

# Roman Gods





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u l q d r d q n u s c l  
n v y c w p u e s s l m  
o w h j u p i t e r v s

Jupiter

Juno

Mars

Venus

Minerva

Neptune

Ceres

Vulcan

Diana

Bacchus

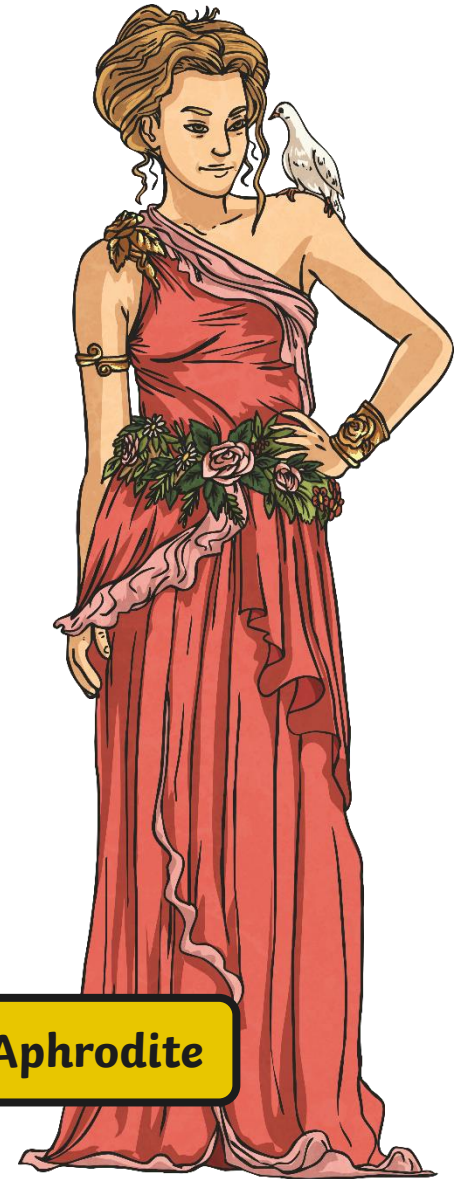
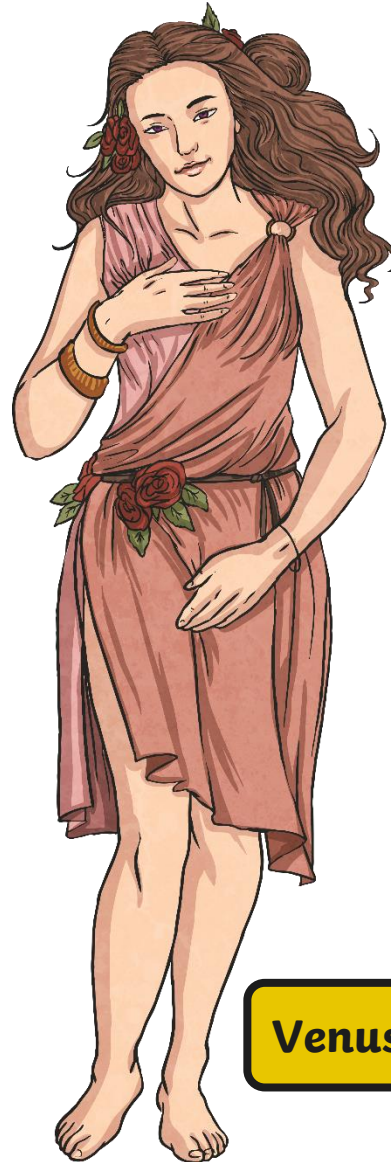
Mercury

Vesta

# Roman Gods

The Romans had lots of gods. Many of their gods are the same as Greek gods, but with different names. This makes things very confusing!

We are going to look at twelve of the most popular Roman gods, if they sound familiar, the following table might help you recognise the Greek gods of the same name.



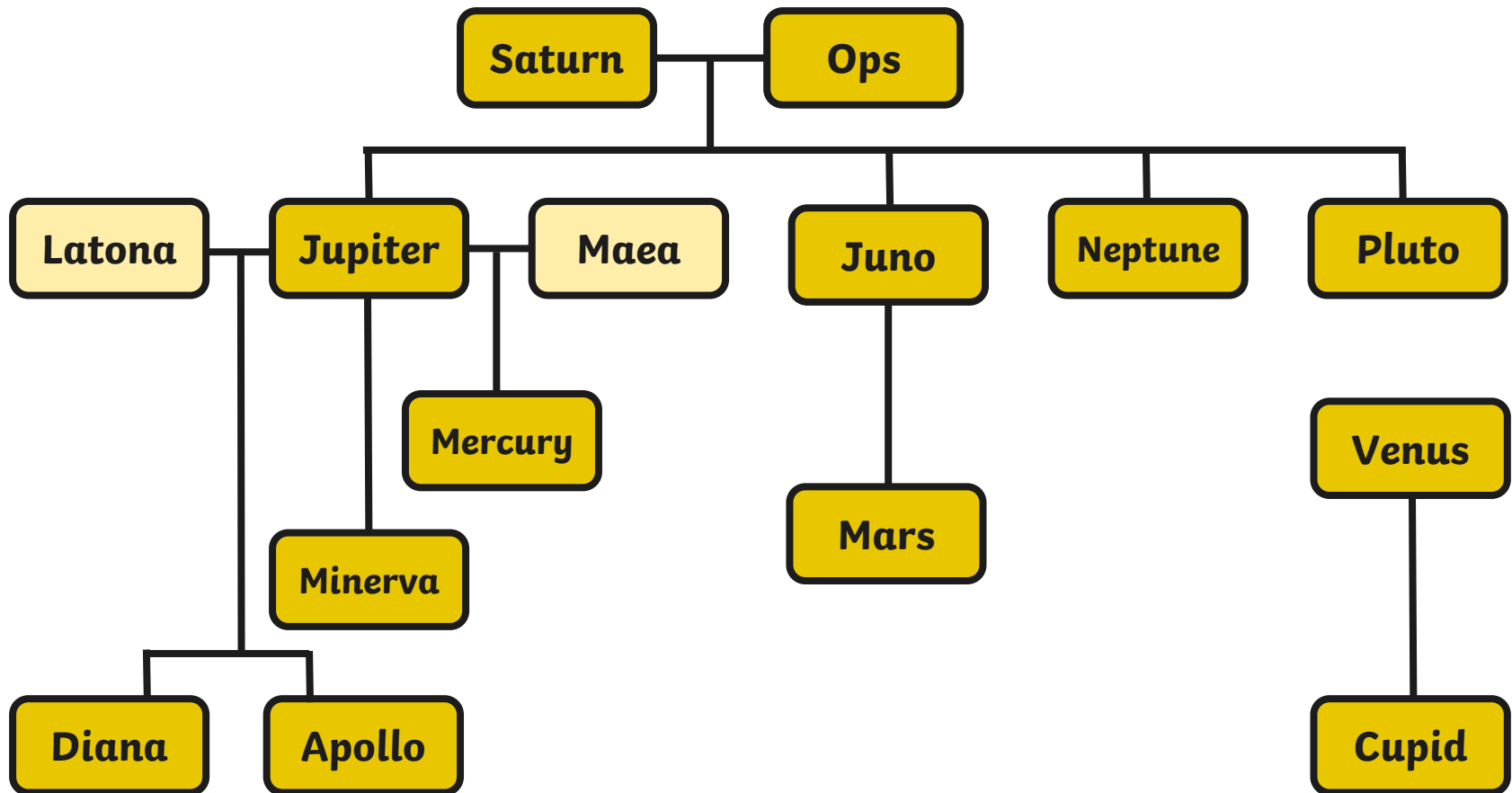
**Venus or Aphrodite**

# 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



# Family Tree of the Gods



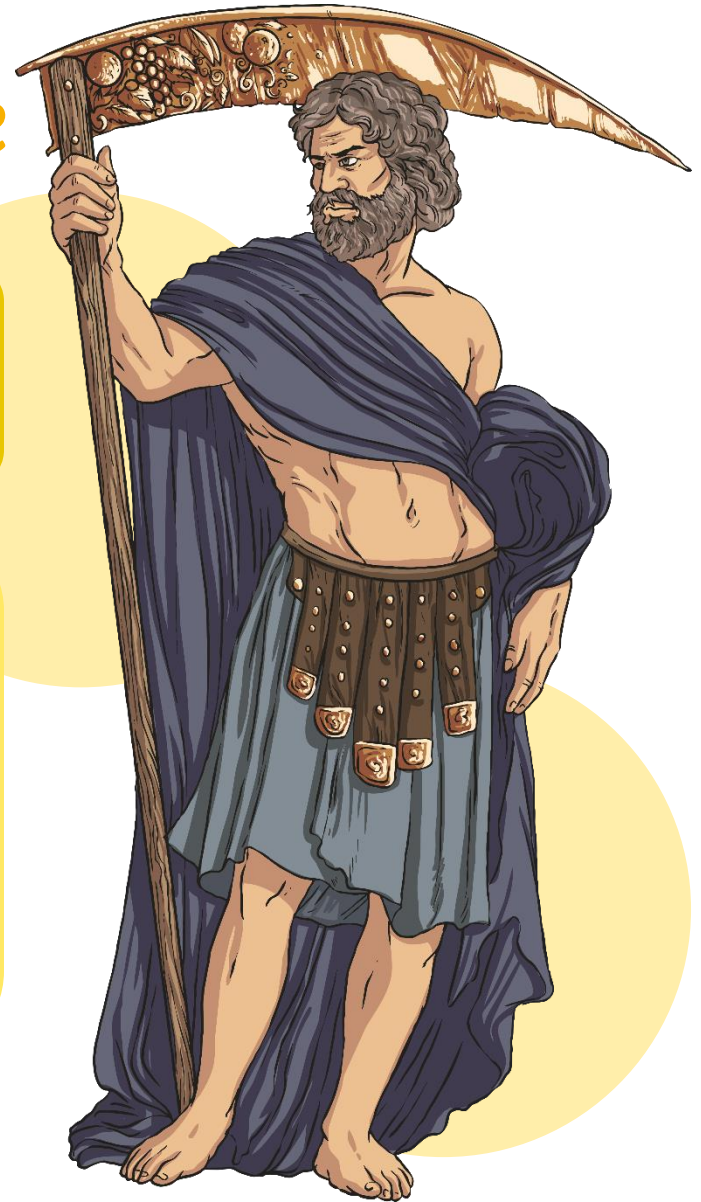
Most of the gods were related to each other. Have a look at this family tree to see how our twelve gods were linked.

# Saturn- God of time

**Father of:** Jupiter, Pluto, Neptune, Juno, Veres and Vesta

**Married to:** Ops, Mother Goddess

- Saturn was the first **King of the Gods**. When he died, the world was split between his three sons. Neptune ruled the seas, Pluto the underworld, and Jupiter the skies/heavens.
- Saturn's weapon was a scythe.
- He is sometimes called **Old Father Time**.



# Saturn- God of time

- Saturn's children, Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto, represent air, water and death, the three things that time cannot kill.
- He use to be known as the god of agriculture, or see sowing, but the celebration of **Saturnalia** festival in December each year lead to him being associated with time.
- The Saturnalia lasted seven days, and was similar to our Christmas today.





# Jupiter- God of the Heavens

**Son of:** Saturn

**Brother of:** Pluto and Neptune

**Married to:** Juno, who was also his sister

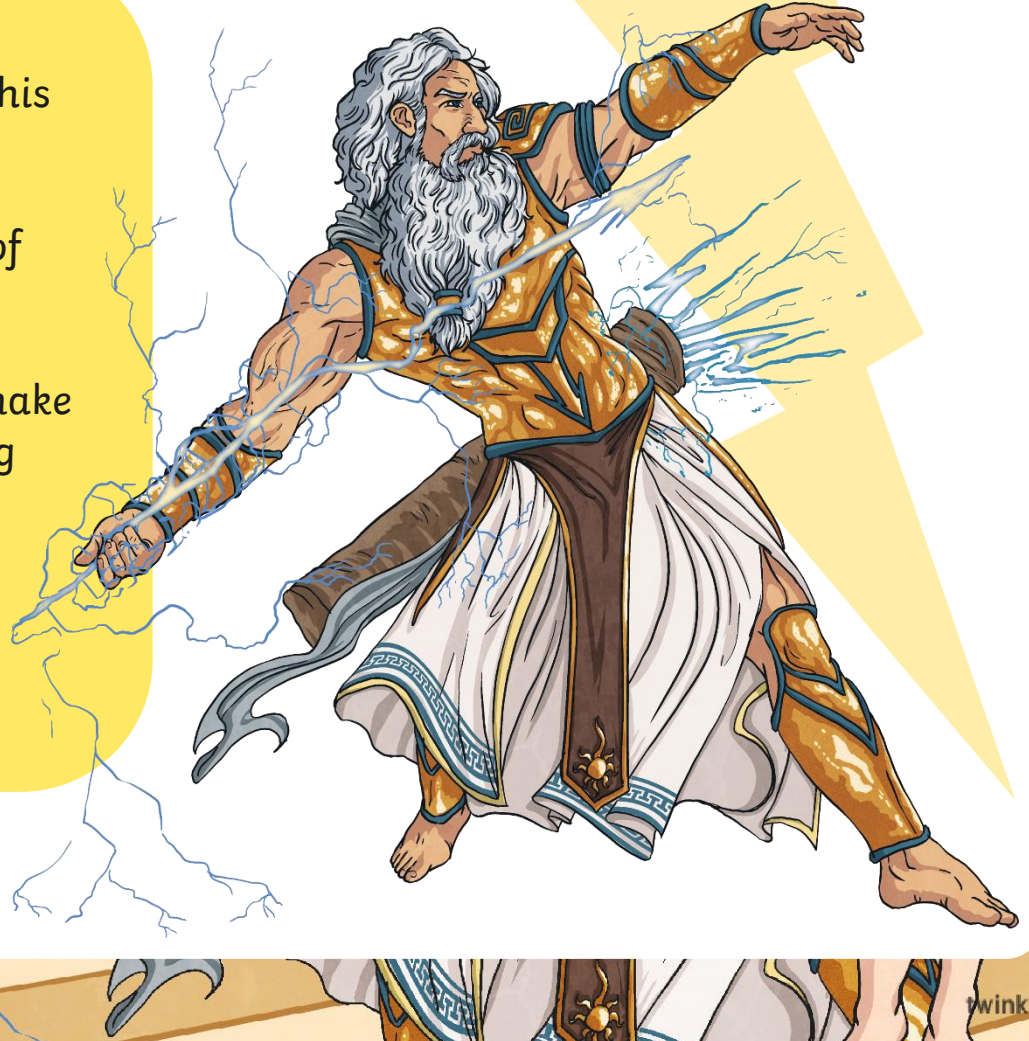
- Jupiter was the most powerful god.
- He rode a winged horse called **Pegasus**, who carried the thunderbolts that Jupiter used as weapons.
- He had an **eagle** as his messenger.





# Jupiter- God of the Heavens

- Jupiter had twelve gods as his special advisors.
- He had many children, all of whom has special powers.
- Jupiter could shape shift (make his body look like something else, like an animal), and throw his voice.
- Jupiter means Father Jove'.

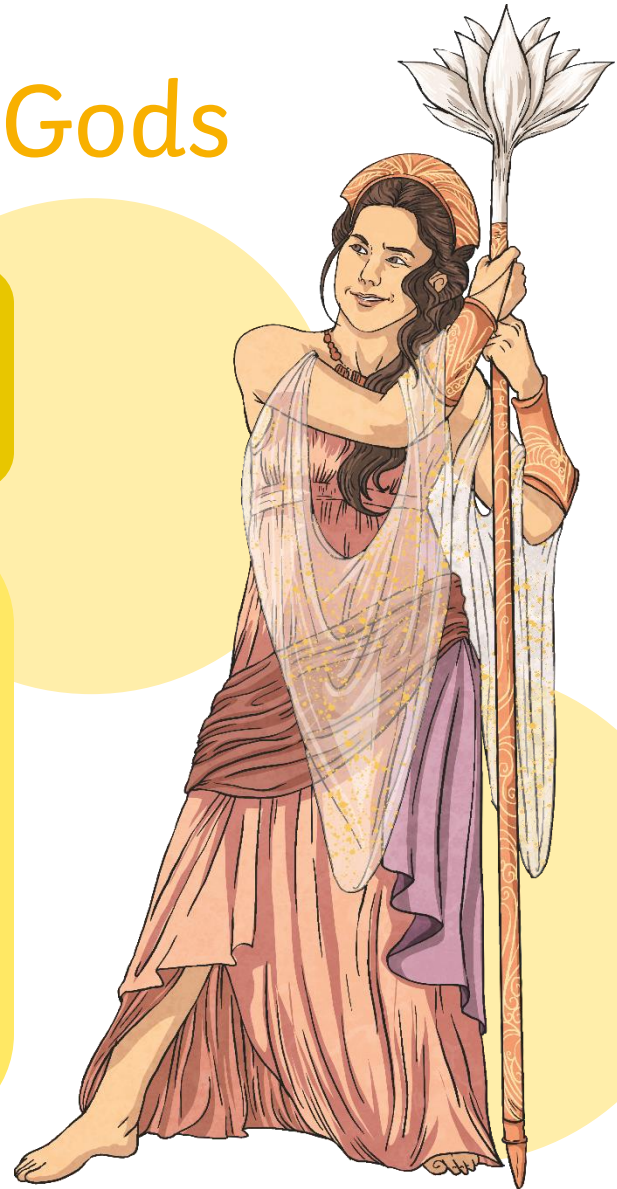


# Juno- Queen of the Gods

**Married to:** Jupiter

**Mother of:** Mars, Natio, Juventas and Vulcan

- Juno was the beloved goddess of marriage, worshipped as a housewife, mother and matron.
- Although Juno watched over all Roman women, her special concern was Roman **married women**.
- There was a festival every year on 1<sup>st</sup> March to honour Juno.





# Neptune- God of the Sea

**Brother of:** Jupiter and Pluto

- Neptune's weapon was a **trident**, which had three prongs.
- He rode a dolphin or a horse.
- Neptune was very powerful, people were very scared of him.



# Neptune- God of the Sea

- He had very bad moods and this would affect the seas. Angry seas were dangerous so people brought gifts to the temple to try and please him.
- Neptune was also god of earthquakes, known as **The Earth-shaker**.





# Pluto- God of the Underworld

**Brother of:** Jupiter and Neptune

- Pluto ran the Underworld.
- The Underworld was where Romans believed your soul went when you died. If you were good, you would go to a nice part of the underworld. However, if you were bad, then it wasn't very pleasant.
- Pluto had a golden chariot.



# Pluto- God of the Underworld

- He had a helmet that would make you invisible.
- He had a three headed dog called Cerberus.





# Minerva- Goddess of Wisdom

**Daughter of:** Jupiter

- Minerva was born without a mother. Minerva was born directly out of Jupiter's brain. According to mythology, Jupiter had a terrible headache and Vulcan split his head open only for Minerva to jump out, in full armour!
- Minerva was also the Goddess of **women's work.**



# Minerva- Goddess of Wisdom

- She sat on the council of 12 gods.
- It was Minerva's wisdom that helped Perseus kill Medusa, the monster with snakes for hair.
- She was very good with horses.





# Mars- God of War

**Son of:** Juno

- Just like Minerva was born without a mother, Mars was born without a father.
- Mar liked bloodshed, he didn't care who won or lost a battle.
- Nobody liked him very much, he was cruel and very vain.



# Mars- God of War

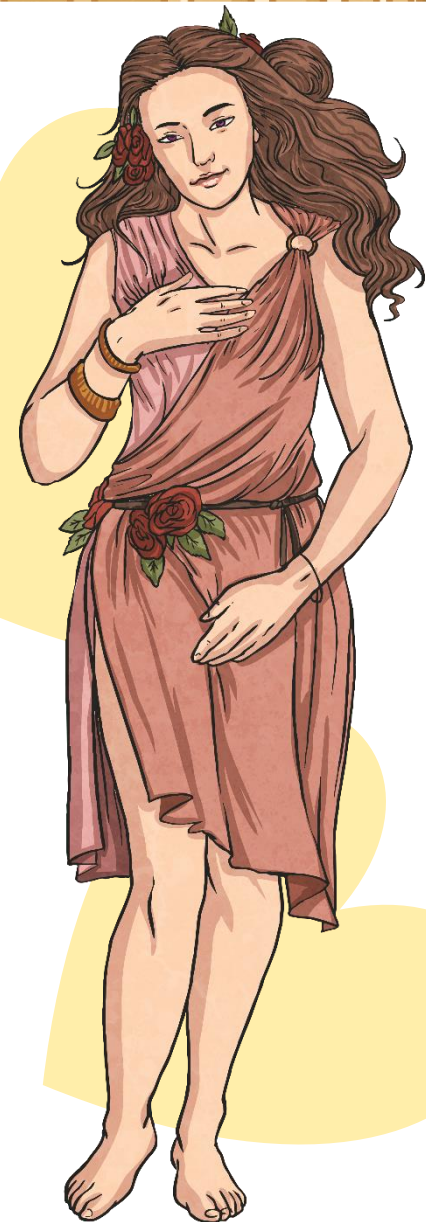
- He travelled with Discordia, the spirit of Disagreement, and also the spirits of Pain, Panic, Famine and Oblivion.
- Festivals to honour Mars happen in March as this is when wars would start again, having stopped over winter.
- His sacred animals are the wolf and the woodpecker.





# Venus- Goddess of Love and Beauty

- According to myth, Venus was born from sea foam.
- She represents **water**, essential to life and contrasting with Vulcan and Mars who were gods of fire and war.
- She was very beautiful and many statues and paintings of her were made.
- Her sign was a **rose**.
- She started the Trojan War, but not deliberately.



# Mercury- Messenger to the Gods

**Son of:** Jupiter and Maea (or Maia)

- Mercury was the youngest son of Jupiter.
- He was very mischievous and everyone loved him.
- He was intelligent and very quick so he made a good messenger.
- He had a winged hat and sandals so he could fly.





# Mercury- Messenger to the Gods

- He carried a staff which had wings and two snakes curled round it.
- His job was to tell the Gods about everything that was happening.
- He was a very good negotiator and could talk his way out of trouble.



# Apollo- God of the Sun

**Son of:** Jupiter and Latona

**Twin brother of:** Diana

- Apollo was also the God of Music.
- He and his twin sister were the magical children of Latona. He was born on a floating island because Juno was jealous of his mother and had banished her.
- Every day he took four horses and his chariot and pulled the sun across the sky to give light to the world.





# Apollo- God of the Sun

- Apollo was very protective of his mother.
- His weapon was a bow and arrow.
- His instrument was a lyre.
- He is associated with laurel trees and laurel wreaths because Cupid made him fall in love with a woman who turned herself into a laurel tree to escape him.
- He was gentle and warm, very rarely angry.



# Diana- Goddess of the Moon

**Daughter of:** Jupiter and Latona  
**Twin sister of:** Apollo

- Diana could be cold and unfriendly.
- Like Apollo, she had a bow and arrow as her weapon.
- She had floppy eared dogs that she loved her much.
- She was also **Goddess of the Hunt.**





# Diana- Goddess of the Moon

- She was associated with wild animals and the woods. She could talk to and control animals.
- She was often pictured with her bow and arrow and her hunting dogs, or a deer.



# Cupid- God of Love

**Son of:** Venus

- When Cupid shot someone with a bow and arrow, they would fall in love with the very next person they saw.
- Cupid was sometimes quite mischievous.

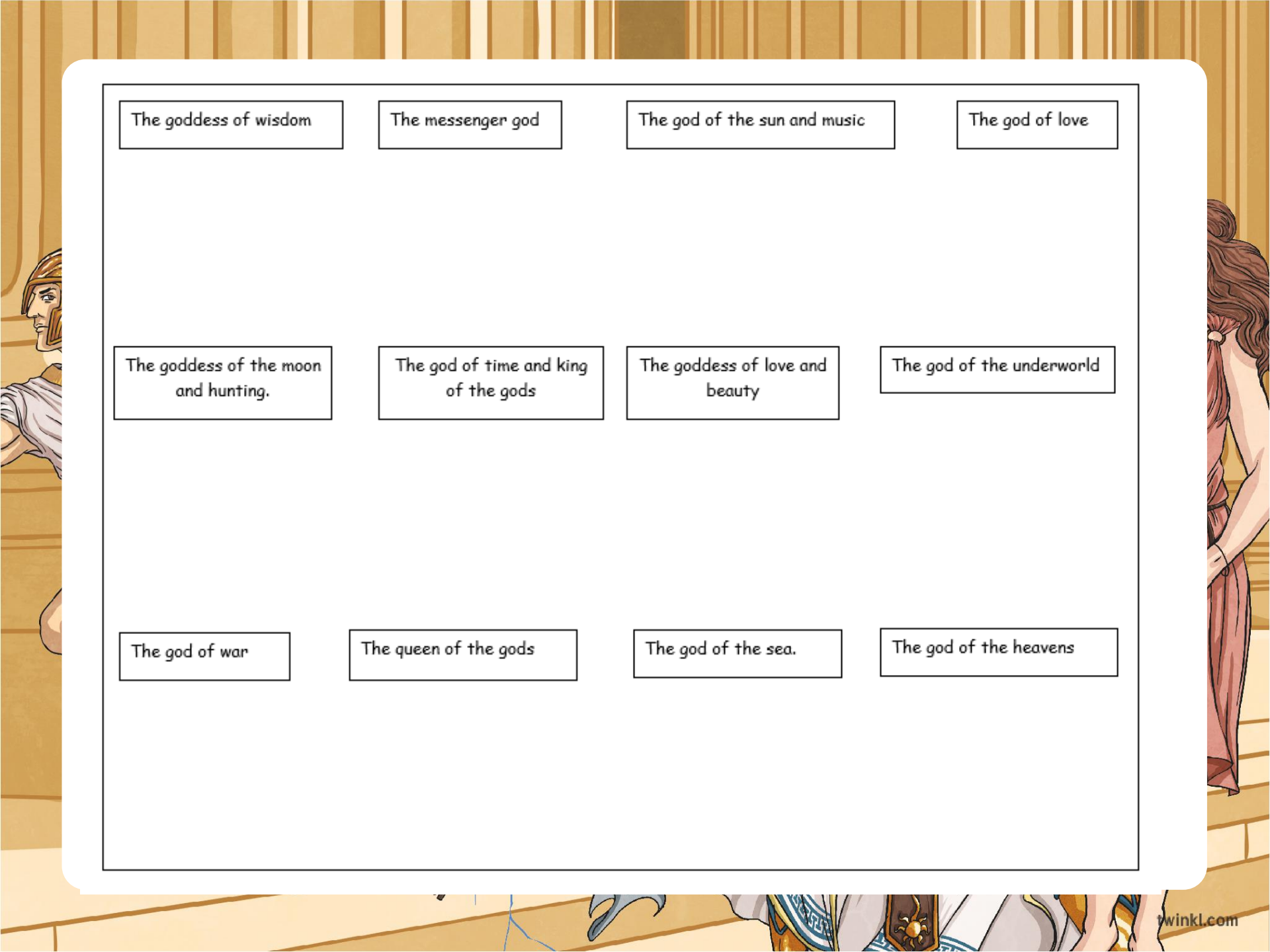




# Cupid- God of Love

- He was usually shown looking very young.
- Cupid had wings and he would fly around with his bow and arrow.
- He had two kinds of arrows. The golden tipped arrows made people fall in love and the lead tipped arrows made people want to run away from the next person they saw.





The goddess of wisdom

The messenger god

The god of the sun and music

The god of love

The goddess of the moon  
and hunting.

The god of time and king  
of the gods

The goddess of love and  
beauty

The god of the underworld

The god of war

The queen of the gods

The god of the sea.

The god of the heavens