

Museum of World Treasures

Ancient Rome Vocabulary List

- All entries pertain directly to artifacts or signs in our exhibits.

Etruscan- The ancient civilization of Italy that pre-dates the Roman empire. Majorly influenced the Romans.

Tumuli- an artificial mound of stones or other materials over a grave.

Aqueduct- derived from the Latin words *aqua* (water) and *ducere* (to lead), aqueducts were built to direct water sources to places inhabited by people.

Roman Numerals- the ancient numeric system using Latin letters to make numbers.

Pan- god of nature, the wind, shepherds, flocks, and goats. Often represented as a half goat half man.

Isis- an Egyptian goddess of fertility, magic, and motherhood who was also worshiped in the Greek and Roman empires.

Jupiter- Roman king of the gods and god of sky and thunder.

Venus- ancient goddess of gardens, spring, love, and beauty.

Dionysius- god of grapes, wine, celebrations, and pleasure.

Medusa- the only mortal of the three Gorgons. A snake-headed, hideous monster that could turn a person to stone just by looking at them. Slain by Perseus in Greek mythology.

Gladiator- an armed fighter made to battle animals and other people for entertainment purposes in an arena. Oftentimes gladiators were slaves, but sometimes they were volunteers.

Nike – (also called Victoria in Roman mythology). Goddess of victory.

Lapis Lazuli- usually called “sapphirus” in Rome, Lapis Lazuli is a deep-blue mineral that was highly treasured as a trade good.

Mosaic- Romans used mosaics for floors, wall hangings, art, and more. They used materials like glass, stone, and ceramic to create their intricate and highly praised mosaics.

Togatus- A sculpture of a civilian in a toga.

Roman Empire- the lands and peoples subject to the authority of ancient Rome.

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