

2025x2026
NAJCL



December 2025



The Torch



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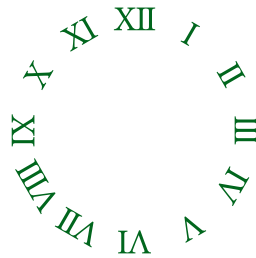
NDJCL

JCL CREED

We the members of the Junior Classical League, strive to promote the study of Greek, Latin, and ancient cultures.

We believe this study will help us examine the world and expand our understanding of literature, language, arts, sciences, and humanity.

We affirm the JCL experience develops leadership, fosters community, promotes enthusiasm, encourages competition, inspires dedication, and enriches our total growth!



JCL SONG

Seeking to learn, with wisdom our goal. Looking for lessons through stories of old. Searching the realms of the ancient past, we study the classics' work so vast. In knowledge, service and fellowship, we're growing everyday the friendly hand of JCL in every way. We'll join our arms and sing along with every dear colleague. And forever we'll hold to the purple and gold, of the Junior Classical League.



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SATURNALIA

Saturnalia was an ancient Roman festival honoring the God of agriculture, Saturn. It was held on December 17-23 in the Julian calendar. The festival was originally a one-day event, Dec. 17. It consisted of a sacrifice of young pigs, usually at a temple for Saturn. The pigs were eaten at a public feast. By the 1st century BC, the celebration got extended to December 23. They continued the sacrifice of pigs, again to be consumed at the public banquet. There was a time afterwards for private gift giving, which we see incorporated into today's Christmas culture. What made saturnalia so unique was the carnival atmosphere. It completely overturned Roman social norms. During Saturnalia, Roman social classes and rules were set aside. Slaves were invited to eat alongside their masters. In some cases, the masters even served the slaves! Although an important and loved festival, it was most likely not as important to the Roman's as Christmas is to us.



Lots of modern Christmas traditions come from Saturnalia. As previously mentioned, the tradition of gift giving is a very popular one. Contrary to the spirit of the festival, gift giving was a sign of social status. The gifts were often pottery, candles, wax figures, or gag gifts. Children received toys. During Saturnalia, wax papers and torches were lit. Similar to the Christmas tradition of lighting advent candles. During Saturnalia, it was custom for people to decorate their house with wreaths and evergreen plants. Seem familiar? It was common for Romans to go around the streets singing music, as people do today with Christmas carols.



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VOLCANOS

I understand that this will have nothing to do with Rome, or Roman history. I just find this interesting. Here are the top 5 worst volcanic eruptions in (mostly) ancient world history.

WAH WAH SPRINGS

30 MILLION YEARS AGO, VEI 8

Wah Wah springs was the largest volcanic eruption that was apart of a series of peak volcanic activity 30 million years ago. It is located in southern Utah. The eruption covered a vast area of the western US in up to 13,000 feet of volcanic rock, burying most of Utah and Nevada. The volcanic ash from the eruption spread as far as Nebraska. The ash cloud it generated was so massive it blocked the sun and darkened the sky for weeks. It caused a huge environmental impact, alone with global pressure waves. It is considered to be one of the most energetic single events in world history, second only to the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs.

TOBA

74,000 YEARS AGO, VEI 8

Volcano Toba, located at present-day Lake Toba in Sumatra, Indonesia. It covered the Indian subcontinent in 2 inches of ash. The plume cloud caused a massive ozone loss, and led to hostile UV radiation conditions at the Earths surface. The widespread ash and debris and gas release caused a global environmental impact. There was a dramatic drop in global temperatures, and it caused ecosystem collapses. It mostly affected Africa.

YELLOWSTONE

640,000 YEARS AGO, VEI 8

This eruption of Yellowstone, located in modern day Wyoming, was actually its third and most recent. The volcano is still active today. This volcanic eruption from the past caused widespread volcanic ash deposits across North America. It also drastically affected the climate, causing global cooling and potentially volcanic winters. A third of North America was plunged unto darkness following that latest eruptions. It caused massive landscape changes, and altered the ocean circulation patterns.

LONG VALLEY CALDERA

760,000 YEARS AGO, VEI 7

The Long Valley Caldera is located in modern-day east-central California. The eruption actually formed the caldera itself. A think deposit of volcanic material, known as Bishop Tuff, covered the local landscape with hundreds of feet of material. The ashfall from the eruption went as far as Nebraska. It is still active today, labeled as a very high threat volcano. Its volcanic activity caused the Mammoth mountains, and the heating of Hot Creek springs.

CRATER LAKE

7,600 YEARS AGO, VEI 7

Located in modern day Oregon, the Crater Lake eruption caused the summit of Mount Mazama to collapse, and it formed the caldera that currently holds Crater Lake. It filled with water overtime, and it is now the deepest lake in the US. It also created other geological features, such as the Pumice desert, Mount Scott, and Wizard island. The ashfall from the eruptions spread as far north as British Colombia, Canada.



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HISTORIES IN LATIN

Each of these histories, retold in Latin, was written by a Mandan Latin VI student. A requirement of the assignment was to publish it.

Enjoy, if you would like.

Saturnalia erat senex romanus festum. Existet honoratum deum agriculturae saturnum. Primum, saturnalia erat unus dies longitudo. Haberat sacrificium porcorum iuvenum. Ibi erat tunc publicus epulae. Post ibi erat tempum dand donae. Dand donae erat indicium geni. Erat singularis quod saturnalae bacchanaliam naturam. Saturnalia omnino mutavi romanum genu. ad saturnalia genus romanae obliti sunt. Servi inritari sunt consumere iuxta magistrum. Aliquando magistri servi servium. Erat insanu visu. Ad saturnalia erat usitatio ornare domom cum coronam. Romani cantit et ambulit circa forum. Erat eleganissitu auditu. Vulgaris dona erant fictile candelae et dona ridicula. Liberi erant saepe datus ludibriais. Saturnalia erat forsit popularissit romanum festum.

Vaymo Feles:

Felem in tabernae vitam. Felem visū mortem in via. Vaymo vecturum necat Felem. Populus marent et irratissimus.

Vaymo vihuculam est gabernat fictitium consilium. Homines in urbem non placet vaymī. Vaymo gabernat fictitium consilium cum turbinis in vihiculā est occulū. Homines habet non fides in Vaymo vihiculam. Ille putant fictitium consilium est stultum. Felem feriet ut Vaymo in viā. Populum visū saevitum, Vaymos odisset.

Felem nomen est KitKat. Populum in urbem amant KitKat. Epitulas et corrolae ponent in sepuchrum.

Vaymo societas dat pecuniam pro absconsio animalio. Ille dixit KitKat celerissimus et Vaymo non debet populī.

Homines facient monumentum cum picturae et anthologici. Felem nomen KitKat urbe conmemorent aeternissimus.



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HISTORIES CONT.

Equus Urinans incipit in medio MDCCCLXXX cum Willelmō Doc carverō. Ambulavit trans pontem quam colapsus erat. Willelmus spectavit equum cadivit in aquam infra. Hic dedit Willelmum idea Equū Urinans. Willelmus docuit equos quomodo urinare. Tum, equū urinabant oblectatum populos. Willelmī filia, Lorenae, erat primus eques. Eques equitabat urinatum a rupē et urinabant simul in aquam. Quoque dabunt artificia in aerē. Willelmī quoque habebat nurus, erat eques et nomine erat Sonorae. In MCDXXXI, Sonorae cadit e rupe. Equus erat bonus, sed Sonorae erat nunc caecus. Tamen, Sonorae mansit et adhuc erat eques! Postea, Disneus fecit taeniam de Sonorā in MCDIXI. Equus Urinans erat acceptus et accidit saepe in Urbē Atlanticam. Tamen, in MCDLXXX, populus stitit Equus Urinans. Populus credidit Equus Urinans erat saevus. Urbē Atlanticae temptavit referre Equum Urinans factum pecuniam in MMXII. Tamen, humanus societas prohibivit Equum Urinans, semper. Est finis fabulae, sed modo duo equū necantur ab urinans.



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AUTHORS NOTE

If you have anything you would like me to write about, or anything you would like me to publish in *The Torch*, don't hesitate to reach out! My email is marabell.seibel@msd1.org. Valete!