



Modern Objects with Classical Roots (with teacher discussion notes)




MAGNUM









VICTORIA CONCORDIA CRESCIT

A close-up photograph of a curved metal band, likely a sword scabbard, featuring three lines of Latin text. The text is embossed in a serif font. The first line reads "NEMO ME", the second line reads "IMPUNE", and the third line reads "LACESSIT". The metal has a weathered, golden-brown patina.

NEMO ME
IMPUNE
LACESSIT



teacher-led discussion

- **Magnum:** 'magnum' is Latin for big. Why do you think the manufacturers chose this name for their product?
- **Felix cat food:** 'felix' is Latin for lucky. Why do you think cats might be thought of as lucky (clue-nine lives). The Latin for cat is 'feles', which is very similar to 'felix'. What English word starting 'fel' meaning cat-like can you think of (feline).

teacher-led discussion

- **clock:** what is Roman about this clock? (the numerals). What Roman numerals do you know? Roman numerals are covered in more depth in the course, but the seven 'building blocks' are I(1), V(5), X(10), L(50), C(100), D(500) and M(1000)

teacher-led discussion

- **Arsenal badge:** do any fans know what this motto 'victoria concordia crescit' means? (victory grows through harmony). Which word do you think means victory? Which word do you think means harmony (harder question)? 'crescit' means 'grows' – this is where we get the phrase 'crescent (i.e. getting bigger) moon'. In the interest of fairness, Spurs also have a Latin motto (audere est facere – to dare is to do).

teacher-led discussion

- **pound coins:** where have you seen this writing?
There are many different inscriptions on the sides of pound coins:

decus et tutamen (Latin) – an ornament and a safeguard (i.e. money that looks nice and provides security)

nemo me impune lacessit (Latin) – no-one attacks me with impunity (Scottish motto)

pleidiol wyf I'm gwlad (Welsh) – I am true to my country

teacher-led discussion

Calendar: many of the months of the year derive from Roman month names

January	Ianus	God of doorways	
February	Februa	ceremony of purification	When this ceremony took place
March	Mars	God of war	
April	possibly aperire	to open	When buds open up
	possibly Aphrodite	Goddess of love	When Aphrodite/Venus festival took place
May	Maia	Goddess of Growth	Month of much growth in nature
June	Juno	Queen of the Gods	
July	Julius Caesar	Ruler of Rome	
August	Augustus	Ruler of Rome	
September	septem	seven	Seventh month in the Roman calendar
October	octo	eight	Eighth month in the Roman calendar
November	novem	nine	Ninth month in the Roman calendar
December	decem	ten	Tenth month in the Roman calendar

Discussion point – Julius Caesar and Augustus had a month named after themselves: what does this tell you about them?