

# Choice Activities: Mythology, Roma Aeterna

by  
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## Mythology : **Choice Activities**

**Directions:** Select activities you would *enjoy* doing. Make sure they add up to a total of 50 points.

### 5 POINT ACTIVITIES

1. "Modern Symbols and Myths" (work sheet)
2. Myths sometimes explain some phenomena of nature. Select one of the following myths and tell the story to the class. Pictures, props or costumes are required. Be sure to include the aspect of nature the myth explains.

Callisto      Heliotrope      Pyramus and Thisbe      Deucalion and Pyrrha  
Eos and Tithonus

3. "Mythical words" Increase your English vocabulary by completing this sheet with words derived from the myths.

4. You are one of the girls who were gathering flowers with Proserpina in the Sicilian field when she was kidnapped by Pluto. Write (3-4 paragraphs) what you would tell Ceres about the appearance of Pluto and the kidnapping. Use facts from the story but also keep in mind how you would be feeling.

### 10 POINT ACTIVITIES

1. Myth Crossword Puzzle (see handout)
2. Prepare a fullpage magazine ad for Chiron's Mountain School. Visuals must be a part of the ad. Be sure to include subjects taught and famous students who have attended this school. Look at ads in magazines for ideas for how to present your information.
3. Poseidon and Athena were in a contest to have the city of Athens named for one of them. Poseidon gave the citizens a horse and Athena gave them the olive tree. Each one addressed the citizens telling the benefits and future value of their individual gifts. Become either P. or A. and write the speech you would give to PERSUADE the citizens to choose your gift and thus name the city after you. (5-6 paragraphs). Before you write, read this story in a mythology book.
4. SKIT ---Limited to three major characters with equal parts in the play. Select a myth you can rewrite as a skit of about 6-8 minutes in length. You may have "extras" but

only 3 people with major roles receiving a grade. (Do now and you have a skit for the Banquet)  
6. Choose a song whose melody you like. Compose new lyrics celebrating a god or goddess. Write at least 2 or 3 verses. (Minimum of 20 lines)

7. Mythical Meter Word Search (handout)

8. Design a maze/labyrinth with mythological dangers (at least 7) at various points. This should be colorful and the dangers must be represented by detailed drawings. It should fit on an 8 and 1/2 X 11 inch or 8 and 1/2 X 17 inch page.

## 15 POINT ACTIVITIES

1. Create a collage showing present day use of Myths in books, geographic names, clubs, advertising, newspapers, cartoons, etc. You should have a minimum of 15 references to different myths or mythological characters. Xerox the item, or cut it out; mount it on your poster board; identify each myth or character with 1 or 2 sentences. **Do this ONLY if you plan to start looking immediately and continue on a daily basis.**

2. Bulletin Board Treasure Hunt (handout)

3. Myth Newspaper: All articles, reports, etc. must relate to mythology. Look at various newspapers and find out what you need to include: e.g. major news items, comics, "Ask Beth," Living, Arts and Films, Business, Ads, Science and Nature, At Home, etc. 2 people may work on this together.

4. You are a servant of King Midas. Describe what you see, hear and feel in detail on the day when Midas receives his "golden touch" or when he receives his donkey ears. (2-3 pages)

## 20 POINT ACTIVITIES

1. Create a fabric banner which illustrates a story about a mythological character (a Latin sententia on the banner would be an added bonus!) The characters' attributes must be a part of the banner. Submit 1 or 2 paragraphs with information telling who this character is and how the banner (and sententia) relate.

2. Children's BOOK: Select a myth. REWRITE AND ILLUSTRATE this story for a child between the ages of 4 and 8. It should be a book when you are done complete with illustrated covers.

3. Watch the video, HERCULES. Then write a 3 page essay comparing this to what you have learned about the story of Hercules' birth, his 12 labors, and other information about his life. Your essay should also discuss aspects of Mythology included in this movie that are not a part of the ancient legend of Hercules.

4. Select a scene from one of the following legends: Hercules, Jason and the Argonauts, Theseus and Minotaur, the adventures of Odysseus. Illustrate this scene on a "GREEK VASE." (This is not a picture of a character, it is an action scene that tells an episode from the story. Before starting, look at books with pictures of Greek and Roman vases paying careful attention to the colors, styles, motifs and

types of vases. Look at some of the examples posted in our Latin rooms and make yours as authentic looking as possible. (Minimum size of your paper: 18"x24")

## 25 POINT ACTIVITIES

1. Create a large mural with scenes from the 12 Labors of Hercules, of Mount Olympus with the 12 Olympians and their attributes, or of 10 scenes from the Underworld. Minimum size: 4' x 6'. This will be a continuous mural, not separate pictures mounted on a large piece of paper.
2. Imagine you have been magically transported to Mount Olympus. You are able to wander around and observe the deities, listen to their conversations, see what they are doing, etc. In 4-6 pages, describe what you see, hear, smell, feel, and taste on this adventure.
3. Myths in Museums: Visit the MFA in Boston. Go to the different galleries scouting for representations of myths in art. The Greek and Roman collections offer hundreds of examples in sculpture, vase paintings, coins, jewelry; but be sure to visit other galleries (especially the European paintings and furniture/decorative arts) as well as the check out the rotunda. Don't forget the ceiling there and the corridors leading from it. Photograph representations of the myths or deities. Select 15-20 (you may have to take 40 or so to get that many that are good) of your best pictures and **create a booklet with one paragraph about the stories or gods represented.** The written commentary should include who the mythical character is and what associations are represented or which story is being illustrated. This should be in your own words. This is NOT just what the museum identification card says. **Be sure to use high speed film as you cannot use flash in the museum. The Tower Library has passes available to the Museum.**

**Caveat:** It goes without saying that activities change from year to year. I am already developing new activities this year.

## ROMA AETERNA

Magistra Lowe

### ACTIVITIES FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE YOUR 50 POINTS

#### \*\*\*10 point assignments:

1. Why was the arch so important in Roman architecture? Describe how the arch was used in different types of buildings in Roman times. (**3-4 paragraphs; include facts and names of at least 4 different monuments in the city of Rome**)
2. Crossword **Puzzle**. (Take a sheet from the file.)
3. Quis Sum? (Take a sheet from the file.)

#### \*\*\*\*15 point assignments:

1. Write and **record a 60-second commercial** for a day at the Colosseum or Circus Maximus. You will need to find out names of gladiators or charioteers and include other facts about the entertainment itself. (Research Required).
2. **Word Search**. (Take from the file.)
3. Create a **poster** advertising shows either in the Theater of Pompey, the Colosseum, or the Circus Maximus. Be sure to include specific information and details with names, times, prices, etc. (This requires research on your part.)
4. **Write a comparison** of The Baths of Caracalla to a modern health club (e.g. Longfellow's). What is included in the ancient and modern? what is similar? What is different? Consider activities, architecture, decor. (5-6 paragraphs)

#### \*\*\*\*20 point assignments:

1. Complete 4 out of 5 questions from another **work card**(must be different from the first one you did) on life in Rome.
2. **Videotape** a dramatic interview with someone from the city of Rome. Be creative in your script, authentic costumes, and sound effects. You must include at least 15 facts about life in the city and the various monuments. (Check script with magistra BEFORE you record.)
4. **Create models** of the 3 column orders(This should be done with self-hardening clay or plasticine.) On 3x5 cards, list examples of five Roman monuments where each order is used and three examples of buildings in Boston or Washington, D.C. where each order is used.
5. **Create a Roman coin** of a Roman political figure which has the head of the person on the obverse and on the reverse something which illustrates a great deed of that person. The size should be between 15" and 24" and the material used should imitate the metal of a coin. Be sure to study pictures of Roman coins and think about those you saw when Mr. Petty brought in his collection earlier this year. All inscriptions must be in Latin and appropriate to the character. Check with magistra for help on the inscriptions.

### **\*\*\*\*25 point assignments**

1. What technological equipment was available to a Roman construction engineer? Create a **booklet or poster** of this equipment and the modern equivalent used by engineers today. (Not hand tools) Minimum of 5 pieces of equipment with 1 or 2 paragraphs of comparison and explanation of how each works.
2. Rome's empire was won by the legions. The weapons used by the soldiers were cleverly designed. Illustrate the following with **detailed, labeled drawings or models**: onager, testudo, ballista, and a Roman legionary soldier in full armor. Be sure to include in your information, how the siege weapons were used by the Roman soldiers to attack a town or a fort.
3. One use of the excellent Roman road system was importing and exporting trade goods from all parts of the empire. Using the ATLAS OF THE CLASSICAL WORLD or THE ATLAS OF THE ROMAN WORLD, find out what the imports were. Choose a minimum of 10 to illustrate in a **scrapbook**. Your book should include pictures of the imports; the name of the import in Latin and in English; a labeled map of the Empire showing where the products originated; and one or two paragraphs for each import explaining how the Romans used these goods.
4. Take a series of **photographs** (minimum of 25; you will need to take many more than this since some may not turn out as you planned.) from Wayland and surrounding communities or in Boston, illustrating the use of classical architecture in today's world. Include location of building, style(s) of architecture and compare it to a Roman building we have studied. Mount the photographs with identifying information requested.
6. **Read** SILVER PIGS, TWO FOR THE LIONS or THREE HANDS IN THE FOUNTAIN by Lindsay Davis (or another of her novels) or MURDER ON THE APPIAN WAY by Steven Saylor. Then see magistra for the **questions** you will need to **answer** about the reading.
7. Select several **musical pieces** ( 6 or 7) which express for you the mood, architecture, feeling, function, size, etc., of various monuments in Rome. Record your selections with commentary explaining why you chose these pieces and how they relate (according to above criteria) to the monuments you selected. In addition, you will hand in a list of the pieces chosen with composers and your rationale for each in paragraph form.

### **\*\*\*\*\*30 point assignments**

1. Due to Rome's overpopulation and the need for new housing, a decision has been made to destroy most of the ancient monuments to make room for modern buildings. Your task is to select five monuments to save for their importance in history, art, architecture, and our cultural heritage. **Write a letter** to the City Planner persuading him/her not to destroy these particular sites. Be sure to include factual information in your reasons. (3-4 typed pages with planning, rough draft, and conferencing should be included).

2. **Create a power point presentation** on five of the Roman monuments we have studied. You should have a title page and your sources of information along with at least two visuals and appropriate facts for each monument. Select a background so that the words are clearly legible.

3. **Build a model** of a section of an Aqueduct. It will have at least two rows of arches and a working specus. The size should be no longer than 2 and 1/2 feet and no higher than 18". Include a written explanation of how an aqueduct worked, where the water came from and what happened to the water once it reached a city.

4. **Build a model** of a section of the Appian Way. It should show a cutaway view of the different layers as well as a paved section. Along with the model you will include a detailed written report on the construction of the roads as well as a map of Italy which shows the route of the Appian Way and any other roads you care to include.

**Roma Aeterna: Contract for Choice Activities**  
Magistra Lowe

**Directions:** After you have selected the activities of your choice for the 50 points, write your selections in the spaces below. You will write your contract TWICE. Next to each activity, write the number of points you can earn. When you add up the points, be sure they equal 50 --- no more, no less. Please sign the copy you are turning in to me and ask a parent or guardian to sign it as well.

1st 25 points are due \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd 25 points are due \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Copy:**

	Description of Activity	# of points
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

Cut neatly \*\*\*\*\*Cut neatly\*\*\*\*\*Cut neatly

**Magistra's Copy:**

	Description of Activity	# of points	# of points earned
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

**Student signature**

**Parent signature**

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