Teacher's notes and answer key

Janus – the God of Doors and Beginnings

Subjects: English · History · Latin | recommended from age 10 (A2/B1) | Video: 8:17 min

Answers B

1. The shapeless chaos from which the world came; when everything took order, the passage itself remained – the two faces recall that moment and look in opposite directions.

2. Doors, gates, bridges and beginnings of every kind; he carried a key and a staff to show travellers the way.

3. Every action starts with a beginning – and he was seen as the guardian of heaven's gates that every prayer had to pass, even before Jupiter.

4. When Tarpeia opened a gate to the Sabines, he made a boiling, sulphurous spring burst out beneath the Capitol; the attackers were scalded and fled.

5. Open in wartime, closed only in peace; they were almost always open. Closed first under Numa, then in 235 BC and three times under Augustus.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: January – month of beginnings, named after Janus; ianua – door; janitor – doorkeeper, caretaker; “Janus-faced” – two-sided, two-faced (general usage, not in the video).

Sources: Ovid, Fasti (1st century AD); Augustus, Res Gestae.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 10. Attackers are scalded; Tarpeia is buried under shields; the abduction of the Sabine women is briefly mentioned.

Sources of the retelling: Ovid, Fasti; Livy; Augustus, Res Gestae.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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