



VERGIL IN VROMA: Exploring the Forum of Augustus

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 Forum of Augustus**

1. Read about the plan and symbolism of the Forum and consult the navigational plan so that you will know how to walk about the site.
2. Then, using the exit links at the bottom of the screen, start your visit in the Southeast Colonnade, where you will learn more about the site's construction. What was Augustus's professed reason for including all the statues of illustrious men? Do you think this was his real (or only) reason? If not, what other motivations might he have had? Does this parade of statues remind you of anything in the *Aeneid*?
3. Explore the Southeast Hemicycle, and then move back through the colonnade to the Courtyard. Why do you think Augustus included a painting of "Furor impius intus" in his forum? What special significance might that section of the epic have had for him?
4. Enter the Temple of Mars Ultor and discuss the symbolism of the statuary there. What is its overall theme and message, and how does this relate to the *Aeneid*?
5. Pass through the Northwest Colonnade to reach the Northwest Hemicycle, where you will find Aeneas. Why do you think Augustus gave him such prominence in his forum? Are you surprised to find the irreverent use that some Romans made of this imagery? Why or why not?
6. Finally, walk down the Northwest Colonnade and find the exhibit of coins. Click on these and see whether you can identify them and answer the questions. Do you get a different perspective on Vergil when you realize how significant his vision and symbolism became for the Augustan program? Since the coming-of-age ceremonies for young men of noble families (the donning of the *toga virilis*) were celebrated in the Forum of Augustus, what effect do you think the statuary, architecture, and Vergilian associations would have had on these teenagers?