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| **GODS AND RELIGION** | | |
| Etruscans | Race of people who existed in Italy before Roman was founded; their influence was strong on Roman religion |
| Capitoline Hill | one of the seven hills of Rome and the political centre of the city |
| sarcophagus | a stone coffin, usually decorated with sculpture and inscriptions |
| plebs | the lowest class of Romans, making up the majority of the population |
| Cerealia | festival held for Ceres in Rome every year in April |
| The Aeneid | Roman epic poem by Virgil, telling how Aeneas came to Italy from the ruins of Troy and how the Roman race was founded |
| votive | an offering to the gods |
| lararium | shrine to the gods of the household in a Roman home or business |
| **HERACLES, THE UNIVERSAL HERO / TEMPLES AND SACRIFICE** | | |
| Tiber | the main river running through Rome |
| cult | worship |
| pyre | funeral mound made of wood to cremate a dead body |
| semi-engaged column | a supporting column half-embedded in a wall and half sticking out |
| pax deorum | peace between men and the gods |
| pontifex (pl pontifices) | Roman priest in charge of protecting temples, regulating religious laws and the religious calendar |
| Pontifex Maximus | head of the college of pontifices |
| augur | priest who reads the flight of birds, behaviour of animals or direction of thunder to work out the will of the gods |
| Vestal Virgins | female priests in charge of the cult of the goddess Vestas |
| mola salsa | mix of salt and flour made by the Vestal Virgins and sprinkled on the heads of animals to be sacrificed |
| haruspex | Roman priest who read omens from the entrails of sacrificed animals |
| popa | official at a Roman sacrifices who struck the animals with a wooden rod |
| cultrarius | official who slit the throat of the animal |
| rotunda | round Roman building with a dome |
| oculus | circular opening at the top of a dome |
| FOUNDATION STORIES / FESTIVALS | |
| pietas | The most important heroic quality in the Aeneid. Means “sense of duty” towards family, gods and city. |
| Aeneas | Trojan prince who fled the ruins of Troy to fulfil his destiny to found a city in Italy which would later lead to Rome’s foundation |
| Romulus | Legendary founder of Rome |
| Lupercus | Roman god of fertility and purification |
| Luperci | priests of Lupercus |
| Lupercal | the cave in the Palatine Hill where the Lupercalia took place |
| Lupercalia | festival of Lupercus and Romulus held every February |
| Saturnalia | festival of Saturn held every December |
| MYTH AND SYMBOLS OF POWER | |
| Augustus | adopted son of Julius Caesar who became Rome’s first emperor |
| consul | the most important public official in Rome after the emperor; two conuls were elected every year |
| Prima Porta | town on the main northern road into Rome; place where the Augustus of Prima Porta statue was displayed |
| Doryphorus | spear-bearer – a sculpture praised as showing the ideal man |
| Augustus of Prima Porta | statue of Augustus showing him in a way that promotes the Augustan ideal; modelled on the Doryphorus |
| Ara Pacis | Altar of Peace commissioned by the Senate to honour his return from Hispania and Gaul |
| DEATH AND BURIAL | |
| Pliny the Younger | Roman lawyer, magistrate and writer who wrote letters that provide a lot of evidence about Roman life |
| funeral club | a social club to support less wealthy members of Roman society in life and later to pay for their funeral |
| atrium | the main room of a Roman domus (house0 where the family received friends and clients (dependants) |
| funerary mask | a mask made by placing wax on the dead person’s face to set in their image. Stored in the family shrine once dried. |
| Manes | “the deified ancestors”, these were the spirits of the dead in the Roman world |
| Parentalia | Roman festival for dead cnestors every February |
| Lemuria | Roman festival to ward off evil spirits on 9th, 11th and 13th of May |
| JOURNEYING TO THE UNDERWORLD | |
| Hymen | God of weddings |
| Orpheus | Thracian musician and poet |
| Eurydice | wife of Orpheus |
| Ovid | Roman poet who wrote the epic poem on the theme of change “Metamorphoses” |