

6.7 Teacher Key

Connector	Participant	Process	Who or What	Questions
if	you	have ever come upon	a grove	Who is you? Lucilius Junior, or the average Roman, or Seneca himself
that	(the grove)	is	thick with ancient trees	What is special about these trees?
	(trees)	rising	far above the usual height	They are very old and very tall and their branches block out the sky
and	(trees)	blocking	the view of the sky with their cover of intertwining branches,	
	The loftiness of the forest, the seclusion of the spot, and your wonder at the unbroken shade in the midst of open space	will create in you	a sense of the divine...	What makes Seneca feel that he is close to the gods in this place? The height of the trees, the fact that there are no people there, and his feeling of awe that the trees create so much shade
	We	venerate	the sources of mighty rivers	What type of places did the Romans believe had a god or divine spirit?
	we	build	an altar	Sources of rivers and streams, hot springs, deep and dark lakes
where	a great stream	suddenly bursts forth	from a hidden source,	
	we	worship	hot springs,	
	we	deem		
	lakes	(are)	sacred because of their darkness or immeasurable depth.	

What was the earliest Roman religion like?

When the Romans saw an unusual or beautiful natural place, or a place where water came out of the earth, they felt that a god or gods were there. The Romans built altars and they worshipped in natural places.

What did Romans believe?

The Romans believed that natural places had spirits and that the gods lived in quiet and beautiful natural scenes.

What were their gods like?

Their gods were invisible spirits that lived in a grove, a river, or a lake. Their gods were powerful and a little scary, because the Romans felt wonder and awe in those places.