Task 1 Roman Gods:

*Minerva*

Minerva was the goddess of wisdom. She was often pictured carrying an owl which was thought to be a wise creature. It was common for Romans involved in schools and business to follow her.

She was believed to have had a very unusual birth, popping directly out of her father Jupiter’s head!

Some writings suggest that she was also the goddess of medicine and doctors. She was not, however, afraid of blood shed having helped to slay the Medusa (snake headed monster).

*Mars*

Mars was the Roman god of war. He was believed to be the father of Romulus and Remus who founded Rome. He was the second most important god to the Romans. It was common for him to be worshipped by Roman legionaries (soldiers).

Although he is often thought to represent conflict and fighting, he was most commonly represented holding a shield for defense. This was because the military power of Rome was thought of as a way to secure peace.

*Venus*

Venus was the Roman goddess of love, beauty and fertility. She was believed to have been born in the sea and is sometimes depicted in a large scallop shell!

She was thought to be both kind and ruthless when it suited her.

She was one of the most popular gods and even attracted her own groups who thought that she was the most important god. These were known as cults of Venus.

Julius Caesar (a Roman Emperor) claimed that she was his ancestor.

Task 2:

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| *Name:* Andraste  *From:* Bath, Britain  *Religious beliefs:*  As a Briton, you believe in many of your own gods. At the hot springs in Bath you worship the goddess Sulis who you believe is wise.  *How did the Romans treat you?*  When the Romans arrived they built a town in Bath and developed the baths. They called the town Aquae Sulis. They built a temple to your goddess. They combined the worship of their own goddess Minerva, with the worship of your goddess and called her ‘Sulis Minerva.’ | *Name:* Ezra  *From:* Judea, Syria  *Religious beliefs:*  You are a Jew. You believe that there is a single God who created the universe. You have many laws which affect every part of your life.  *How did the Romans treat you?*  Your home of Judea is occupied by the Romans. At first you were allowed a lot of freedom and your leader King Herod was allowed to build a huge new temple. However, in 41 AD you began to be angry that your city was occupied and to revolt against the Romans. In retaliation, the emperor Vespasian sent in 50,000 Roman troops who killed one million Jewish people. | *Name:* Bardiya  *From:* Persia  *Religious beliefs:*  You believe in the Persian god known as Mithras. Mithras is a god concerned with the battle between good and evil. You have many secrets and rituals and you worship in underground temples.  *How did the Romans treat you?*  When the Romans arrived many of the soldiers adopted your religion. However, this religion was only for men!  *Keyword:* Adopted – to take on a religion |  |