

Reading Comprehension

Directions: Read the passage then answer the questions correctly.

Roman Legends

Long ago, people did not know as much about science and astronomy as they do today. When they did not understand something, they thought the gods were responsible. The ancient Romans believed there were many gods and that each god or goddess was responsible for certain things.

For example, the Romans believed Ceres (pronounced Sir-eez) was the goddess who made the flowers, plants, trees and other things grow. She was a lot like what people today refer to as Mother Nature. Ceres was also responsible for the good weather that made crops grow. You can see why Ceres was such an important goddess to the ancient Romans.

Apollo was the god of the sun. People believed he used his chariot to pull the sun up each day and take it down at night. Apollo was extremely good-looking and dedicated. His home was a golden palace near the sun surrounded by fluffy white clouds. Apollo had to work every single day, but he lived a wonderful life.

Jupiter was the most important god of all. He was the god who ruled all of the other gods, as well as the people. Jupiter was also called Jove. Maybe you have heard someone use the exclamation, "By Jove!" That person is talking about Jupiter! The word **father** is derived from the word **Jupiter**. Although he did not really exist, Jupiter influenced our language.

1. What imaginary figure is Ceres compared to today? [1pt] _____

2. Where did Apollo live? [2pts] _____

3. What is the most appropriate genre of this passage? [2pts]

a. Poetry b. Mythology c. Folk Tales d. Fantasy

4. Based on the information given, what is the difference between a god and a goddess? Give story details to support your answer. [4pts]

5. Give one reason why Ceres was such an important Roman god. [2pts]

6. What event in nature can be explained by Apollo's activities? [1pt]

Hurricanes
Heat waves
Sunrise and sunset
Fluffy rain clouds

7. Who was considered to be the most important god of all? [1pt] _____

8. What reasons did the story give for this god being the most important god of all? [2pts]

9. What is the reason outlined in the story that tells why Romans 'thought the gods were responsible' when they didn't understand something? [2pts]

10. Why did Apollo had to work every day? [1pt]

He lived by the sun.
He controlled the sun.

He was handsome.
He was the father of the gods.

[17 Total Marks]