

GCSE Latin

Component 3: Roman Civilisation - Children

Monday 30th January 2023



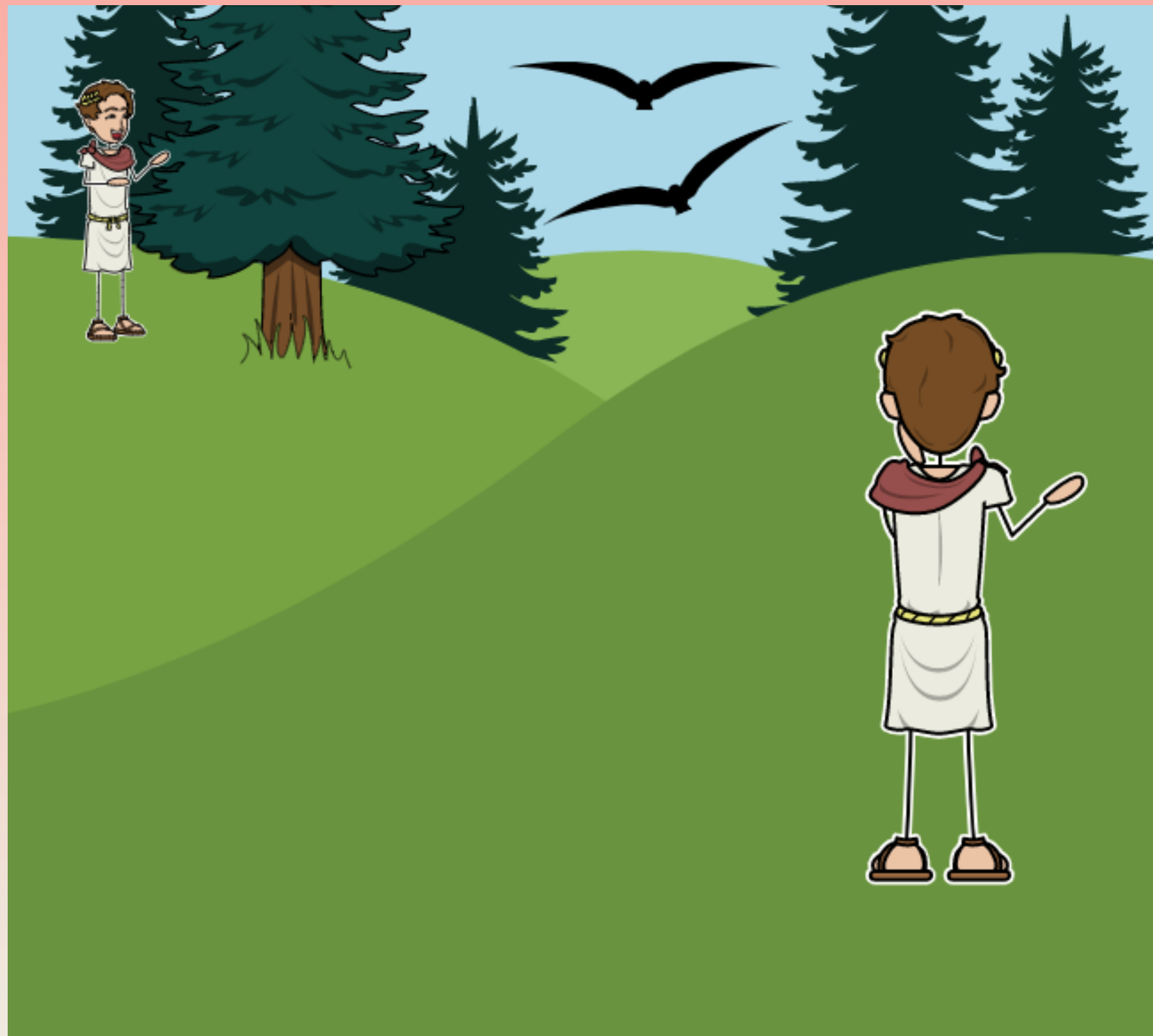
- Rhea Silvia, a priestess in Alba Longa, has twin babies with Mars, the god of war.



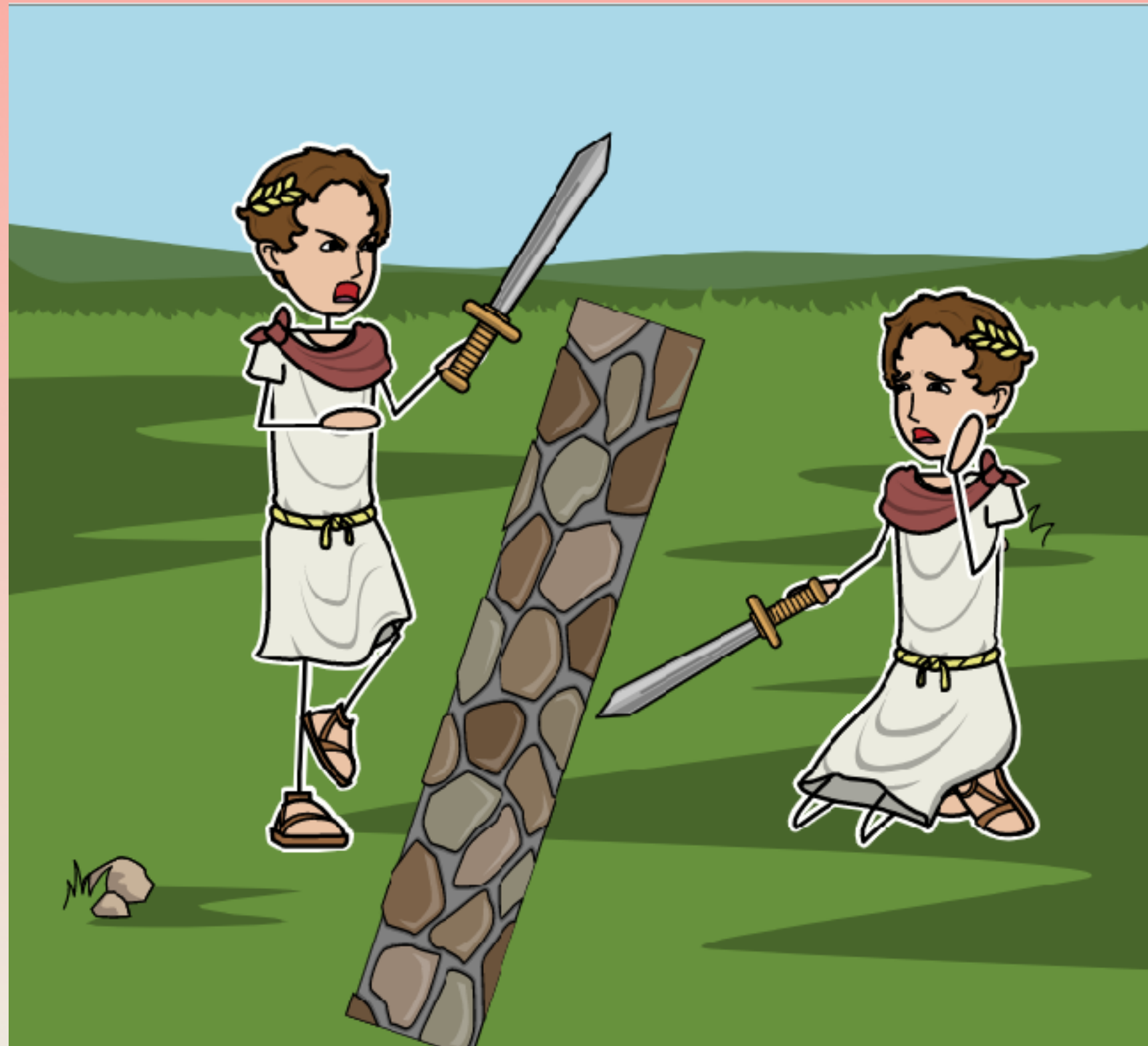
- Rhea's uncle, the usurping king, makes her expose the babies, intending for them to die.
- A she-wolf comes along. She nurses the boys in her cave, the 'Lupercal'.



- The boys grow older and are adopted by a shepherd.
- As young men, the boys discover they're royal and their grandfather should be king of Alba Longa, so they restore him to the throne.



- As men, the boys decide to found their own city.
- Each stands on their own hill and waits for an augury (bird sign). Remus sees 6 but Romulus sees 12.



- The two fight. Romulus wins. Remus dies.



- Romulus is crowned king and names the great city after himself.



King Amulius ordered Rhea Silvia
to expose her twin boys.

- **Why did Amulius do this?**
- *Amulius didn't want the boys to try to take his throne as it was theirs by right, so he exposed them.*
- **What gave him the right to decide to expose the boys?**
- *Any paterfamilias had the right to decide what happened in his household, including whether any infant in his household should be exposed.*

Why might any paterfamilias
decide to expose a child?



Gender



Money



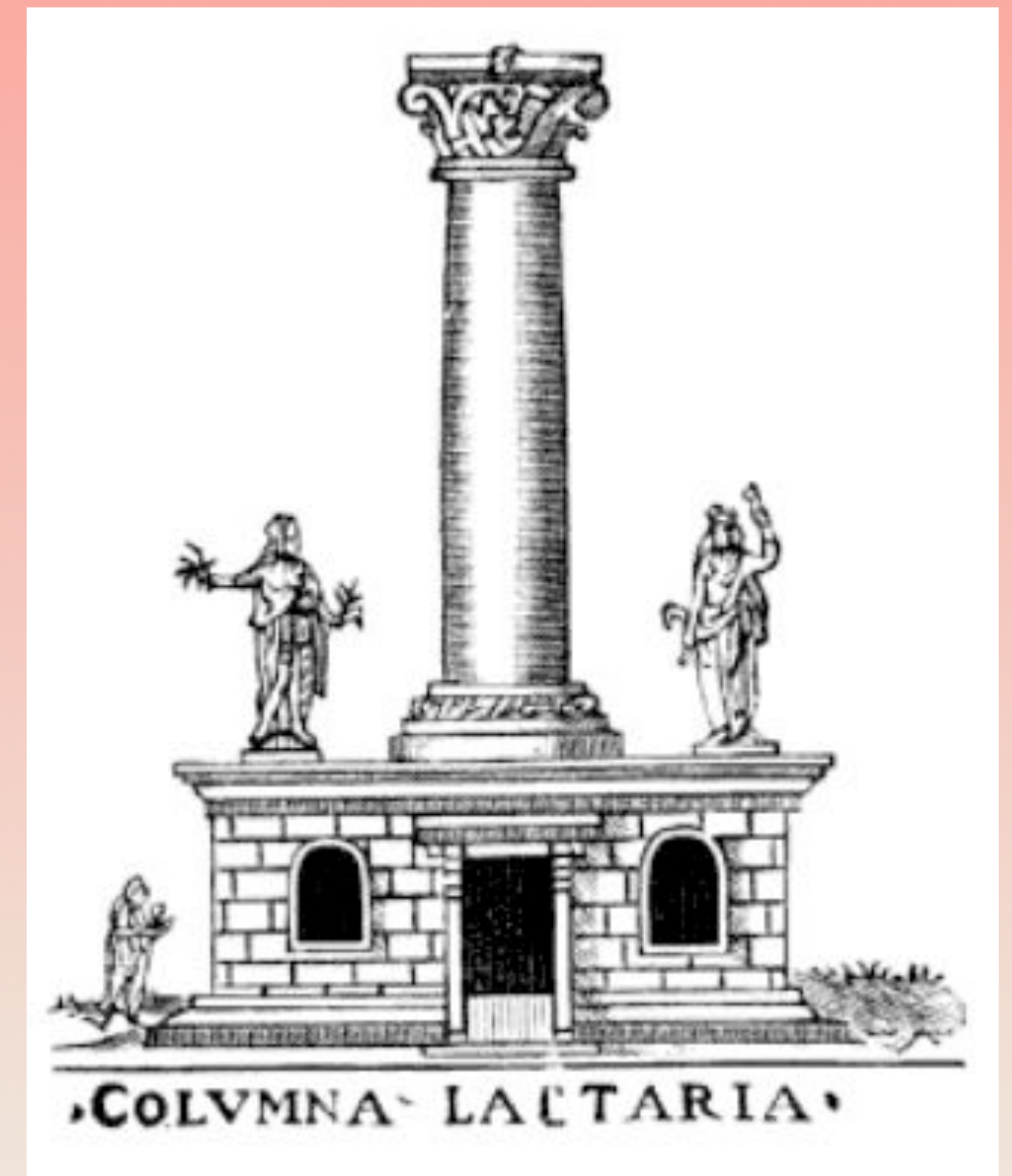
Disability



Paternity

Where might you abandon your infant?

- Some parents abandoned their children with no hope of survival.
- But some left their children clothed, with *crepundia* (mementos e.g. a rattle, half a coin), at designated spots where they might be picked up by slave merchants or pimps.
- Juvenal called sites where babies were abandoned *columnae lactariae* (milk columns) after the original place where the poor could get hold of milk / a wet nurse.





What if the baby was wanted?

- ‘Iuvenilla is born on Saturday the 2nd of August in the second hour of the evening.’
- ‘Cornelius Sabinus has been born’

Grafitti!



Discussion

- Would you rather be born a boy or girl in Rome? Why?



Read through the information
on Roman babies.

- Answer the comprehension questions on *dies lustricus*