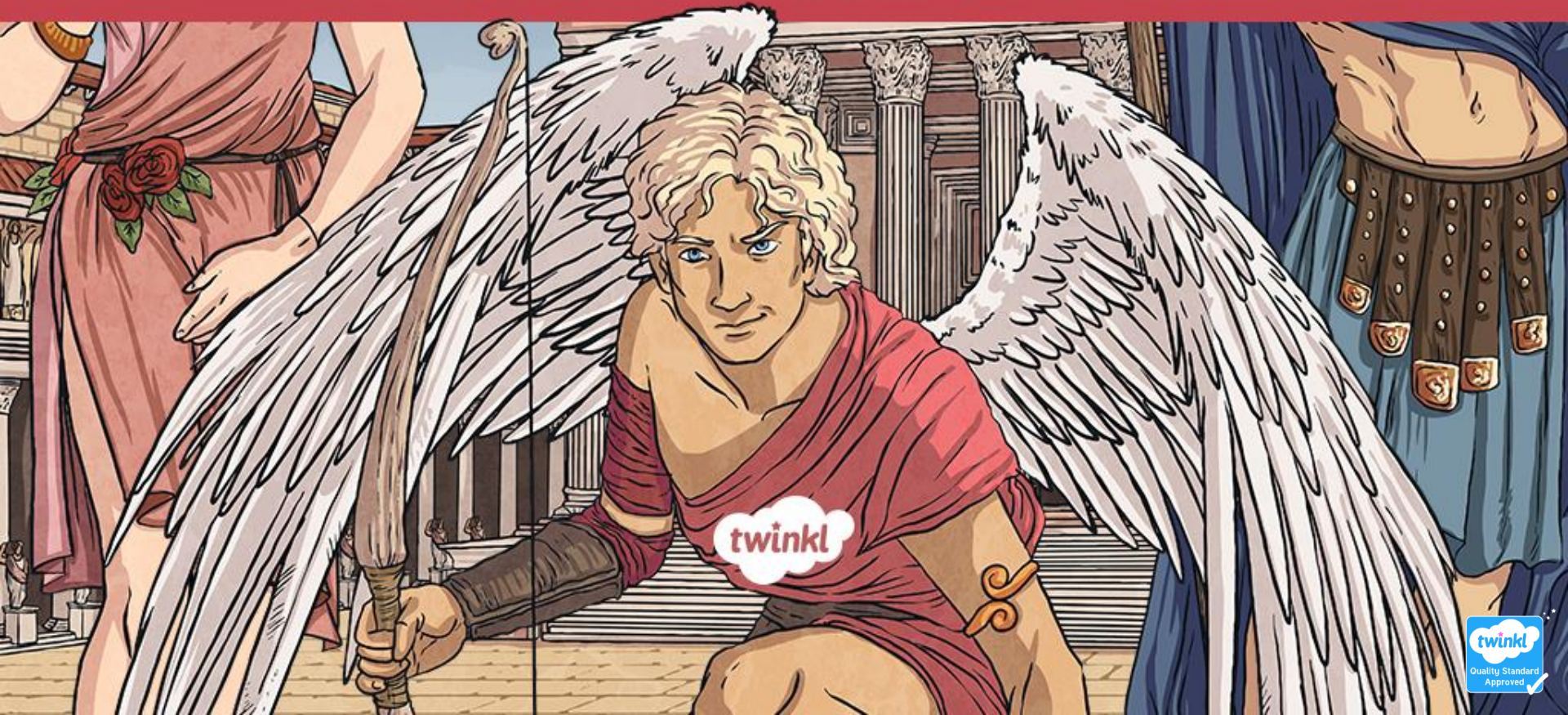


Romans

Gods and Goddesses



Roman Religion

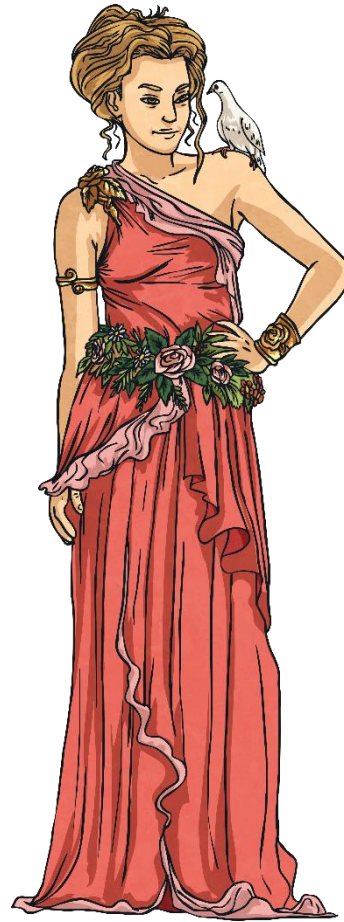
In the earlier Roman times, the Roman people believed in many different gods and goddesses whom they believed controlled different aspects of their lives.

They did not have a central belief system of their own as such, but rather borrowed gods, rituals and superstitions from a number of sources and adapted them to suit their own needs. The Romans believed in good and bad omens and they performed many rituals in the hope of receiving good luck. Prayer and sacrifice was important and the Romans held festivals every month to honour the gods. They would worship their gods and goddesses at temples.



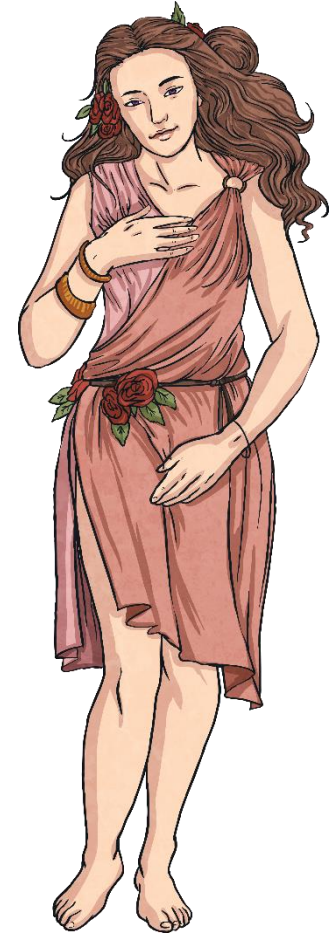
Roman Gods and Goddesses

The Romans had lots of gods and goddesses. Many of their gods and goddesses are the same as the Greek gods, but with different names. They make things very confusing! We are going to look at some of the more popular Roman gods and goddesses. If they sound familiar, the table on the following slide might help you to recognise the Greek gods and goddesses of the same name.



Aphrodite

or...



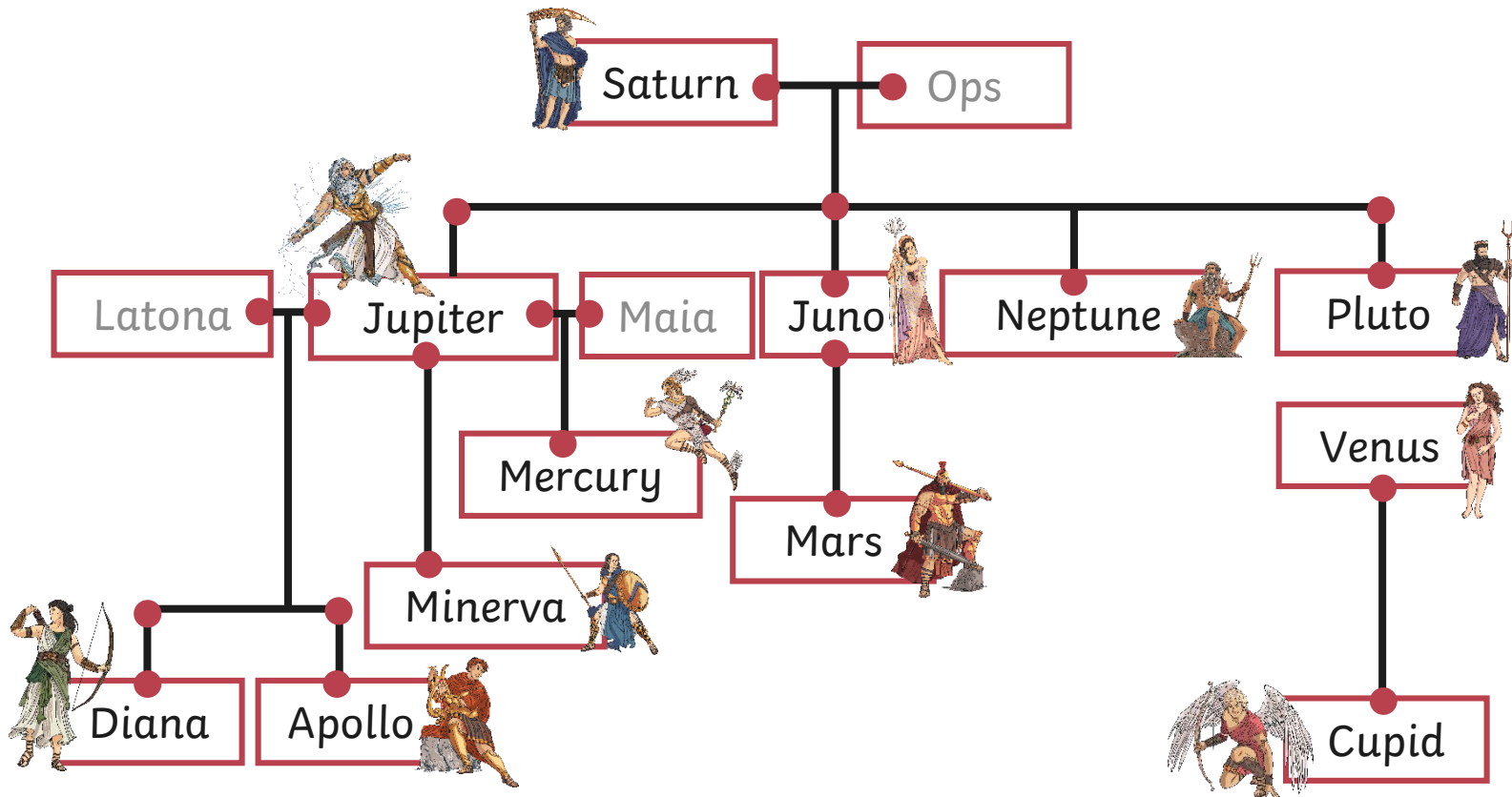
Venus?

Comparing Gods

Roman God	Greek God	God/Goddess of...
Saturn	Cronus	God of Time
Jupiter	Zeus	King of the Gods
Juno	Hera	Queen of the Gods
Neptune	Poseidon	God of the Sea
Pluto	Hades	God of the Underworld
Minerva	Athena	Goddess of Wisdom
Mars	Ares	God of War
Venus	Aphrodite	Goddess of Love
Mercury	Hermes	Messenger to the Gods
Apollo	Apollo	God of the Sun
Diana	Artemis	Goddess of the Moon
Cupid	Eros	God of Love

A God Family Tree

Most of the gods and goddesses were related to each other. Have a look at this family tree to see how our twelve gods and goddesses were linked.



Saturn: God of Time

**Father of Jupiter, Pluto, Neptune, Juno, Ceres and Vesta.
Married to Ops, Mother Goddess.**

The Saturnalia festival lasted seven days and was similar to our Christmas today.



Jupiter: King of the Gods and Heavens

**Son of Saturn. Brother of Pluto and Neptune.
Married to Juno, who was also his sister.**

Jupiter could shape-shift (make his body look like something else, e.g. an animal) and throw his voice.

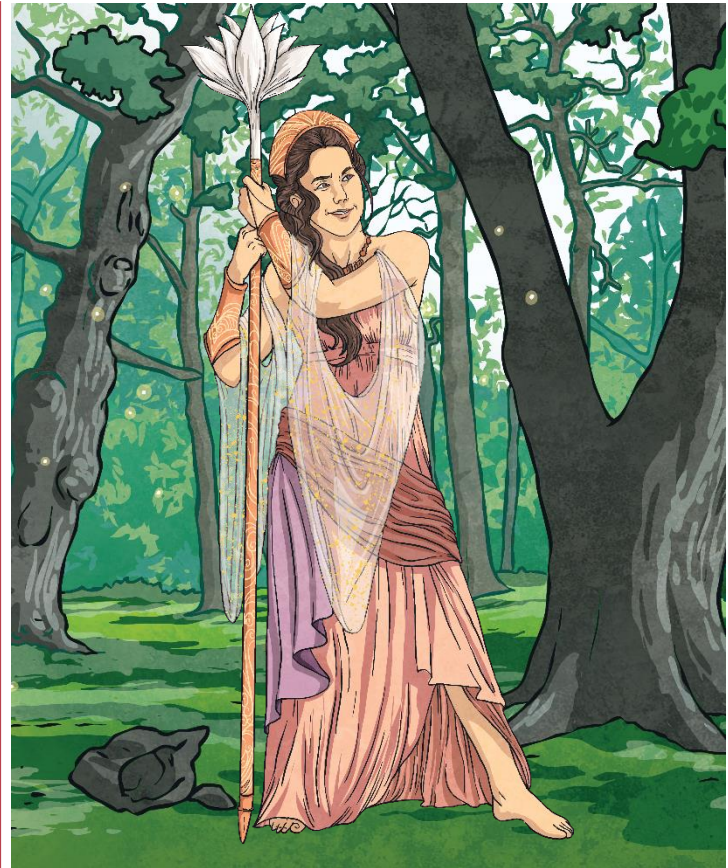


Juno: Queen of the Gods

Married to Jupiter.

Mother of Mars, Natio, Juventa and Vulcan

There was a festival every year on the
1st March to honour Juno.



Neptune: God of the Seas

Brother of Jupiter and Pluto.

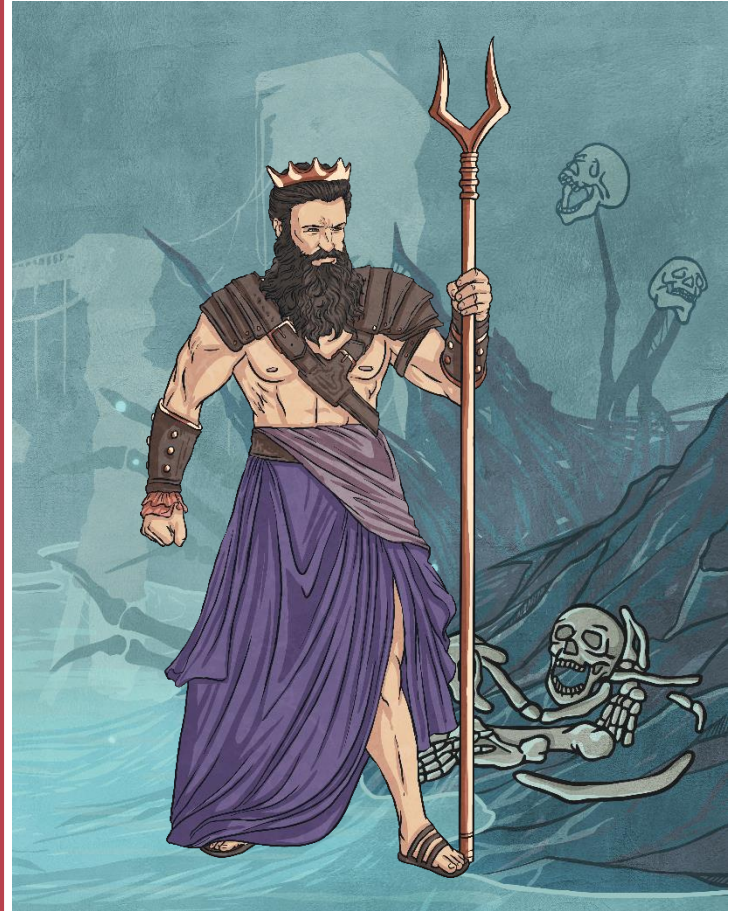
Neptune was also the god of earthquakes, known as the **Earth-Shaker**.



Pluto: God of the Underworld

Brother of Jupiter and Neptune.

He had a three-headed dog called Cerberus.



Venus: Goddess of Love and Beauty

Her sign was a rose.

