

time in public and to attend social and religious events. Some wealthy Roman women studied such subjects as literature, music, mathematics, and philosophy.

Many Roman ideas and customs came from the Greeks. Roman artists, sculptors, and writers often used Greek styles. The ideas of Greek philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle became part of Roman education. Even the Roman religion was influenced by the Greeks. The Roman god of war, Mars, came from the Greek god Ares. Also, the Roman goddess Minerva was once the Greek goddess of wisdom, Athena.

The Roman, or Latin, alphabet was also based on the Greek alphabet. Like

ROMAN GODS AND GODDESSES		
GODS AND GODDESSES	ROMAN	GREEK
Ruler of the gods	Jupiter	Zeus
Goddess of marriage and women	Juno	Hera
God of war	Mars	Ares
Goddess of love	Venus	Aphrodite
God of love	Cupid	Eros
Goddess of wisdom	Minerva	Athena
God of the sea	Nepitune	Poseidon
God of light, medicine, and poetry	Apollo	Apollo
Goddess of hunting	Diana	Artemis
God of commerce and messenger of the gods	Mercury	Hermes

Greek, Latin became a well-used language. As Roman soldiers traveled through the Italian Peninsula and other parts of Europe, they spread the Latin language. Latin became the official language of the Roman Empire.

Review

CHECK UNDERSTANDING

1. What were two important parts of early Roman life?
2. What was the official language of the Roman Empire?

THINK CRITICALLY

3. Why do you think the Romans borrowed many of their ideas and customs from the Greeks?
4. Why do you think Latin became an important language throughout much of Europe?

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Mural Activity Reread this lesson. Pay special attention to the descriptions of Roman culture. Then, with one or two classmates, draw a mural of Roman culture on a large sheet of posterboard. You may include Roman people and buildings in your drawing. Use markers or paints to color in the mural.