



VERGIL IN VROMA: Exploring the Capitoline Hill

Goals:

1. Practice methods of navigation and conversation in the MOO
2. Explore some of the educational resources in *VRoma*
3. Use virtual space to come to a better understanding of Roman culture and civilization through group discussion of issues surrounding a selected site.
4. Enhance understanding and appreciation of the *Aeneid* through exploring the epic's connections with the city of Rome.

Worksheets: 1. Quick Start Guide to the VRoma Learning Environment
2. Group Site Assignment

General Instructions:

Explore your assigned site completely, visiting all its rooms and examining its varied contents, including texts, objects, bots, and links

Read your Site Assignment through carefully to be clear about the topics you are asked to discuss.

When you have completed the assignment, save your HTML Chat Log and email a copy of it to your professor.

Site Assignment: Teleport to the site by typing **@go Capitoline**

1. Read the materials there to get a sense of the geography and topography of the area. Why did this hill come to have such symbolic power for the Romans? Compare and contrast the use that Ovid and Horace make of this symbolism. What does Vergil use instead of the hill itself to symbolize Rome's ability to endure and prevail?
2. Then using the exit links at the bottom of the screen, move to the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus and read about its structure, divinities, and history. What was unusual about this temple in comparison with the newer temples being built by Augustus, and why didn't the Romans want to change its structure? What links does the Jupiter in this temple have with the god portrayed by Vergil? What about the Juno in this temple? As protectress of Rome, she is certainly different from Vergil's goddess. How do you think Vergil resolves this discrepancy in the *Aeneid*?
3. Look into the Cella and enjoy the argument of Jupiter and Juno (if they speak too fast, go to the Sanctuary for an English version). Do their words seem familiar? While this part of the site is intended for fun, do you see any deeper purpose? Is it possible, for example, that looking at the gods this way might give you a slightly different perspective on Vergil's characters? If you have time, visit the Temple of Juno Moneta (type **@go temple** and choose the proper temple) to see a different side of this complex goddess.
4. Finally, go back to the Area Capitolina and walk to the Temple of Jupiter Tonans. In what ways is this a more "modern" temple? Why would Augustus be partial to this temple? How does Suetonius's story about this temple demonstrate that Augustus was a master of propaganda?