

Minerva-Victoria Explorer's Notebook



*A Multisensory Experience
Inspired by a Roman Statue of Minerva-Victoria*

Hello, explorers!

Doesn't this statue look kind of strange with no arms and no head? Long ago, when it was first made, it had a head and arms, but over time they have been lost.

This statue is called the Minerva-Victoria. Minerva is the name of a Roman goddess. Minerva is the goddess of wisdom and war. Victoria was the Roman goddess of victory. Do you know what victory means? Victory means you have won! By showing these two goddesses in one statue, ancient Romans would be reminded of their powerful army.



Minerva-Victoria
(Minerva in the guise of Victory)
Possibly from Cyrene, North Africa
Circa 2nd century CE
09.SP.1629

This statue was made in the Roman Empire. The Ancient Roman Empire was very, very big. There is a city still called Rome today, but experts think that the Minerva-Victoria was made in a place that is called Libya today. On the next page is a map with a small section magnified to show where this statue is from. Do you see the star on the map? That is where the Minerva-Victoria was made.



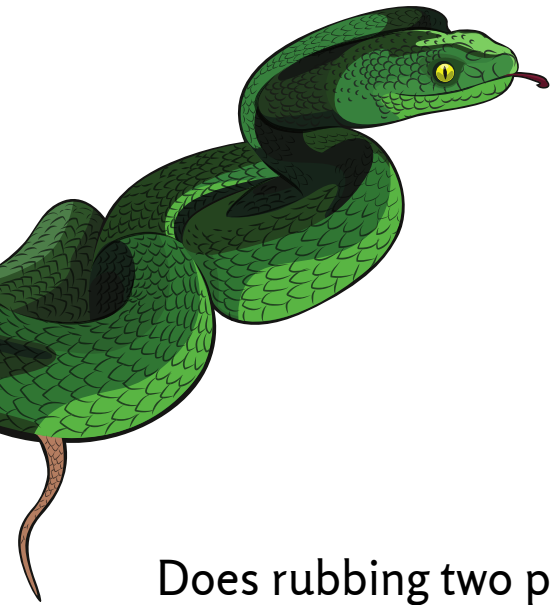
No one knows where the Minerva-Victoria's arms and head are. Where do you think they are? What do you think happened to them?

Have a good adventure!



Exploration 1: Sound Scavenging

In this statue, Minerva is wearing things showing different animals. She has a clasp that has snakes on it and a shield made of goat skin. Look around your house to see what things you can find that make the same sounds as these animals.



What does a snake sound like? Can you make that sound? Does running water sound like a snake?

Does rubbing two pieces of paper together sound like a snake?

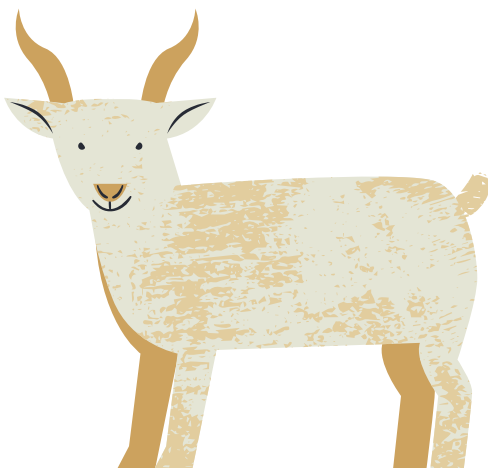
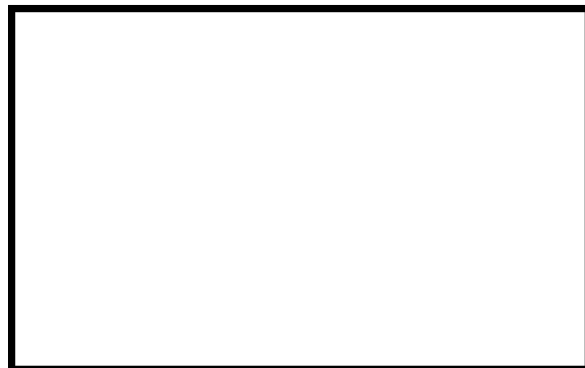
What else can you find that sounds like a snake? Draw or write about it!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a drawing or written response.

What does a goat sound like? Can you make that sound? Does it sound like a goat if you run your fingers along the couch cushions?

Does it sound like a goat if you drag a chair on the floor?

What can you experiment with that sounds most like a goat? Draw or write about it!



Exploration 2: Dressing Up

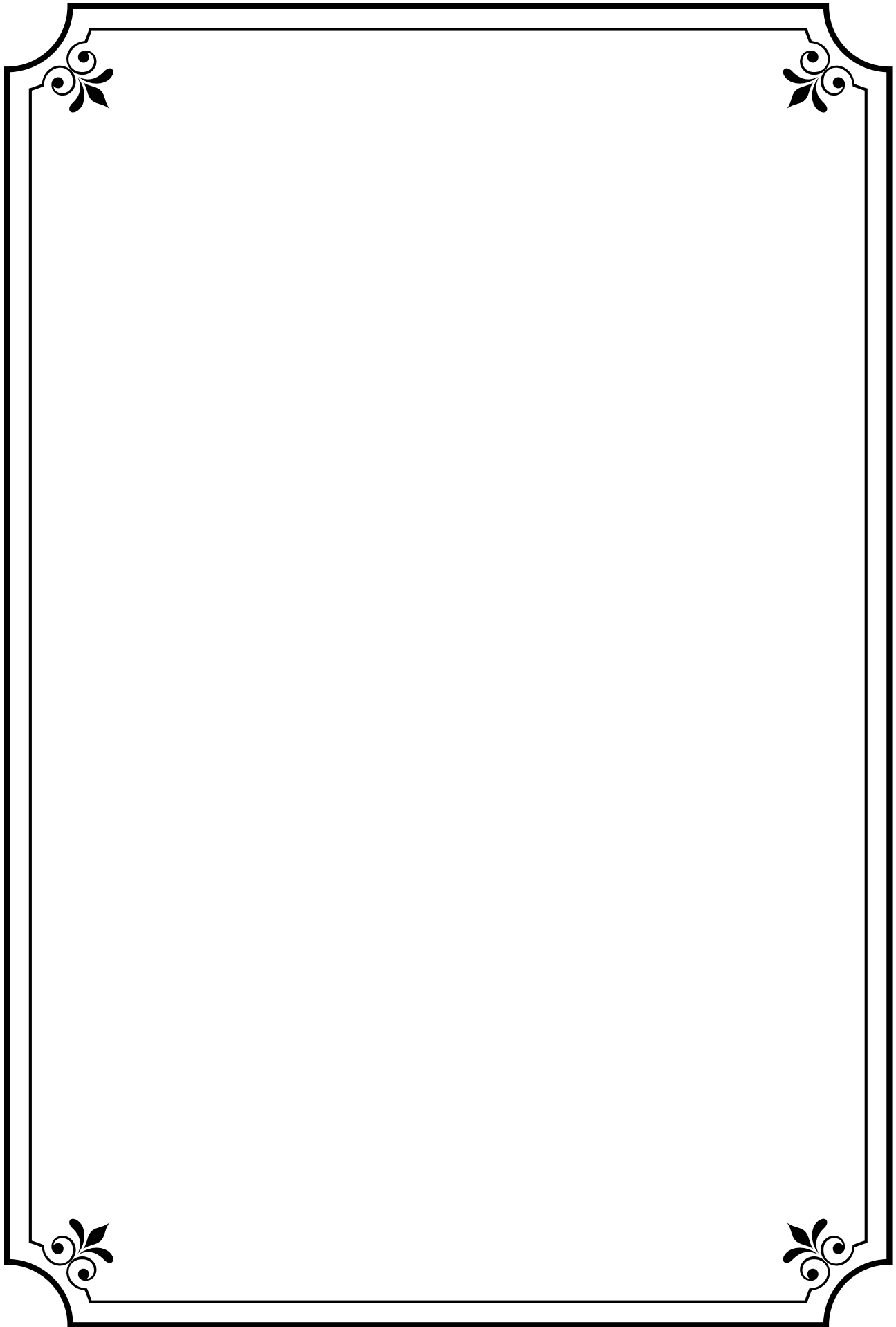
The Minerva-Victoria is wearing a special outfit called a peplos. She has a shield on her back that is kind of like a cape. She has a clasp holding the shield onto the peplos.

What can you find in your house that you can make into a peplos? How about a dress or a blanket? You might need a grownup to help you with some safety pins.

What can you use to make a shield that looks like a cape? How about a towel? What can you use to clasp it on? Can you make a snake clasp out of paper and put it on a safety pin?

On the next page, draw a picture of you wearing the outfit you made.





Exploration 3: Making Libum

Libum is a delicious treat that the Ancient Romans often gave to the gods as a gift. It is made with cheese and can be sweet, so you might think that it will taste like a cheesecake, but it's a little more like bread. Here is how you can make it.



Libum

Yields 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of all purpose flour
- 1 cup of grated cheddar cheese
- 1 egg

Optional:

- Libum is typically cooked on top of fresh bay leaves. You can use fresh bay leaves, dried ones, or none at all. It will still be delicious!
- If you'd like to add something to the top of the libum you can use pine nuts or even pieces of walnut.

Directions:


1. Ask a grownup to help you preheat the oven to 400°F.
2. Beat the egg and grate the cheese.
3. Mix together and knead the flour, egg, and cheese together with your hands. Your hands might get messy! The dough should all stick together. You might need to add a few splashes of water to help it form.
4. Form the dough into a round loaf shape and place it on a greased or parchment paper-lined baking tray. Use some aluminum foil to make a tent over the libum.
5. Bake the libum in the oven for 15-30 minutes or until golden brown.
6. Ask a grownup for help to move your libum into and out of the oven.



What did you smell as the libum was cooking? You can write about it or draw a picture.

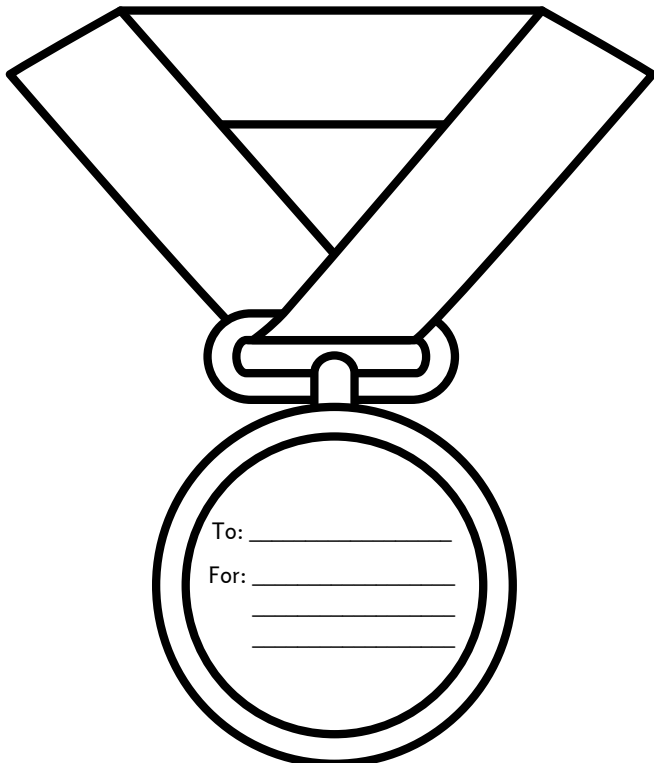
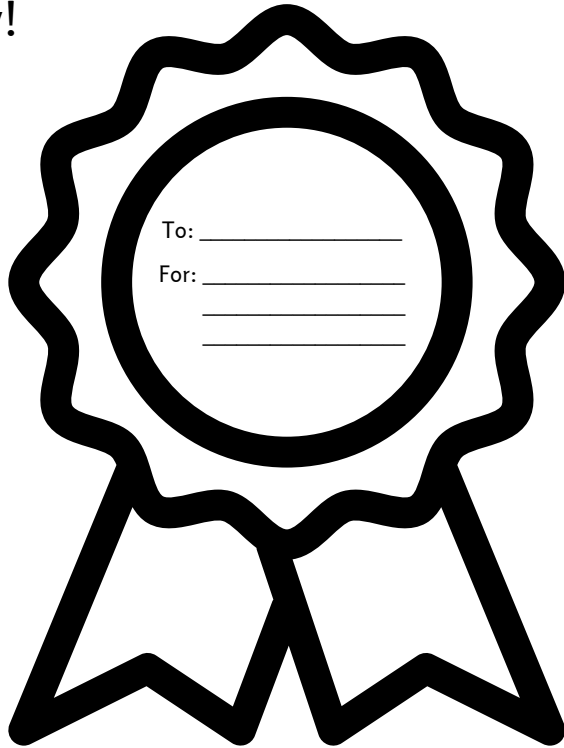


What does the libum taste like? Have you ever tasted something like it before?



Additional Activity: Celebrating Victories

A great way to celebrate victories is to give gifts to other people. You can cut out and color the awards below and give them to your friends and family!



Exploration 4: Coloring the Minerva-Victoria



Even though the Minerva-Victoria is all one color now, it was probably painted bright colors in the past. What colors do you think the Minerva-Victoria might have been?

On the next page, you can see an idea of how the Minerva-Victoria might have looked when it had arms and a head. You can color it however you would like!



Exploration 5: Minerva and Neptune's Contest

In Ancient Greece, it was important for cities to have a god or goddess who would protect them. Long ago, King Cecrops (pronounced see-crops) had just founded a city. He needed a god or goddess to protect it.

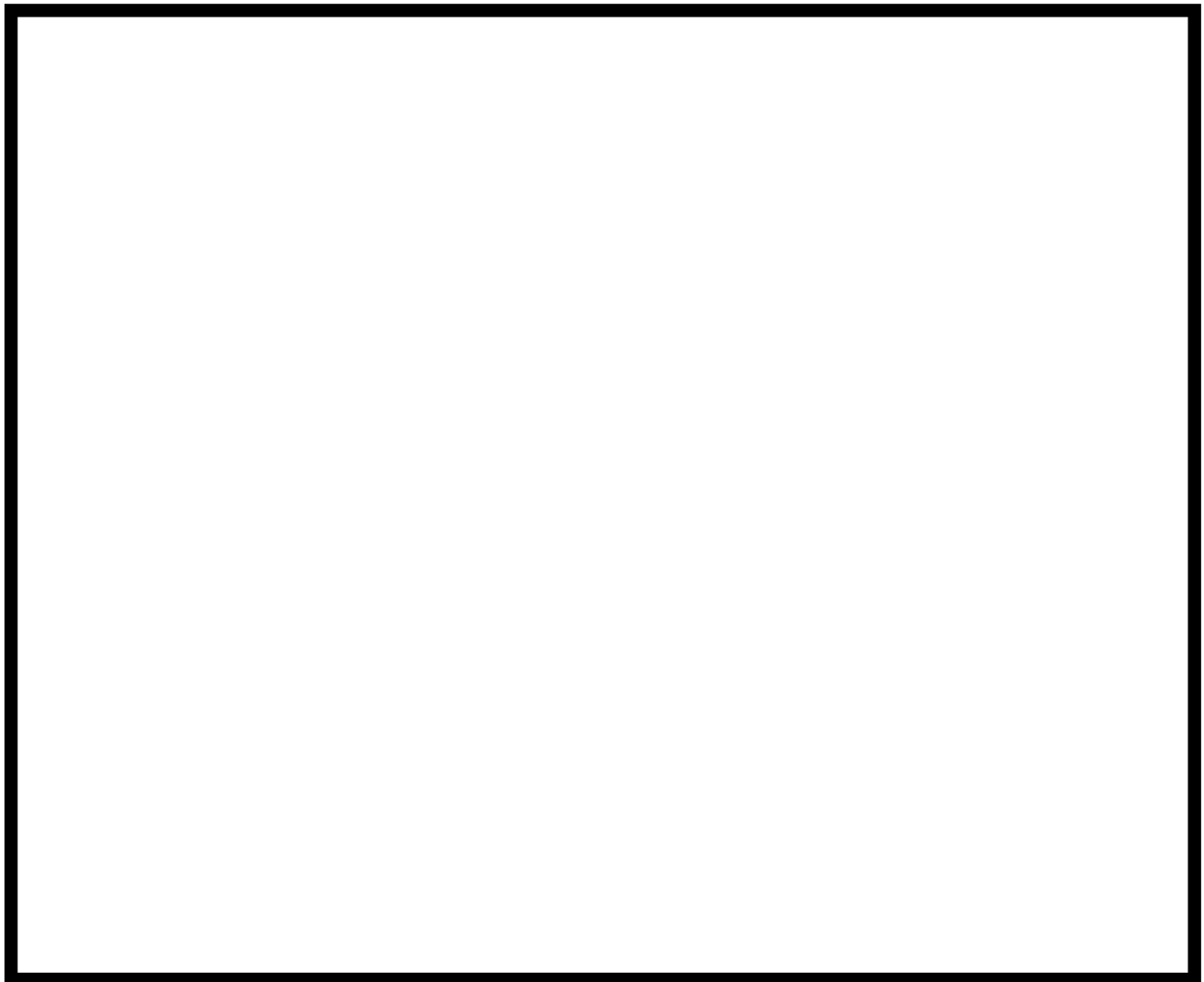


What do you think King Cecrops would look like? How do you think he stood or walked? Try moving around like King Cecrops and draw a picture of what you looked like when you were acting like King Cecrops.



Both Minerva, the Roman goddess of war, and Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, were interested in being the protector of this new city. They couldn't both be the protector. How on earth would King Cecrops choose?

Minerva was a warrior goddess and was very smart. What do you think she stood like? What did she look like when she walked? Try moving around like Minerva and draw a picture of what you looked like when you were acting like Minerva.



Neptune was the god of the sea. How do you think he stood? What did he look like when he walked? Try moving around like Neptune and draw a picture of what you looked like when you were acting like Neptune.



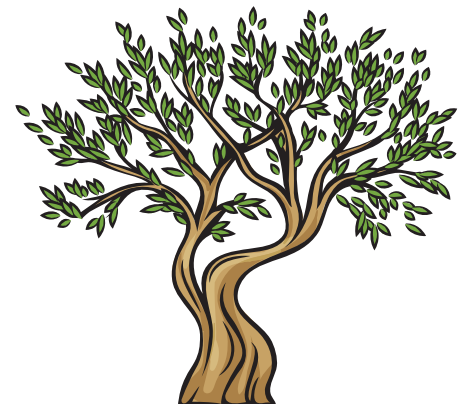
Minerva and Neptune decided that they would give the city gifts and then King Cecrops could choose the gift he liked best. Whoever gave the better gift would be the protector of the city.



Neptune gave the people a fountain, but instead of fresh water, it was full of salt water. How could you act out being a fountain? Try it out. What did you look like when you pretended to be a fountain?



Minerva gave the people an olive tree. The people loved the olives and the oil they could make from it. How can you act out being a tree? Try it out. What did you look like when you pretended to be a tree?



King Cecrops and the people loved Minerva's gift the most. She was victorious in the competition and was the protector of the city!

Sources

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Credits

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