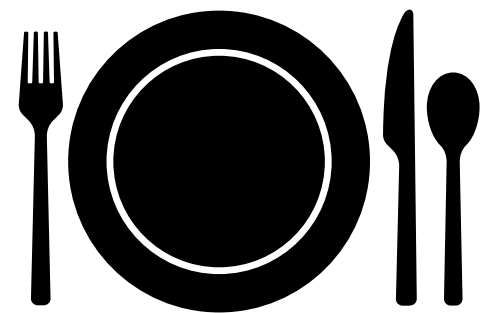
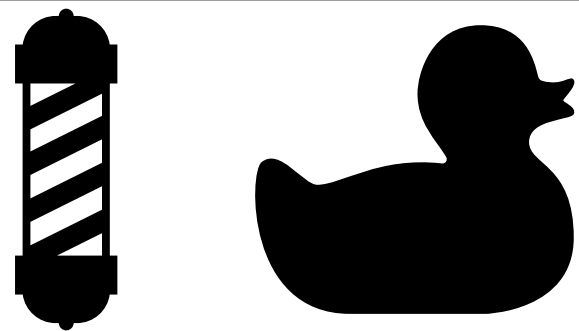
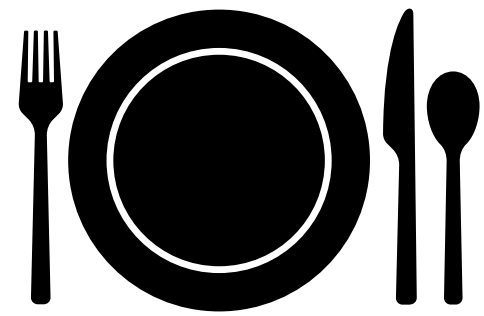
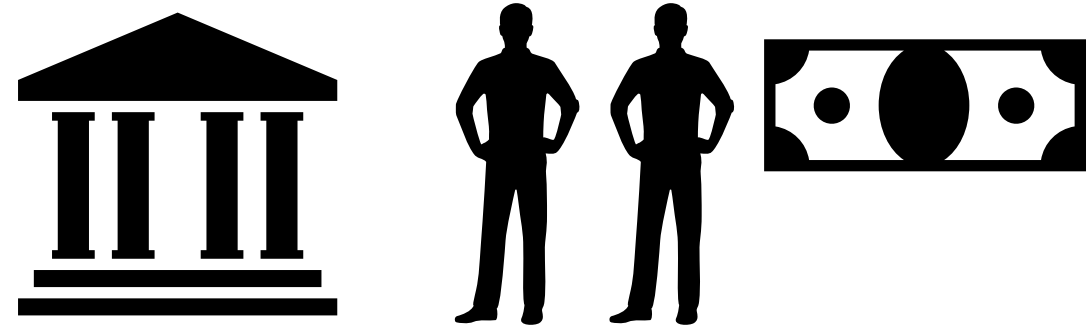
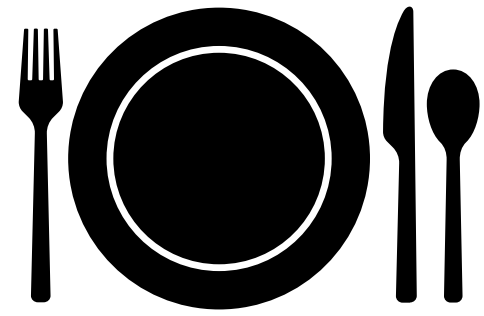
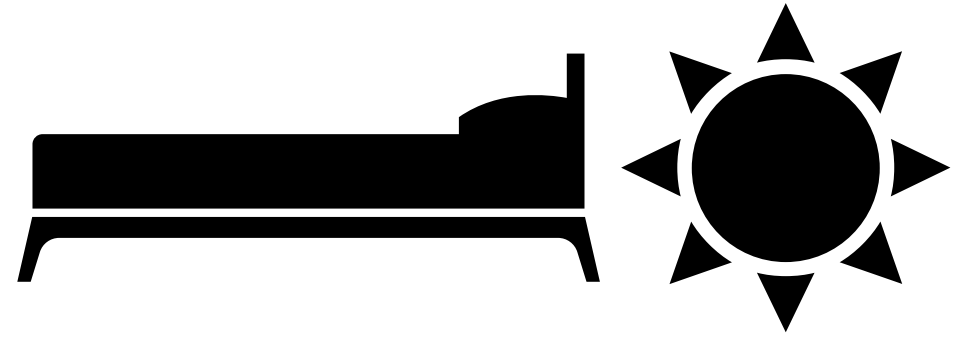


# Civilisation

**Component 3 (20%)**

# Recalling our learning: *the daily life of a Roman man*



# **Lesson 13:**

## **Who was the paterfamilias?**

**Year 10 Latin**

**Tuesday 17th October 2023**

# LO: to describe the role of the 'paterfamilias' and explain his importance in Roman society

Tuesday 17th October 2023

## TOPIC OVERVIEW

- *Paterfamilias*, his rights and duties
- Patrons and clients

# Families

The family was very important to the Romans. Every family was led by a *paterfamilias* (father), and included his wife and children, his sons' wives and children, and all their property and slaves. When the *paterfamilias* died, each of his sons became the head of a new family. The resulting chain of families formed a clan called a *gens*.



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**‘familia’ = family**

**For Romans, *familia* meant more than our concept of ‘family’ because it also included the slaves who lived in the household.**

**paterfamilias** the male  
head of a Roman family





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**He was the oldest living male in a Roman family**



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**‘pater’ = father / ‘familia’ = family  
so, he was ‘father of the family’**



**paterfamilias** the male  
head of a Roman family

**He was the oldest living male in a Roman family**

**He was head of the Roman household**

**‘pater’ = father / ‘familia’ = family  
so, he was ‘father of the family’**

**He had legal power over his entire household**



- **The paterfamilias, role and responsibility**

- **The paterfamilias**

**paterfamilias** the male  
head of a Roman family

- The word paterfamilias denotes the head of a Roman familia (the family and household)
- Roman law gave the paterfamilias absolute control over his family, financially and legally.
- He would arrange marriages for his children and might even force them to divorce their husband/wife.

- The paterfamilias, role and responsibility

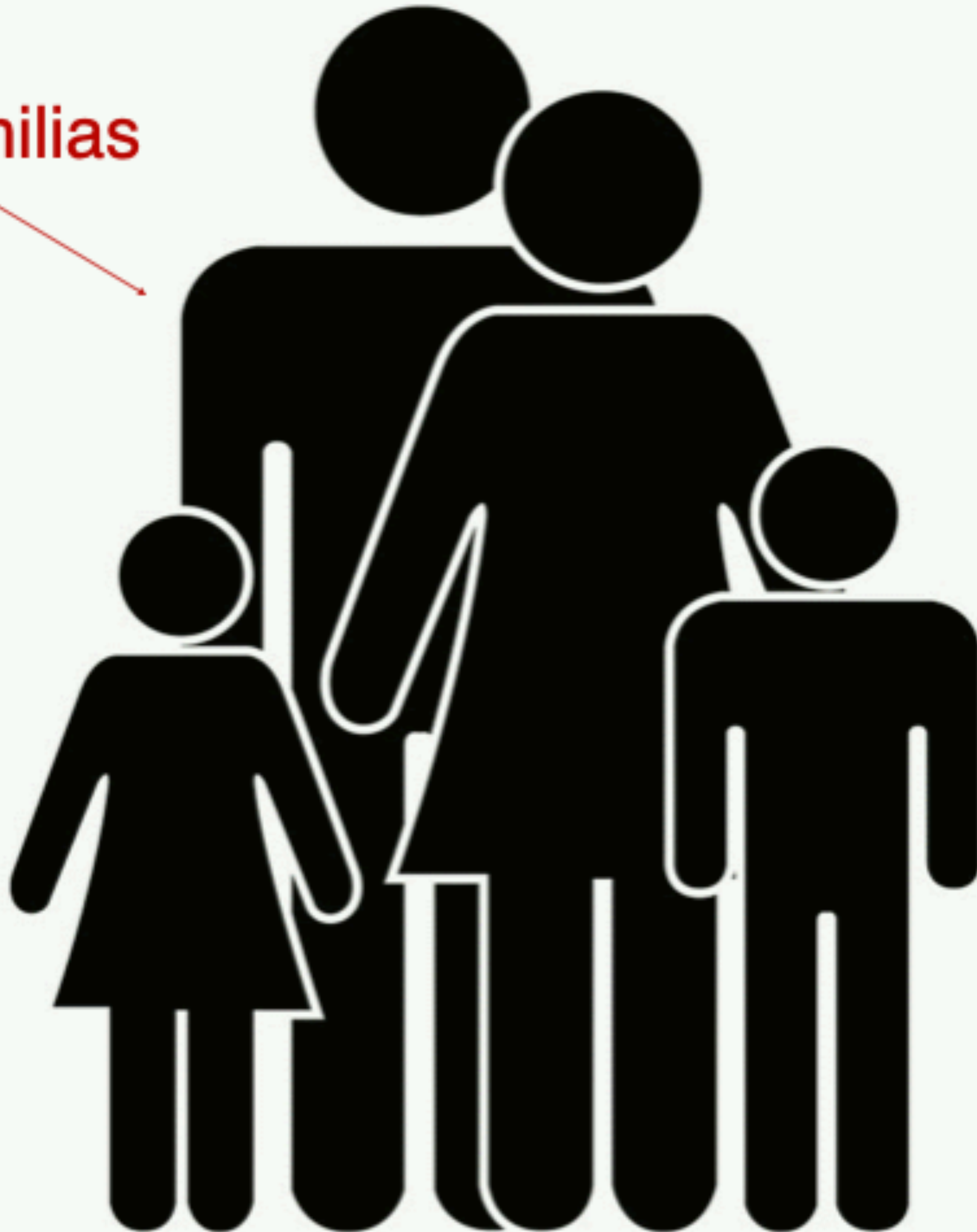
### The paterfamilias

**paterfamilias** the male head of a Roman family

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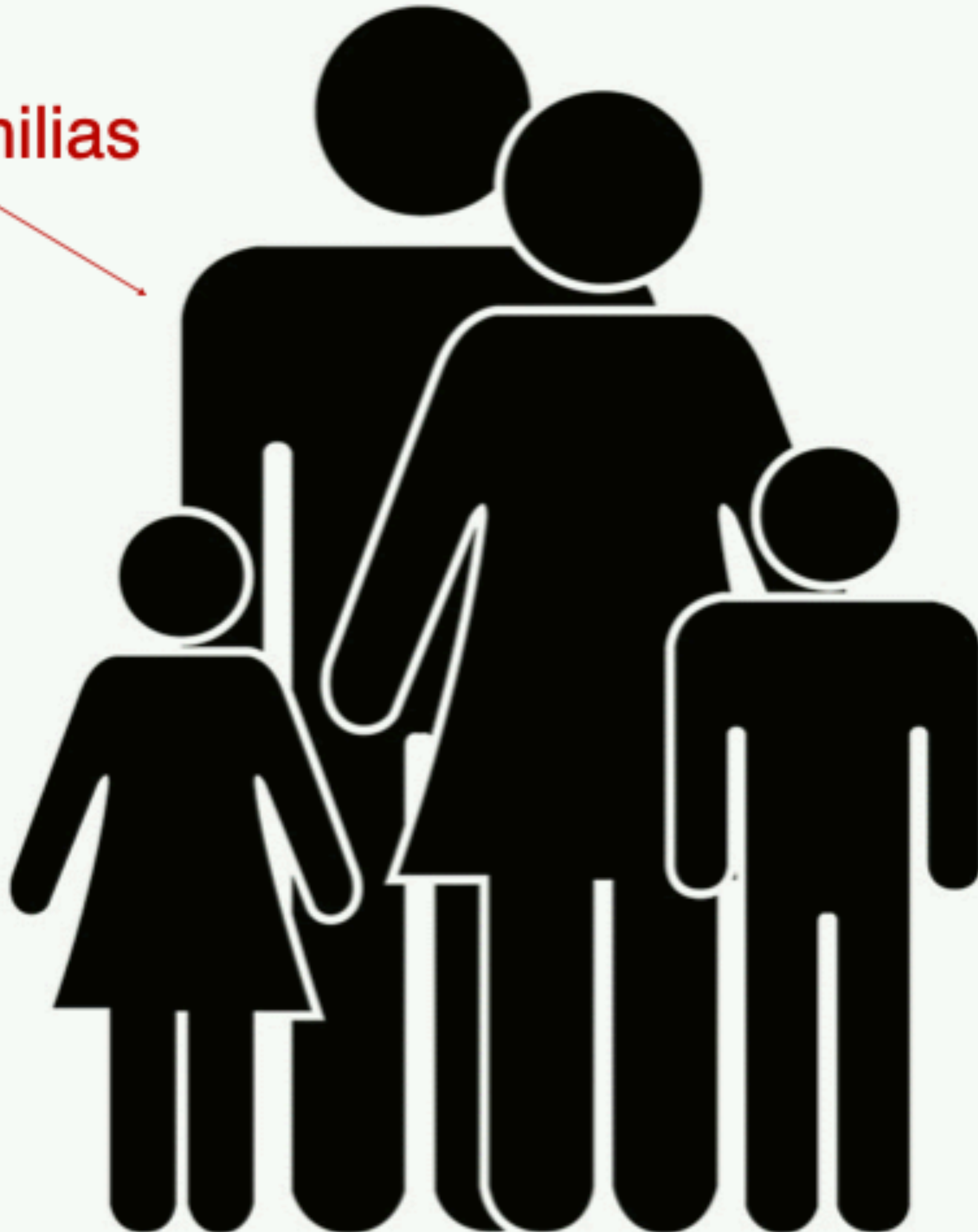
**One of the duties of a *paterfamilias* was to inspect a new-born baby. If it was unwanted or illegitimate, then the *paterfamilias* could order for it to be abandoned and exposed (left out to die).**

**paterfamilias**



The ***paterfamilias*** was responsible for the welfare of his family and had to raise his children to be good citizens of Rome

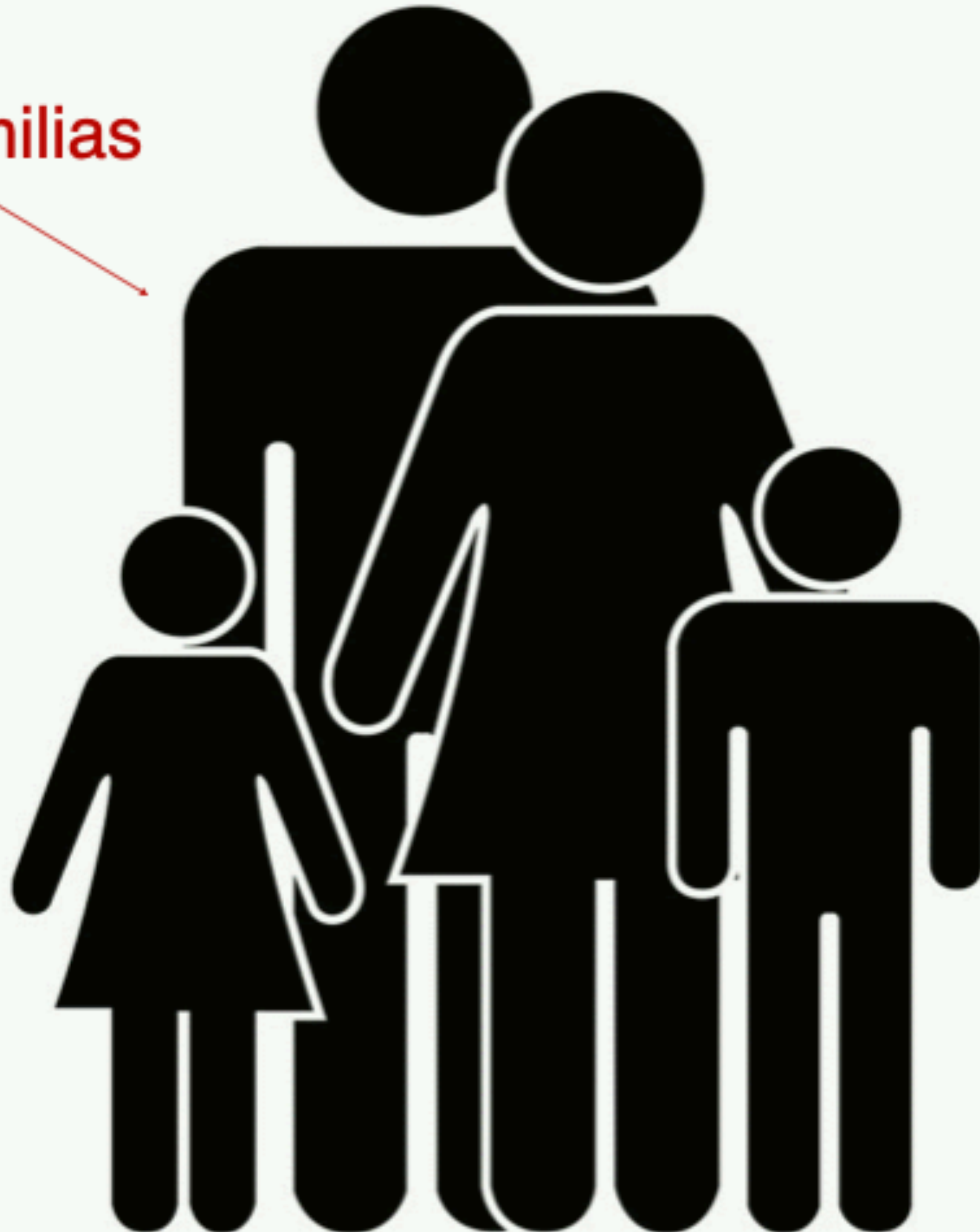
**paterfamilias**



The *paterfamilias* cared about the education of his children, especially his sons, and would normally appoint an educated slave to be his children's tutor.

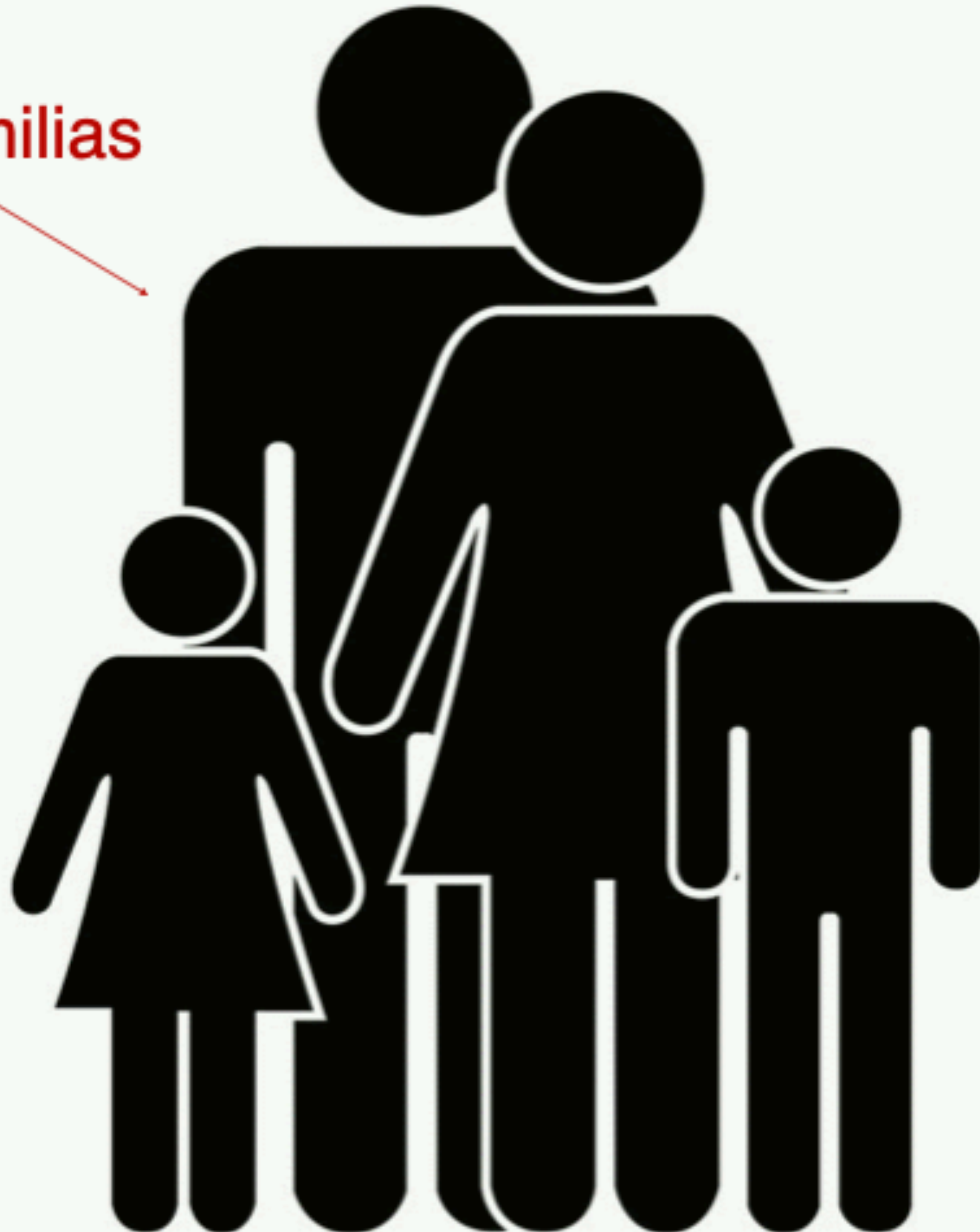


paterfamilias



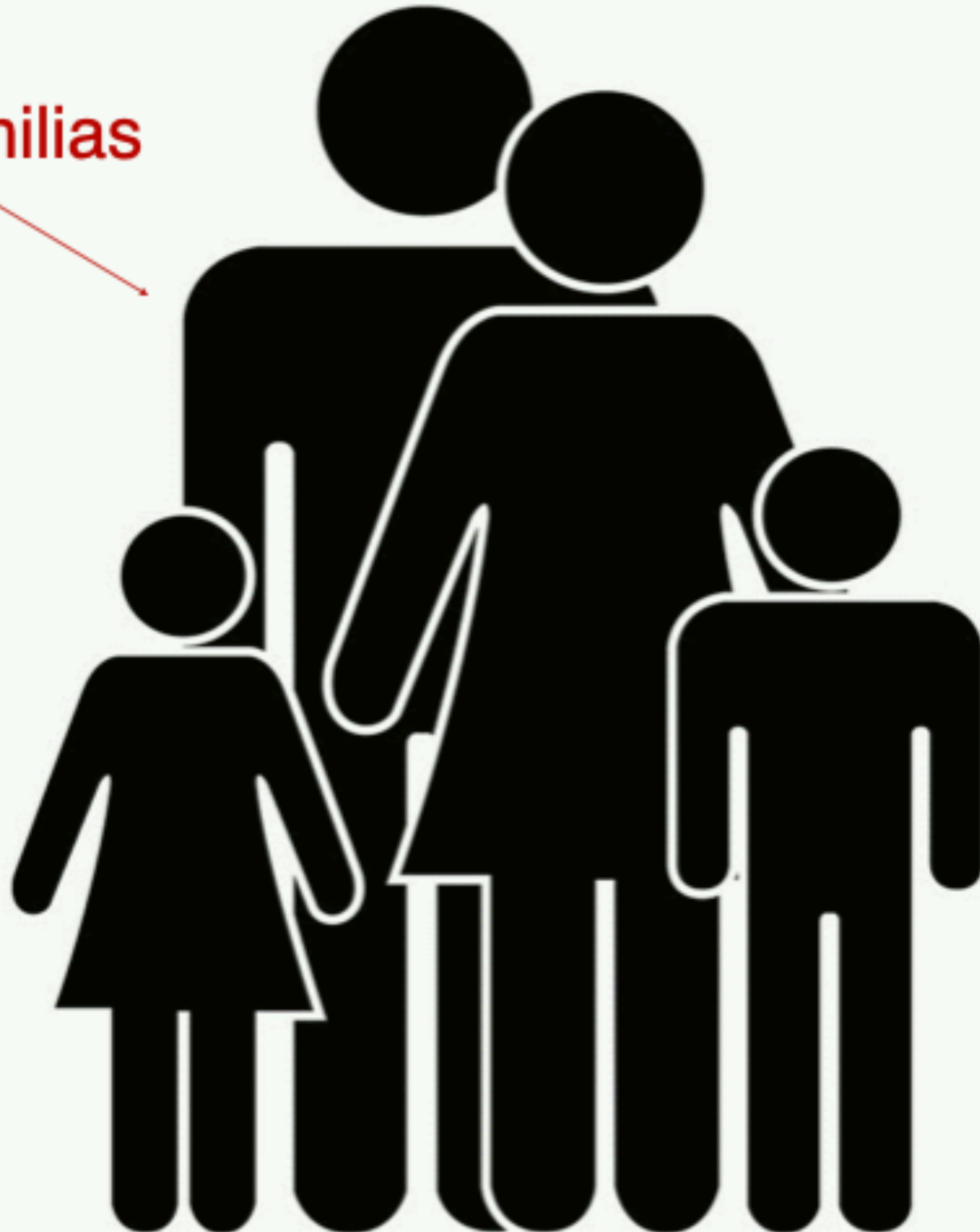
The *paterfamilias* had to arrange a marriage for each of his daughters when they were 14. The daughters would not have any say in who they married.

paterfamilias



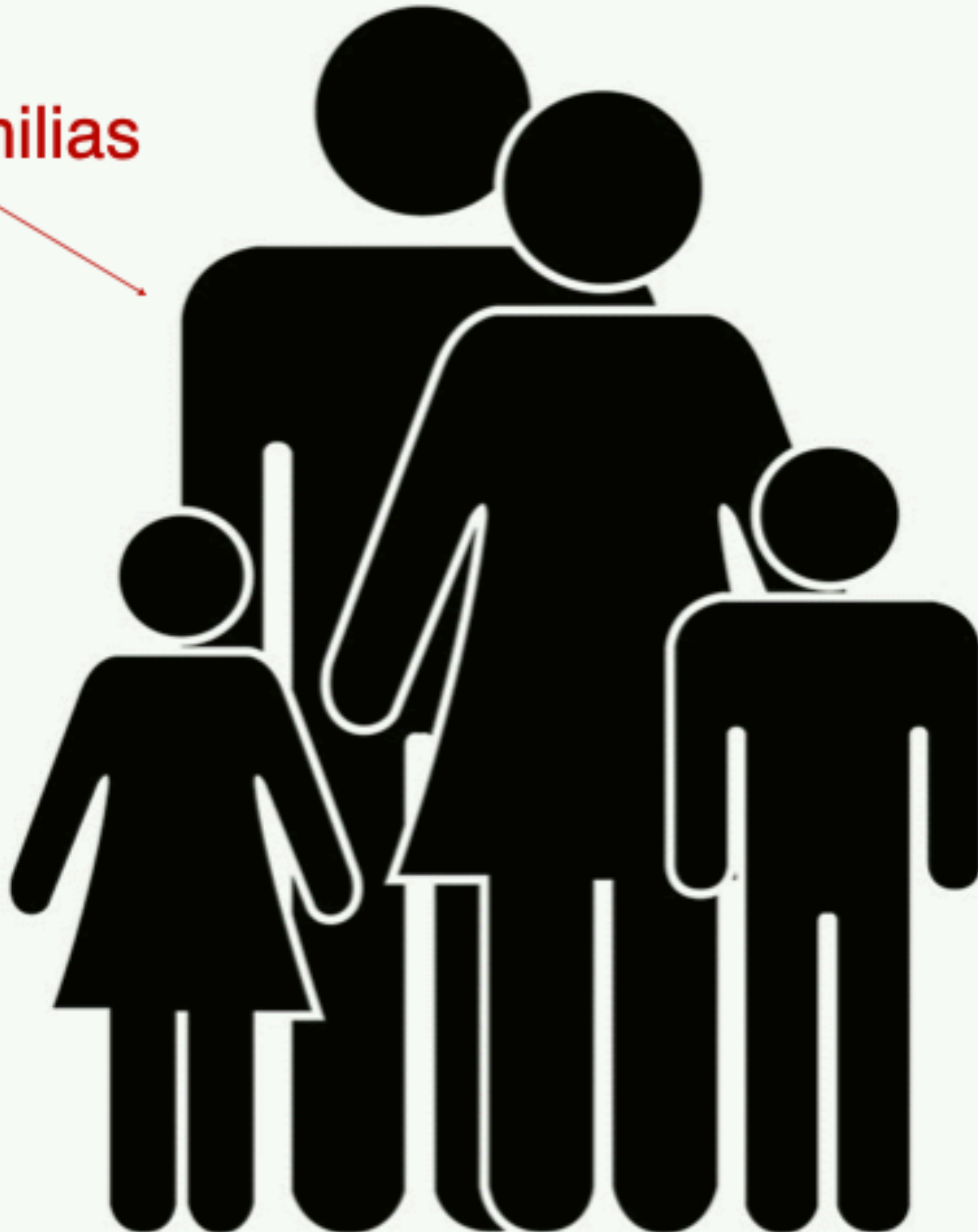
The *paterfamilias* expected his wife to manage the household, but he would purchase the slaves that do the work in the house. These slaves would become part of the *familia*.

paterfamilias



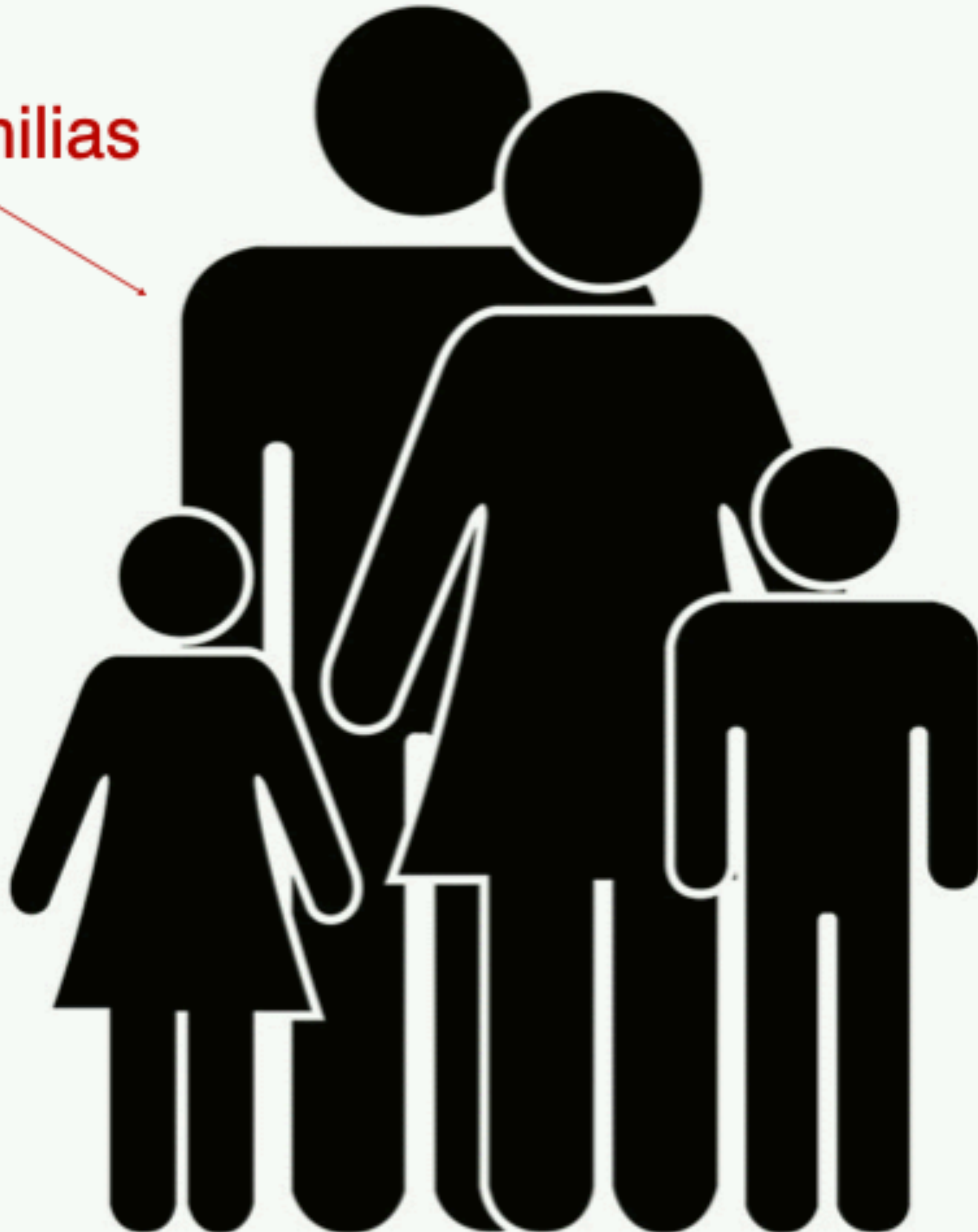
The *paterfamilias* expected his wife to manage the household, but he would purchase the slaves that do the work in the house.

**paterfamilias**



The ***paterfamilias*** was also the religious head of the household. He would lead worship at the household shrine where the spirits of the family's ancestors, the ***lares***, were believed to live.

**paterfamilias**



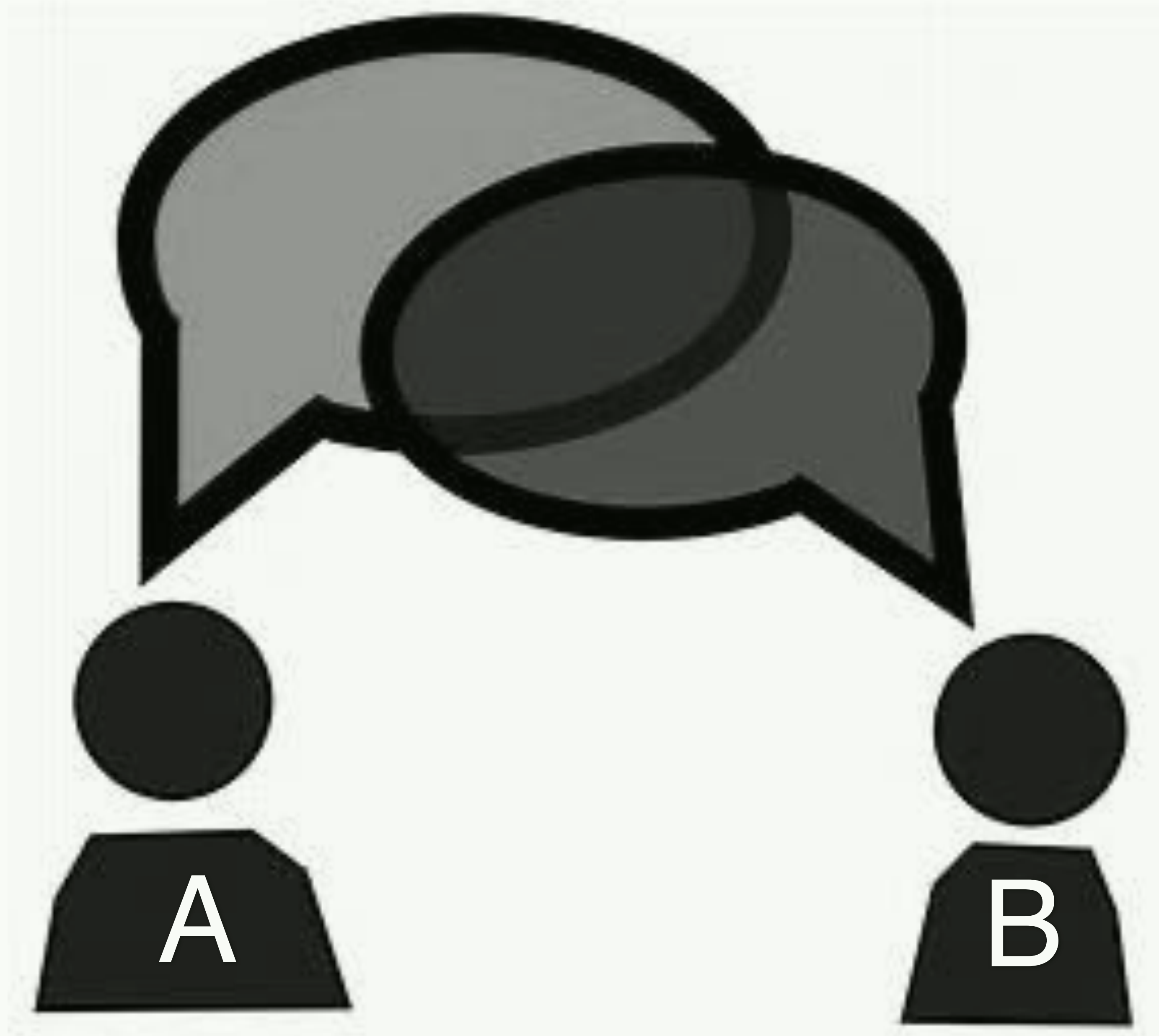
The ***paterfamilias*** was also the religious head of the household. He would lead worship at the household shrine where the spirits of the family's ancestors, the ***lares***, were believed to live.

The ***paterfamilias*** was involved in overseeing suitable offerings to the gods at important moments, such as birth, marriage and funerals.

Watch the video clip on the role of the *paterfamilias*



Person A explains to person B the role of the paterfamilias



Person B repeats back to Person A exactly what Person A said – as close as possible!

**WRITE  
THIS  
DOWN**



**Explain the role of the  
paterfamilias in three sentences.**





**How similar was the role of a Roman father to the role of a father nowadays, in your opinion?**

**familia Caecilii**



*Caecilius est pater.*



*Metella est mater.*



*Quintus est filius.*



*Lucia Maior est filia.*



*Lucia Minor quoque est filia.*

# Complete the worksheet



*Caecilius est paterfamilias.*

The *paterfamilias* was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the family. The Roman *familia* was much wider than our 'family' and included the wife of the *paterfamilias*, his \_\_\_\_\_, his son's wives and their children, and all of their \_\_\_\_\_. When the *paterfamilias* died, the family might split up, with the sons becoming the heads of their own \_\_\_\_\_. In each family, the *paterfamilias* had absolute \_\_\_\_\_ over all the members of his household, including the right of life and \_\_\_\_\_.

The *paterfamilias* had the right to \_\_\_\_\_ newborn children (abandoning infants and exposing them to the elements), and even sometimes to execute wives or sons. The *paterfamilias* was responsible for providing the his children – the future \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome – with education, character training, and religious upbringing. Above all, the *paterfamilias* was respected and \_\_\_\_\_.

families head death property obeyed citizens children power expose

Romulus granted absolute power to the Roman father over his son, and this power was valid until the father's death. He could decide to imprison him or whip him, to put him in chains and make him work on a farm or even to kill him. Romulus even allowed the Roman father to sell his son into slavery.

Dionysius of Halicarnassus 2. 26-27

**What 3 facts do we learn about the significance of the role of the 'paterfamilias' from this source?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

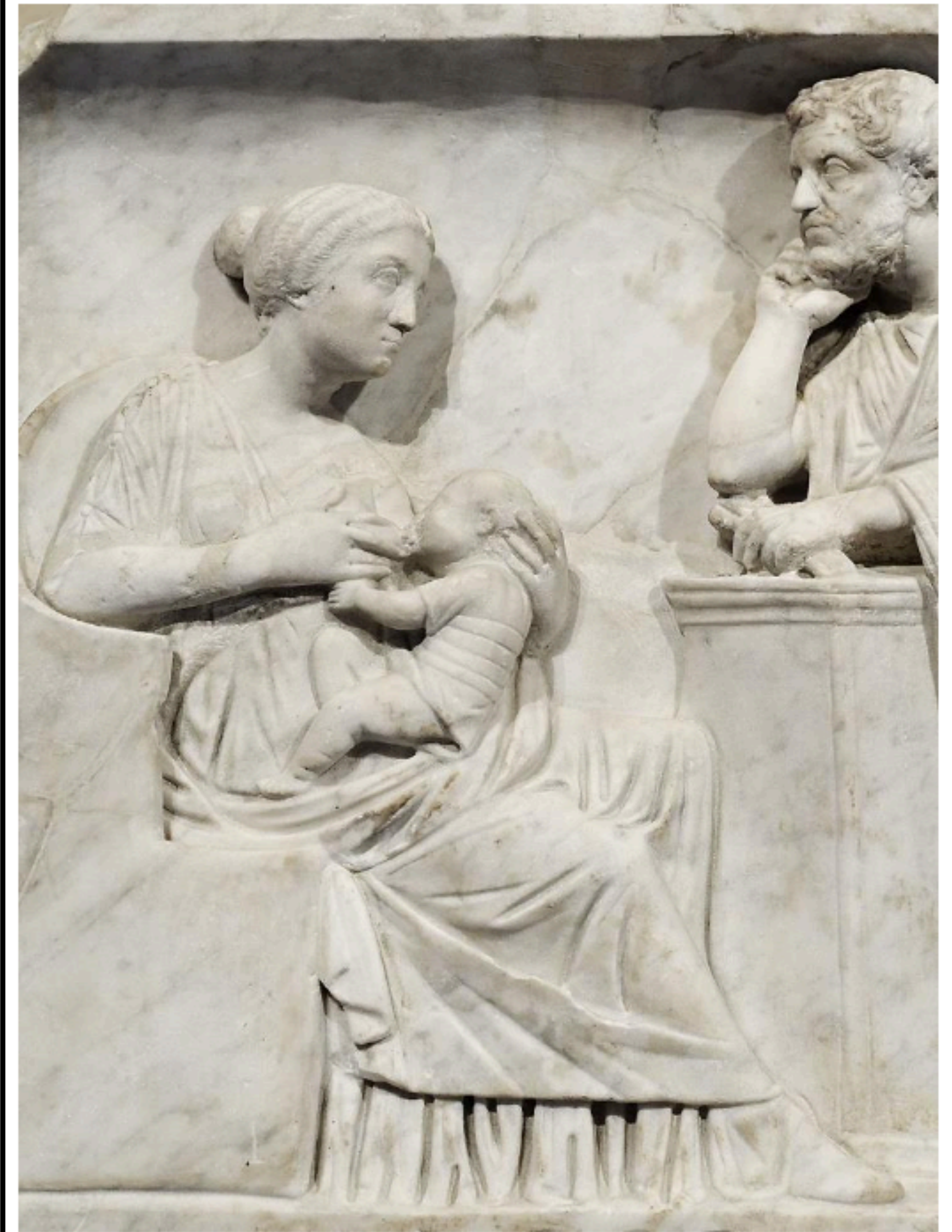
**A father looks on as his wife feeds their child.**

**What 3 facts can we learn about the significance of the role of the 'paterfamilias' from this source?**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**



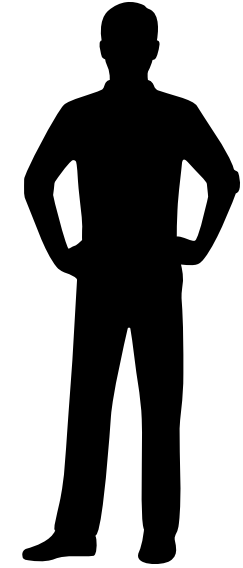
**paterfamilias** the male head of a Roman family

**Lares** the Roman family's household gods, representing the spirits of the family ancestors

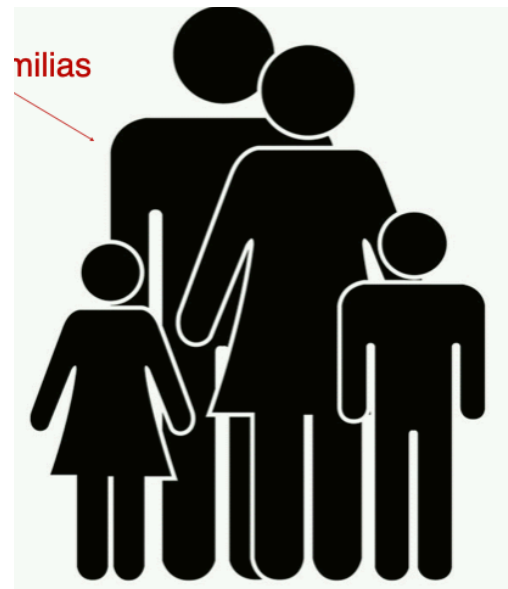
## EXAM TIP

Make sure you try to use the Latin words that are given in the specification in your answers, such as **paterfamilias**.

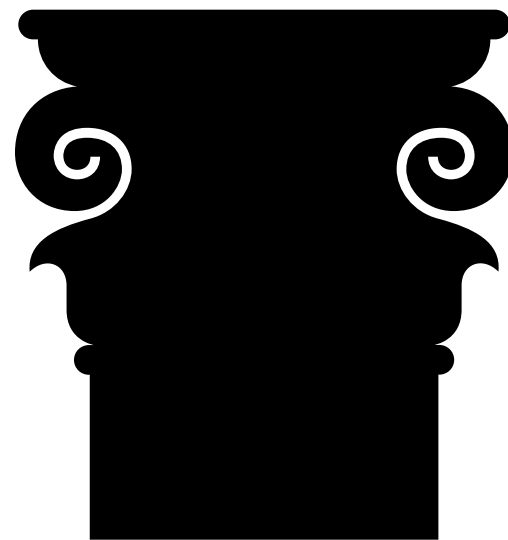
# Key Vocabulary for Roman Men Topic



***paterfamilias***: the male head of a Roman family



***familia***: the Roman household, including members of the family and its slaves



***lares***: the Roman family's household gods, representing the spirits of the family ancestors, who were worshipped at the household shrine