

GRADE 9

HISTORY

HOW DID THE HELLENIC CULTURE INFLUENCE THE EARLY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ROME?

The Greeks settled in Sicily and Southern Italy around 700 B.C. Their Hellenic culture influenced Roman life so effectively that Roman gods and education, as well as other aspects of life, were very much like their Greek counterparts. For example, the Roman god Jupiter is one and the same as the Greek character Zeus, father and chief of the gods. Dina, the Roman goddess, is identified with the Greek goddess, Artemis. And so on, with just about every Roman god or goddess having been originally Greek.

Some of the wealthier families bought highly educated Greek slaves, who tutored their sons in Greek theology and academics. More often than not, Roman boys learned how to fluently speak, write, and read the Greek language.