

Roman Beliefs about Life after Death

Read pages 115–118 in your textbook and answer the following:

- 1 Where did the Romans bury their dead?
- 2 Why did they do this (first and third paragraphs, page 115)?
- 3 Where are the tombs at Pompeii?
- 4 Briefly describe such tombs:
 - a) from the outside
 - b) inside.
- 5 What was the most important thing to provide for the dead person? Why?
- 6 What did people believe about the “activities” of the dead?
- 7 Because of this belief, the living provided the dead with two different kinds of things. List more than one example in each category.
- 8 What did the Romans think ghosts might do if they were not buried properly?
- 9 Why were holes put in some tombs?
- 10 Read page 117 and then list four things that Romans might do to make the existence of the dead more cheerful.
- 11 Identify the following terms from pages 118 and 120:

a) the Elysian Fields	e) Tartarus
b) Tityus	f) Danaus
c) Sisyphus	g) Ixion
d) Tantalus	
- 12 To what extent did most Romans in the first century A.D. believe these stories from the Greek myths?
- 13 Where would they continue to find these stories?
- 14 Who was Epicurus and what did he teach?
- 15 What effect would his teaching have on his followers?
- 16 Why would the majority of Romans not have agreed with these ideas?