julia for use by the senate in 29 BC, the statue and related altar of Victory had been set inside the Roman Senate House.

**Vulcan** - Roman Vulcan corresponds to Greek Hephaistos, the god of fire and metal-working. He is often shown holding one of his attributes, the hammer.

**Battles**

**Battle of Carrhae -** one of the first major battles between Rome and the Partian empire that took place in 53 BC in the Mesopotamian City of Carrhae (modern Haran, Turkey). The Roman general Marcus Licinous Crassus was defeated by the Parthain empire. The defeat was disastrous for the Romans: seven legions were lost, thousands of Romans were killed, and Crassus himself died. The 10,000 soldiers who survived were taken captive to Parthia as were the army’s symbolically important gold standards topped by eagles. The eventual recovery of the eagles, captives and diplomatic victory, are celebrated on the Triple Arch of Augustus.

**Battle of Ctesiphon -** A battle in the Parthian Wars of Septimius Severus that took place in 197 AD and in which the city of Ctesiphon, the eastern Parthian capital, was ultimately sacked and brought into the Roman Province of Mesopotamia.

**Battle of Edessa -** A revolt in 198 AD in the ancient Mesopotamian city of Edessa (modern Urfa, Turkey). Commemorated on the Arch of Septimius Severus, which shows the King of Edessa surrendering to Rome.

**Battle of Hatra -** One of the Battles in the Parthian Wars of Septimius Severus in the ancient Mesopotamian city of Hatra (near Modern day Mosul Iraq). In 198 AD, Severus unsuccessfully laid siege to Hatra twice. The battle is depicted on the Arch of Septimius Severus.

**Battle of Nisibis -** One of the battles in the Parthian Wars of Septimius Severus in the ancient Mesopotamian city of Nisibis in 197 AD. A scene from this battle is represented on the arch of Septimius Severus.

**Battle of Teutoburg forest -** a battle that took place in 9 AD in the Teutoburg Forest, modern Kalkriese Germany where the Romans were defeated by an alliance of German tribes, led by Arminius. The Roman general Varrus, deceived by Arminius, a previous Roman ally and auxiliary officer, and led into a trap which brought about the destruction of three Roman legions, the loss of standards and the suicide of Varus himself on the battlefield. This defeat was considered one of the worst Roman defeats and was of great heartache to Augustus who Suetonius tells us cried out repeatedly in the months after this disaster: “Quintilius Varus, give me back my legions!”

**Judaean Revolt -** the Juadaeans revolved against Roman rule from 66 - 73 AD. The then General, and later emperor, Vespasian was sent by the Roman emperor Nero to crush the rebellion. Titus, his son, and also future emperor joined him and succeeded in ultimately causing the fall of Jerusalem. While the Jewish state collapsed, the fortress of Masada was not conquered until 73 AD.

**Battle of Lake Regillus** ca. 485 BC, Legendary battle between the Romans and the Latin League, in which Roman victory was attributed to the intervention of the Dioscuri, or mythological twins Castor and Pollux, who fought alongside the Romans. The Roman Dictator Postimius dedicated a temple in the forum near the Spring of Juturna, where the heroes were reportedly seen watering their horses.

**Roads**

**Argiletum** - ran from the Roman Forum up through the Forum of Nerva and through the adjacent section of the city known as the Subura.

**Clivus Capitolinus** - one of the main roads in Rome. It ran past the Temple of Saturn and the Portico of the Dei Consentes up the western slope of the Capitoline Hill. It ended before the great Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus.

**Via Apia -** “The Appian Way '' built in 312 BC, was the oldest and most important of the Roman roads.

**Via Sacra (The Sacred Way)** - One of the main roads of ancient Rome, running East to West, from the Capitoline Hill, through the Roman Forum. The Via Sacra was important to the religious and political life in Ancient Rome as it led to many of the temples of the Roman Forum and triumphs processed through it.

**Vicus Tuscus -** A road that led from the Forum plaza to the Forum Boarium, the cattle market next to the Tiber River.

**Vicus Jugarius - ​​**this street led from the Roman Forum, between the Basilica Julia and the Temple of Saturn, to the Porta Carmentalis in the Servian Wall not far from the Tiber river.

 **Peoples and places**

**Dacia/Dacians Dacia -** Dacia is in modern Romania, and its ancient peoples, the Dacians were conquered by the emperor Trajan. This ultimate conquest in 105 AD made Rome extremely wealthy and the war was commemorated on the Column of Trajan that was put in his forum.

**Gaul/gauls -** Gaul is an area that consisted of parts of Western Europe, including France, Spain, and parts of Switzerland, Germany and Northern Italy. Conquering Gaul, and its people (Gauls) was a major mission of Julius Caesar. His Gallic Wars lasted from 58-51 BC, and it ended with conquest, the execution of Vercingetorix, and great power for Caesar.

**Parthia/Parthians -** Parthia was an empire (247 BC to 224 AD) that existed in what would be present day Iran while its territory was extended at times. They were a formidable foe to the Romans and the Roman spent the years 54 BC - 217 AD trying to conquer them with varying levels of success.

**Sabines -** an Italic people living in central Italy. Romulus and his men abducted 30 Sabine women in order to help populate the new city of Rome.

**Visigoths -** A Germanic people and one of the two major subgroups of the Goths. The Visigoths would eventually settle in the region of modern-day Germany and Hungary but were later driven out by the Huns. Some Visigoths were granted land by the emperor Valens (r. 364-378 CE) in Roman territory, but their mistreatment at the hands of Roman provincial governors eventually led to a series of wars with the Romans over the next decades. In 410, under Alaric 1, the Visigoths sacked the city of Rome (The Capital had been moved to Ravenna in 402AD).

**Timeline of Emperors**

Augustus 27 BC - 14 AD

Tiberius 14 - 37 AD

Caligula 37 - 41 AD

Claudius 41 - 54 AD

Nero 54 -69 AD

Galba 69 AD

Otho 69 AD

Vitellius 69 AD

Vespasian 69 AD

Vespasian 69-79 AD

Titus 79-81 AD

Domitian 81 - 96 AD

Nerva 96 - 98 AD

Trajan 98 - 117 AD

Hadrian 117 - 138 AD

Antoninus Pius 138 - 161 AD

Marcus Aurelius 161 - 180 AD

Lucius Verus 161 - 169 AD

Commodus 177 - 192 AD

Pertinax 193 AD

Didius Julianus 193 AD

Pescennius Niger 193 AD

Clodius Albinus 193 AD

Septimius Severus 193 - 211 AD

Caracalla 211 - 217 AD

Geta 209 - 211 AD

Macrinus 217 AD

Alexander Severus 218 - 235

Elagabalus 218–222 AD

Severus Alexander (222–235 AD

Maximinus 235–238 AD

Gordian I 238 AD

Gordian II 238 AD

Pupienus Maximus 238 AD

Balbinus 238 AD

Gordian III 238–244 AD

Philip 244–249 AD

Decius 249–251 AD

Hostilian 251 CE

Gallus 251–253 AD

Aemilian 253 AD

Valerian 253–260 AD

Gallienus 253–268 AD

Claudius II Gothicus 268–270 AD

Quintillus 270 AD

Aurelian 270 –275 AD

Tacitus 275 – 276 AD

Floria 276 AD

Probus 276 – 282 AD

Carus 282 – 283 AD

Numerian 283 – 284 AD

Carinus 283 – 285 AD

Diocletian east, 284–305 AD; divided the empire into east and west

Maximian west, 286–305 AD

Constantius I west, 305 – 306 AD

Galerius east, 305–311 AD

Severus west, 306–307 AD

Maxentius west, 306–312 AD

Licinius (308–324 CE)

Galerius Valerius Maximinus (310–313 CE)

Constantine I 306–337 AD; reunified the empire

Constantine II (337–340 CE)

Constantius II (337–361 CE)

Constans I (337–350 CE)

Julian 361–363 AD

Gallus Caesar 351–354 AD

Jovian 363–364 AD

Valentinian I west, 364–375 AD

Valens east, 364–378 AD

Gratian west, 367–383 AD; co emperor with Valentinian

Valentinian II 375–392 AD

Theodosius I (east, 379–392 CE; east and west, 392–395 CE) **Extinguished** the eternal flame in 390 the Temple of Vesta forever by decree of the Christian emperor.

Arcadius (east, 383–395 CE, co emperor; 395–402 CE, sole emperor)

Magnus Maximus (west, 383–388 CE)

Honorius (west, 393–395 CE, co emperor; 395–423 CE, sole emperor)

Theodosius II (east, 408–450 CE)

Constantius III (west, 421 CE, co emperor)

Valentinian III (west, 425–455 CE)

Marcian (east, 450–457 CE)

Petronius Maximus (west, March 17–May 31, 455 CE)

Avitus (west, 455–456 CE)

Majorian (west, 457–461 CE)

Libius Severus (west, 461–465 CE)

Anthemius (west, 467–472 CE)

Olybrius (west, April–November 472 CE)

Glycerius (west, 473–474 CE)

Julius Nepos (west, 474–475 CE)

Romulus Augustulus (west, 475–476 CE)

Leo I (east, 457–474 CE)

Leo II (east, 474 CE)

Zeno (east, 474–491 CE)