**Fun topics to research about Ancient Greece & Rome**

**I. Ancient Greece:**

1. **Greek Gods & Goddesses:** Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Hera, Athena, Artemis, Apollo, Demeter, Persephone, Hestia, Dionysus, Hephaestus, Hermes (messenger), Eros, and Aphrodite
2. **Greek Titans (descendants of Uranus (heaven) & Gaia (earth):** Cronus, Rhea, Hyperion, Theia, Phoebe, Leto, Oceanus, Tethys, Helios, Prometheus, Atlas, the Fates, Muses, and Metis.
3. **Greek monsters:** Typhon, Echidna, Medusa, Scylla, Charybdis, Cerberus, Chimera, Minotaur, Pegasus, Lernaean Hydra, Cyclops, Centaurs, Sirens, Harpies, Satyrs, Gorgon, Nemean Lion, Manticore, Chiron, the Kraken, and the Phoenix
4. **Greek heroes:** Hercules, Achilles, Perseus, Theseus, Odysseus (The Odyssey), Jason (and the Argonauts), Bellerophon, Orpheus, and Atalanta (the only female Greek hero)
5. **The Trojan War:** The Trojan horse, Helen of Troy (kidnapped by Paris & referred to as the “Face that launched a thousand ships”), Achilles, Ajax, Hector, King Menelaus, Odysseus,
6. **The Odyssey** (Rick Riordan’s book, Sea of Monsters, is based on this story): Polyphemus (Cyclops), Scylla, Charybdis, the Sirens, Calypso, Circe, the Lotus Eaters, the Cattle of the Sun (Helios’ cattle), Athena, and Poseidon
7. **The Underworld:** Charon, Cerberus, the River Styx, the Elysium/Elysian Fields (for those who were good), Isle of the Blessed (for heroes), Fields of Asphodel (for everyone in between), Fields of Punishment (for those who were bad), Tartarus (for the worst, like Cronus), Sisyphus and Tantalus (sentenced to be tormented for eternity). **Map of the Underworld:** <http://rickriordan.com/extra/map-of-the-underworld/>
8. **The Olympics in Ancient Greece**
9. **Virtual tour Parthenon:**<http://www.airpano.ru/files/Acropolis-Athens-Greece/2-2>
10. **Virtual tour of Greece:**<http://www.greecevirtual.gr/en/attiki/athens#/acropolis_1/>
11. Interesting video about the **Oracle of Delphi:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilz8kYYjKwM>

1. **Ancient Greece city-states:** Sparta, Athens, Delphi, Troy, Marathon, Thebes, Megara, Argos, Corinth, Syracuse, and Eretria
2. **Famous battles:** Battle of Salamis, the Trojan War, Marathon, and Thermopylae
3. **Greek theater**: Tragedies and comedies

**II. The Roman Empire:**

1. **Julius Caesar:** Roman general, building the Roman Empire, “Dictator for Life,” his death on the senate floor, the Oracle of Delphi’s prophecy, the Ides of March (March 15th), and Brutus
2. **Rome’s most evil emperors:** Caligula, Nero, Vitellius, and Domitian
3. **Mount Vesuvius burying Pompeii & Herculaneum:** Pyroclastic flow, “fire mountain,” bodies preserved in ash, and why so many couldn’t escape
4. **Roman Gods & Goddesses (derived from the Greek Gods & Goddesses):** Jupiter, Juno, Neptune, Saturn (Cronus), Venus, Pluto, Vulcan, Ceres, Apollo, Minerva, Diana, Mars, Mercury, Bacchus, Proserpine, Cupid, Gaea
5. **Christianity in the Roman Empire:** Early persecution, Constantine (passed Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire), Roman Catholic Church, Vatican City, the Pope,
6. **Where months got their name:**

<https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-did-the-months-of-the-year-get-their-names>

1. **[Roman]ce languages:** Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian
2. **Rome:** The Pantheon, the Colosseum, Vatican City, St. Peter’s Basilica, Trevi Fountain, the Sistine Chapel, Circus Maximus, Bocca della Veritá (Mouth of Truth), Hadrian’s Villa, Trajan’s Market, Nero’s palace, Catacombs of Rome (tomb), the Tiber River, St. Peter’s Square, Arch of Constantine, Tiber Island