

Libellus de Historia • Answer Key

Latin for Children History Reader A

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CHAPTER 1

Vitruvius and Architecture

1. Vitruvius Pollio is a Roman Architect.
2. He loves Greek architecture.
3. He builds many buildings.
4. Vitruvius writes “Ten Books about Architecture”

Respond in Latin:

1. Who is Vitruvius?
2. What does he build?

Notes:

architectūrā Graecam – The Romans adopted much of their architectural style from the Greeks.

scribit – present tense of *scribere*. This is a verb of the 3rd conjugation, which will be taught in *LFC Primer B*. The personal endings of the 3rd conjugation are identical to those of the 1st & 2nd conjugations in the present tense.

Decem Librōs dē Architectūrā – Vitruvius’s work consists of 10 volumes discussing the architecture of various types of buildings during the late Republic and early Empire. Several are dedicated to the well known amphitheatres. This work was widely read and referred to by architects of the Renaissance period. Vitruvius is believed to have been held in favor by Julius Caesar during his years of prominence, and to have dedicated “*dē Architectūrā*” to the Emperor Augustus.

CHAPTER 2

Hannibal

1. Hannibal is a Carthaginian leader.
2. He has many troops and many elephants.
3. The men train the elephants to fight.
4. Hannibal and the Carthaginian troops and the elephants were attacking the Romans.
5. This (It) is the Second Punic War.

Respond in Latin:

1. Who is Hannibal?
2. What do the Carthaginian (Punic) men train?

Notes:

Pūnicus - From this adjective, meaning Carthaginian, it becomes clear why the Roman wars against the Carthaginians are referred to as the Punic Wars.

Cōpiae - This noun may be more familiar to some students as meaning 'supply, abundance' (cf. corn of *copia*). However, in the plural form it is often used as a military term meaning 'troops'.

Est - When beginning a sentence, this linking verb may use the pronouns 'this' or 'there' as a subject instead of the more commonly seen 'he/she/it'.

CHAPTER 3

Julius Caesar

1. The people love Caesar.
2. The Senators do not love Caesar.
3. Caesar approaches.
4. Alas! (His) enemies kill Caesar!
5. The people are angry! The enemies run!

Respond in Latin:

1. Who loves Caesar?
2. Who are (his) enemies?

Notes:

Caesar, Senator – Both of these are nouns of the 3rd declension (taught in *LFC Primer B*), so their endings will be unfamiliar. These words have both been adopted into our own English language without any spelling changes.

Inimicī – Remember, this word is used for a personal enemy. Some of the senators were personal enemies of Caesar, but not necessarily enemies of the Roman people. A foreign enemy attacking the state would be referred to as *hostis*, from which we derive “hostile”.

CHAPTER 4

Octavius

1. Octavian and Antony were ruling the Roman Empire together.
2. Octavian was staying (remaining) in Italy.
3. Antony and Cleopatra were in Egypt.
4. Octavian attacks Antony and Cleopatra.
5. Octavian is the winner!
6. Now, only Octavian rules the Roman Empire.
(Octavian alone rules . . .)

Respond in Latin:

1. Where was Octavian?
2. Where were Antony and Cleopatra?

Notes:

This story tells of the Battle of Actium which was fought in 31 B.C. Octavian's decisive victory over Antony and Cleopatra solidified his sole rule over the entire Roman Empire. Many historians consider the reign of Augustus to have begun with this great victory. The Senate, however, did not bestow the title of "*Augustus*" on Octavian until a few years later.

Regō, regere - This verb belongs to the 3rd conjugation which will be taught in *LFC Primer B*. This conjugation is identified by a short 'e' in the infinitive (cf. *regere* vs. *manēre*). The personal endings for the present and imperfect tenses are the same as those for the 1st and 2nd conjugation.

CHAPTER 5

Birth of Christ

1. Joseph was walking to Bethlehem. A donkey was carrying Mary.
2. Joseph was dirty. Mary was tired. The donkey was smelly.
3. Finally, they come to Bethlehem, but the inns are full.
4. Joseph, Mary, and the donkey stay in a stable.
5. Jesus is born in a stable. Many wonderful angels sing,
“Glory! Glory!”

Respond in Latin:

1. Who is tired?
2. Who is smelly?
3. Where do Joseph and Mary stay? Why?

Notes:

Partus is actually a noun of the 4th declension. Its nominative singular appears the same as that of the 2nd declension masculine.

Veniunt, from *venio, venire* a 4th conjugation verb (taught in *LFC Primer C*). 4th conjugation verbs use the same personal endings as verbs of the first two conjugations. Encourage students to study the ending “*nt*” and not be thrown by the different vowels “*iu*” which precede it.

Ad, in – These prepositions and the cases they take will be explained more fully in chapters 25 and 29 of *LFC Primer A*.

CHAPTER 6

A Strange Man

1. John is a strange man.
2. He wears the hair of a camel (camel's hair).
He eats wild honey and locusts.
3. He warns the Jews, "Get ready (prepare)!
The Son of God comes!"
4. I baptize with water, but He will baptize with fire.

Respond in Latin:

1. Who is the strange man?
2. What does John eat?

Notes:

Ferum – compare with *ferus*, *ī*, m. wild animal, taught in ch. 9 of *LFC Primer A*.

Deī – genitive singular of *deus*. The genitive case is often used to show possession.

Baptizō – This Latin word is derived from the Greek βαπτίζω, which means to submerge in water.

CHAPTER 7

Christ

1. Jesus walks to many towns.
2. He sits with the people, and tells many parables.
3. The parables point out (show) the kingdom of God.
4. Jesus loves the people, and many people love Jesus.
5. But others will be against Jesus.

Respond in Latin:

1. To where does Jesus walk?
2. What does Jesus tell?
3. Whom does Jesus love?

Notes:

Parabola - This Latin word is derived from the Greek Παραβολή, meaning a parable or proverb.

CHAPTER 8

Jesus is Alive!

1. The Romans kill (execute) Jesus because the Jewish leaders fear Jesus.
2. A sign is above Jesus. It says, “King of the Jews”.
3. After three days, Jesus rises again.
4. Many people see Jesus and walk with Jesus.
5. Jesus is alive; Jesus will be alive always (forever)!

Respond in Latin:

1. Who fears Jesus?
2. What does the sign tell?
3. Is Jesus alive?

Notes:

Necāre - may be translated as “to kill” or “to execute”

Rex Iudaeōrum – As was the Roman custom, a sign was placed on the cross above those crucified naming the charge against them. In the case of Jesus’ execution, the charge was that he claimed to be, “King of the Jews”. This charge was written on the sign in three languages: Latin, Greek, and Aramaic. Today, many replicas of the crucifixion will place a small sign with “R.I.” (*Rex Iudaeōrum*) inscribed upon it.

CHAPTER 9

Nero

1. After Rome burns, Nero builds many things over the ruins.
2. Nero builds the great Golden House within Rome.
3. He builds the Colossus, a large statue of a naked Nero, near the Golden House.
4. After many years, Titus Flavius Vespasian builds a big amphitheatre next to the Colossus.
5. The Romans call the Flavian Amphitheatre “Colosseum” because it is next to the Colossus of Nero.

Respond in Latin:

1. What does Nero build?
2. What does Vespasian build?

Notes:

Post – This word has been taught as a preposition taking the accusative case. It may also act alone as an adverb, as it does in the first sentence.

Multa – The word “thing(s)” is often understood in translating lone adjectives placed in the neuter gender.

Magnam Domum Auream – Although *domus* may appear to be a masculine second declension noun, it is a fourth declension feminine noun. Therefore both *magnam* and *auream* are correctly placed in the feminine gender.

Titus Flavius Vespasianus – The full name of both emperors Vespasian and his son Titus. The building of the Colosseum was begun by Vespasian. However he died when only the first two stories had been built. Construction was completed during the reign of his son, Titus. It was initially called the Flavian Amphitheatre, having been built during the Flavian Dynasty. However, it later came to be called the Colosseum due to its location next to the

Colossus of Nero, no longer standing.

Resources:

The Roman Emperors, Grant, Michael; Barnes & Noble Books,
New York

CHAPTER 10

Arch of Titus

1. The Jews choose to fight against the Romans.
2. Titus and the Roman troops go to Jerusalem.
3. The Jews build a high and long wall around the town.
4. The Romans go through the wall. They destroy the temple.
5. The Arch of Titus shows Titus and the Jewish treasures (loot, booty, prizes).

Respond in Latin:

1. What do the Jews build?
2. What does the Arch show?

Notes:

Hierosolyma, -ōrum – This second declension masculine noun is plural in form but singular in meaning.

Resources:

The Roman Emperors, Grant, Michael; Barnes & Noble Books, New York

CHAPTER 11

Vesuvius

1. Vesuvius is a tall mountain in Italy.
2. Pompeii and Herculaneum were towns near Vesuvius.
3. Many people used to live in the towns.
4. Many Romans used to go to the towns during (for) vacations.
5. Suddenly, Vesuvius erupts!
6. Now people go to the towns and they see ruins.

Respond in Latin:

1. Where is Vesuvius?
2. Where were Pompeii and Herculaneum?

Notes:

Pompēii – Like Hierosolyma (Jerusalem) in the previous chapter, this noun is plural in form but singular in meaning.

CHAPTER 12

The Very Bad Emperors

1. Diocletian rules the Roman Empire with Maximian.
2. They call themselves Jupiter and Hercules.
3. They harass Christians without mercy.
4. They forbid Christians to gather together.
5. They arrest Christians, unless they will worship the false gods.
6. They burn (their) holy books to ashes.

Respond in Latin:

1. Who are the very bad emperors?
2. Who do they call themselves?

Notes:

Iovem et Herculum – Soon after coming into supreme power, Diocletian and Maximian began referring to themselves as Jupiter and Hercules. Such references have been found on the coins made with their likenesses. To the Romans such titles were interpreted as “Supreme Commander” and “Man of Action” respectively. Emperors often tried to associate their names with those of the gods although none were actually deified until after their death. It was, however, unusual for an emperor to actually assume the name of a god during his life. Perhaps their desire for their own divinity prompted their aggressive hatred of the monotheistic Christians.


While Diocletian and Maximian persecuted the Christians relentlessly, it may be interesting to note that Diocletian’s own wife, Prisca, was a Christian. Maximian’s son-in-law, Constantine the Great would later become the first Christian Emperor, and undo his father-in-law and predecessor’s laws against the Christians.

Resources:

The Roman Emperors, Grant, Michael; Barnes & Noble Books,
New York

CHAPTER 13

Constantine

1. Constantine was fighting because he was wishing to be Emperor.
2. Suddenly, in the sky he sees a cross with flames.
3. He hears, “in (this) sign, you conquer!”
4. Constantine orders the troops to place  on (their) shields.
5. Again they fight. Constantine is the victor (winner!)
6. Now Constantine worships Christ.

Respond in Latin:

1. What does Constantine see?
2. What does Constantine hear?
3. Where do the troops place the sign?

Notes:

esse – infinitive or second principle part of *sum*, *esse* - to be

vincere, *audire* – 3rd and 4th conjugation verbs use the same present tense endings as do verbs of 1st and 2nd conjugation.

“X” & “ρ” – The Greek letters chi and rho. They are the first two letters used in the spelling of Christ, Χριστός. These two letters have been commonly used throughout history as a symbol of Christ.

CHAPTER 14

The Creed

1. I believe in one God, the omnipotent Father . . .
2. and [I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God, . . .
3. and [I believe] in the Holy Spirit, Lord and lifegiver, . . .
4. and [I believe] in one holy universal and apostolic Church.

Respond in Latin:

1. How many Gods are there?
2. Who is the Son of God?

Notes:

Congratulations, your students have just read an original Latin text!

This text is taken from the Latin translation of the Nicene Creed, originally written in Greek. The creed is not provided here in its entirety due to length and a large amount of complex grammar not yet familiar to beginning Latin students. These excerpts have been chosen in order to represent the main ideas of the creed while using grammar appropriate for beginners. To see the full Nicene Creed in Greek, Latin, or English, visit <http://www.answers.com/topic/nicene-creed>.

Credo – Credo is often used with *in* and the accusative of person, particularly in ecclesiastical Latin. This emphasizes the idea of placing one’s hope and trust ‘into’ the being of an omnipotent God.

catholicus – This is a Latin derivative from the Greek καθολικός, meaning “in general”, and has come to mean “general” or “universal”. It does not here refer specifically to the Catholic

Church of Rome as opposed to Protestant or any other denomination of Christian believers.

CHAPTER 15

The End?

1. Many barbarians were attacking Rome.
2. The great leaders were gone (absent.)
3. Many families are going out of (from) Rome.
4. Finally, the barbarians go into (enter) Rome.
Now they rule all Italy.
5. The Roman Empire is no more. But, we will hold Rome in (our) memory forever. –OR– But, we will remember Rome forever.

Respond in Latin:

1. Who are going out of Rome?
2. Who are going into Rome?
3. Where is Rome alive?

Notes:

Exīre, inīre – note the contrast of the compound forms of the irregular verb *ire* (taught in ch. 30 of *LFC Primer A*).

tenēre in memoriā – This is an idiomatic expression commonly found in Latin prose and poetry. While literally translated as “to hold in memory”, it may be more loosely translated as “to remember”.