

# GUIDE TO ROMAN GODS AND GODDESSES

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## Mars

The god of war. His attributes are a shield and sword.

*Mars Wearing a Breastplate, early empire. Provenance unknown. Bronze. Musée du Louvre; Transfer from the Louvre's Department of Decorative Arts, 1897, formerly in the Lenoir collection (br 667–inv. mnc 2189)*



## Jupiter

The king of the gods. His attributes are a thunderbolt and an eagle, which is often positioned at his feet. In Greek mythology, he is known as Zeus, the ruler of Mount Olympus. He is also referred to as Jove.

*Jupiter, 2nd century A.D. (?). Discovered in Italy. Marble from Paros. Musée du Louvre; Purchased in 1807, formerly in the Borghese collection (ma 24–inv. mr 254; n 1240)*



## Venus

The goddess of love, beauty, and fertility. Her attributes are a dove and fruit. In Greek mythology, she is known as Aphrodite.

*Venus from Montagne, late 4th–early 5th century A.D. Discovered in Saint-Georges-de-Montagne, near Bordeaux, France, 1843. White marble. Musée du Louvre; Purchased in 1953 (ma 3537–inv. mnd 2063)*



### Cybele

The mother of the gods in Phrygian culture, Cybele was adopted by the Romans in 203 B.C. Her main attributes are the lion and the *tympanon*, a circular frame drum that is similar to a tambourine.

*Stele Dedicated to Cybele Matyene, 2nd century A.D. Discovered in Philadelphia (Turkey). Marble. Musée du Louvre; Gaudin gift, 1898 (ma 3311–inv. mnc 2395)*



### Bacchus

The god of wine and revelry. His attributes are a drinking vessel, a crown of ivy, and a thyrsus (a long staff covered in ivy and topped with a pine cone). In Greek mythology, he is known as Dionysus.

*Bacchus, Imperial Roman era. Provenance unknown. Bronze inlaid with silver. Musée du Louvre; Delort de Gléon gift, 1921 (br 4151–inv. Mnd 1357)*



### Minerva

The goddess of wisdom, war, crafts, and industry. Her attributes are an owl, helmet, and spear. In Greek mythology, she is known as Athena.

*Minerva, 2nd half of 1st or 2nd century A.D. Discovered in Italy (?). Marble. Musée du Louvre; revolutionary seizure in 1798, formerly in the collection of the Duke of Modena (ma 674–inv. mr 288)*



### Mercury

The messenger of the gods, as well as the god and protector of travelers, merchants, and thieves. His attributes are a purse, a broad hat with wings, and a caduceus (a staff decorated with wings and entwined serpents). In Greek mythology, he is known as Hermes.

*Mercury, 2nd–3rd century A.D. Provenance unknown. Bronze. Musée du Louvre; Purchased in 1825, formerly in the Durand collection (br 530–inv. ED 4334)*



### Isis

A goddess in the Egyptian pantheon, Isis was adopted by Roman cults as a symbol of motherhood and companionship. The name Isis means “female of the throne.” One of her common attributes is a headpiece that resembles a throne.

*Head of Isis, late 2nd or early 3rd century A.D. Provenance unknown. Marble. Musée du Louvre; Purchased in 1817, formerly in the Marquis de Drée collection (ma 223–inv. LL 46)*



### Serapis

The Hellenistic-Egyptian god of fertility, prosperity, and regeneration. His attribute is a calathos (a vessel used for agricultural measurement) worn atop his head.

*Head of Serapis, end of 2nd or beginning of 3rd century A.D. Temple of Serapis in Carthage (Tunisia). Marble with traces of polychromy; Musée du Louvre; Gift 1889, formerly in the collection of Captain Marchant (ma 1830–inv. mnc 1129)*