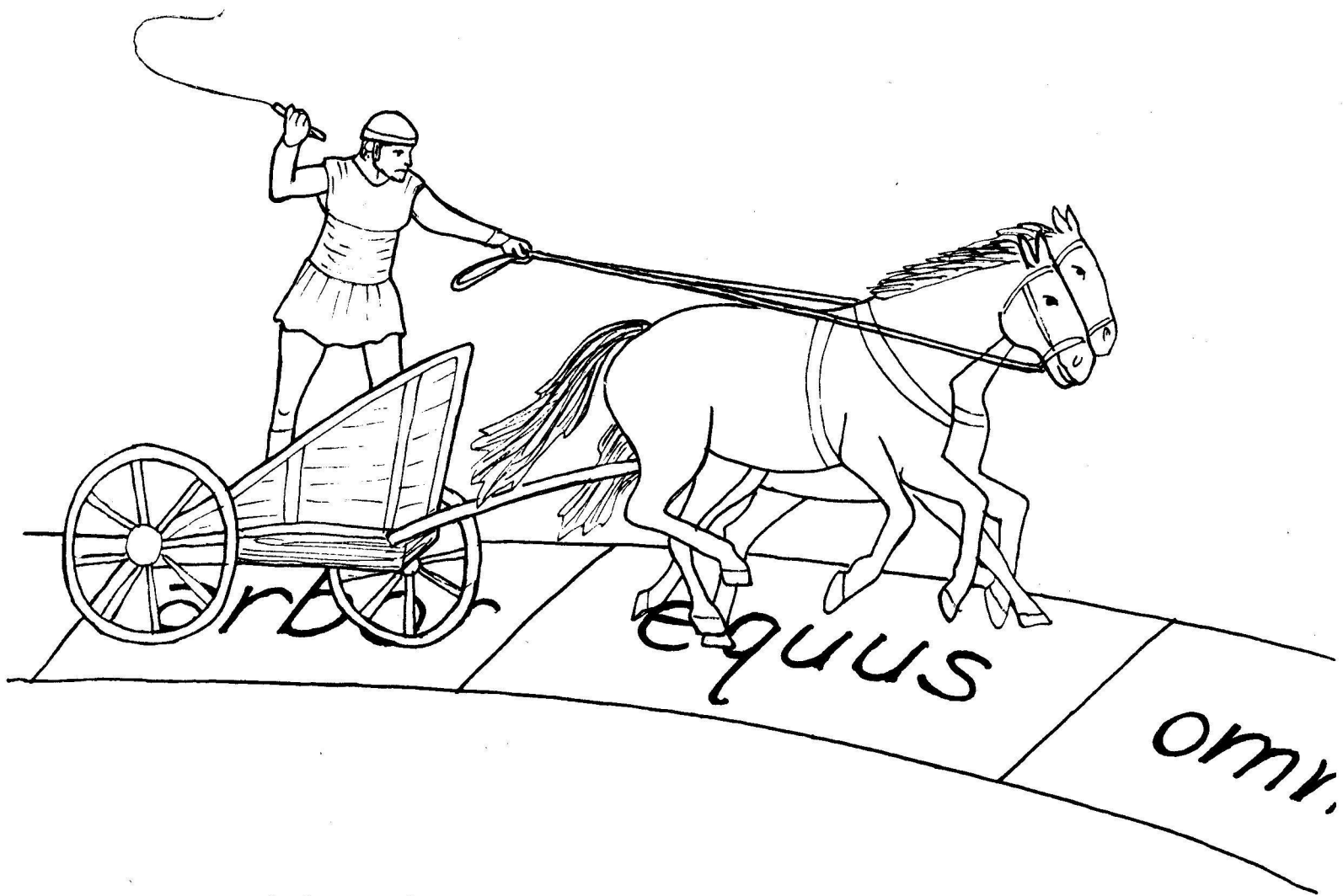


# CHARIOTS AT THE CIRCUS



A board game that teaches 85 Latin words

Designed for ages 10 to adult, but younger students may well be able to play  
if they can read well

## DIRECTIONS:

The board for this game represents the Circus Maximus in ancient Rome. The Circus was a long arena where chariot races took place. (The Circus Maximus was only a block or two away from the famous Colosseum, where gladiator fights were held.) The chariots had to race around the track seven times (about 4 miles). There were often terrible crashes and sometimes charioteers were killed. Along the center of the track was a narrow sidewalk called the "spina;" on it were statues of gods and seats for judges. A palm branch was given to the winner. The chariot teams were usually known by colors: the red team, the green team, the black team, etc.

### SET UP:

Find the two pieces of the playing board. Put them together so that they make a continuous oval track. You may need to trim one or both to get a good fit. Tape them in place. Clear packaging tape is the best tape to use. Cut out the four chariots and fold them so that they look like figure A.



Glue the chariots so that they look like this, and will stand up nicely as in figure B.

Cut out the parts for the spinner and follow the directions on that sheet for putting it together.

**IMPORTANT:** Now you must color code your spinner to match the chariots. Color each arm of the spinner a certain color and color the corresponding chariot (or charioteer) the same color. (You could also choose to color code by horse color, and use black, brown, white and tan.) Each player will have their own personal spinner arm.

Cut apart the accident cards and put them in a pile.

Each player will also need a pencil and a small piece of scratch paper.

Place the **LATIN DICTIONARY** answer list face down (so that the answers are hidden) next to the game board. Make sure the hint lists are out and available for the players to use. (The hint list contains what we call "derivatives:" English words that came from this Latin word.)

## HOW TO PLAY:

### SET UP:

All players put their chariots on one of the starting gates (which are the blocks numbered one to four). It does not matter which gate a player is in, because all players will move on every turn. The starting gate is just a place to park your chariot before the race begins. The numbered starting gates **DO NOT** count as spaces. For example, if you are on gate 3 and your first spin is a "4" you will end up on the word "hora," not "decem."

### BASIC PATTERN OF PLAY:

The object of the game is to be the first one across the finish line. Each player takes a turn spinning the spinner, **but the spin will be for everyone.** After the first player has spun the spinner, each player looks to see which number their color-coded spinner arm landed on, and proceeds that many spaces on the board. When the players land on their spaces, they write down the word they landed on, and next to it they write their guess as to its meaning. Players may consult the **HINT** list at any time during the

game. This continues so that the players build up a list of words and meanings. When a player's spinner arm lands on **DICTIONARY**, that means that on that turn he or she (and no one else) gets to turn over the Latin Dictionary answer sheet and check their answers. For every right answer, that player gets to go ahead a space.

#### ACCIDENT CARDS:

If two players land on the same space, they draw an ACCIDENT card to find out what happens. After you follow the instructions on the accident card, you may then proceed to write down the word you have finally landed on. After an accident card is drawn, return it to the bottom of the pile.

#### TROUBLESHOOTING:

- If one player spins dictionary (and therefore stays where he is) and another player lands on top of him, they must draw an accident card and follow the directions. If the player that spun dictionary ends up on another space, he should proceed with the game as if he hadn't spun dictionary, and write down the word as usual.
- If an accident card instructs you to move back onto a space where you already have been, you don't have to write down the word a second time.
- If one player spins dictionary and counts his correct words and goes ahead that many spaces and lands on another player, they need not draw an accident card if the other player has already written down their word and made a guess.
- . If three players all land on the same space, have the oldest player be gracious and go to back to the previous space.

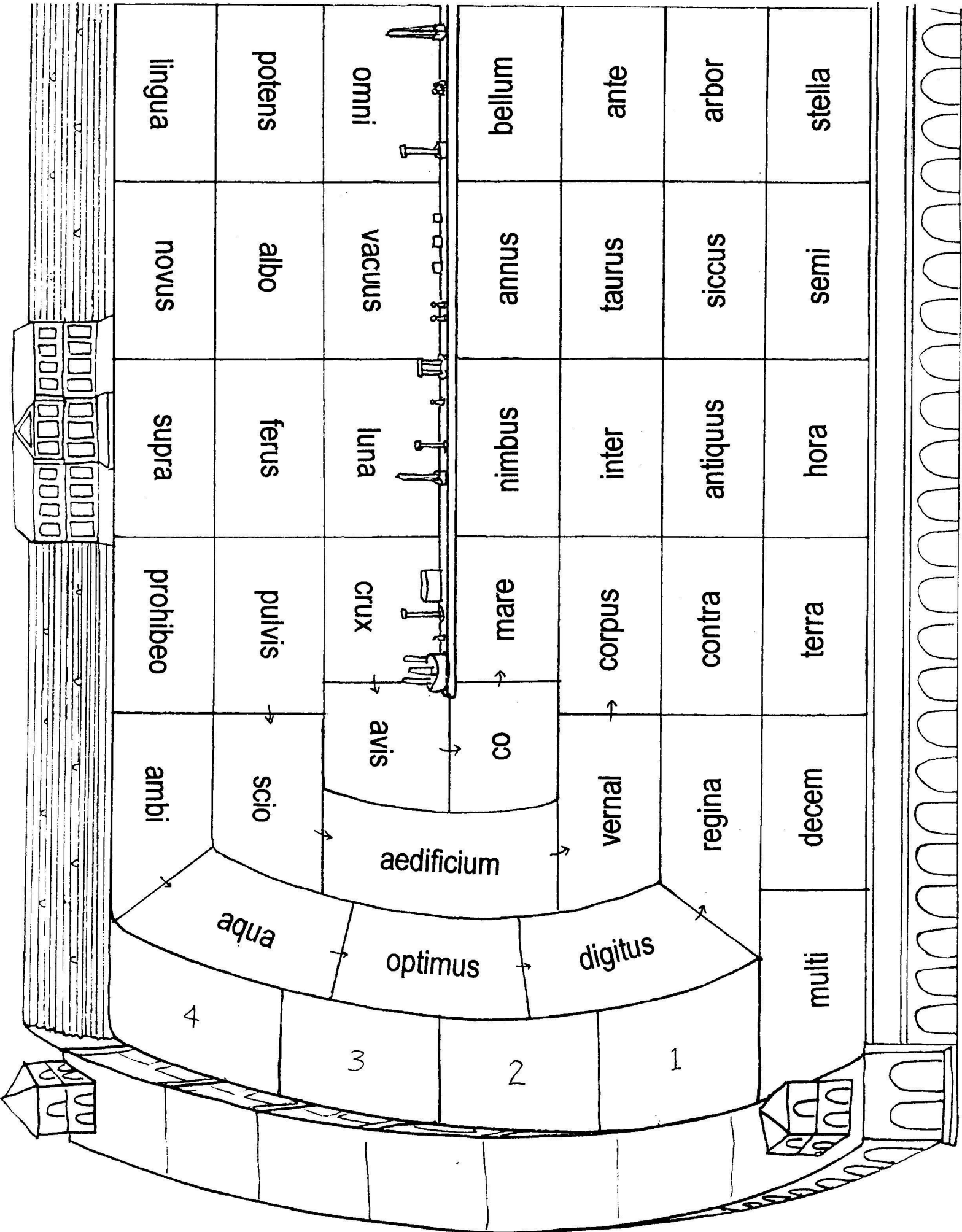
#### WINNING:

The first player to reach "finis" wins. You do not have to land on finis with an exact roll. Since all players move at once, you can have a tie at the finish line. Oh well, that's life.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Latin Primer by Martha Wilson, Mars Hill Publications

Latin and Greek roots found in book 5 of the "Elementary Energy and Environment Science Activities" series, published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



lingua

novus

supra

prohibeo

ambi

potens

albo

ferus

pulvis

scio

omni

vacuus

luna

crux

avis

bellum

annus

nimbus

mare

co

ante

taurus

inter

corpus

vernal

arbor

siccus

antiquus

contra

regina

stella

semi

hora

terra

decem

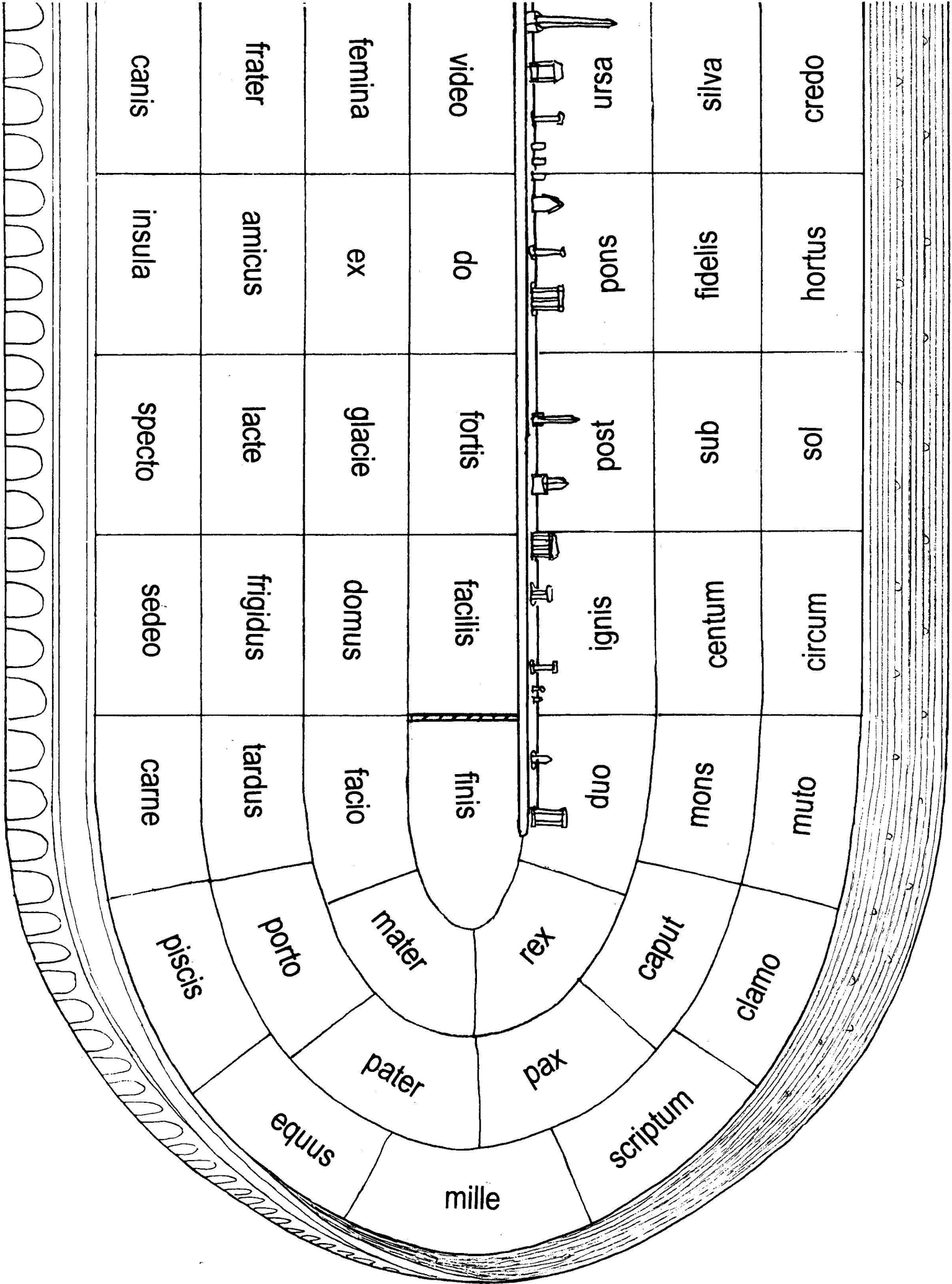
multi

4

3

2

1



credo

hortus

sol

circum

muto

clamo

silva

fidelis

sub

centum

mons

caput

ursa

pons

post

ignis

duo

rex

pax

video

do

fortis

facilis

finis

mater

pater

mille

femina

ex

glacie

domus

facio

porto

equus

frater

amicus

lacte

frigidus

tardus

canis

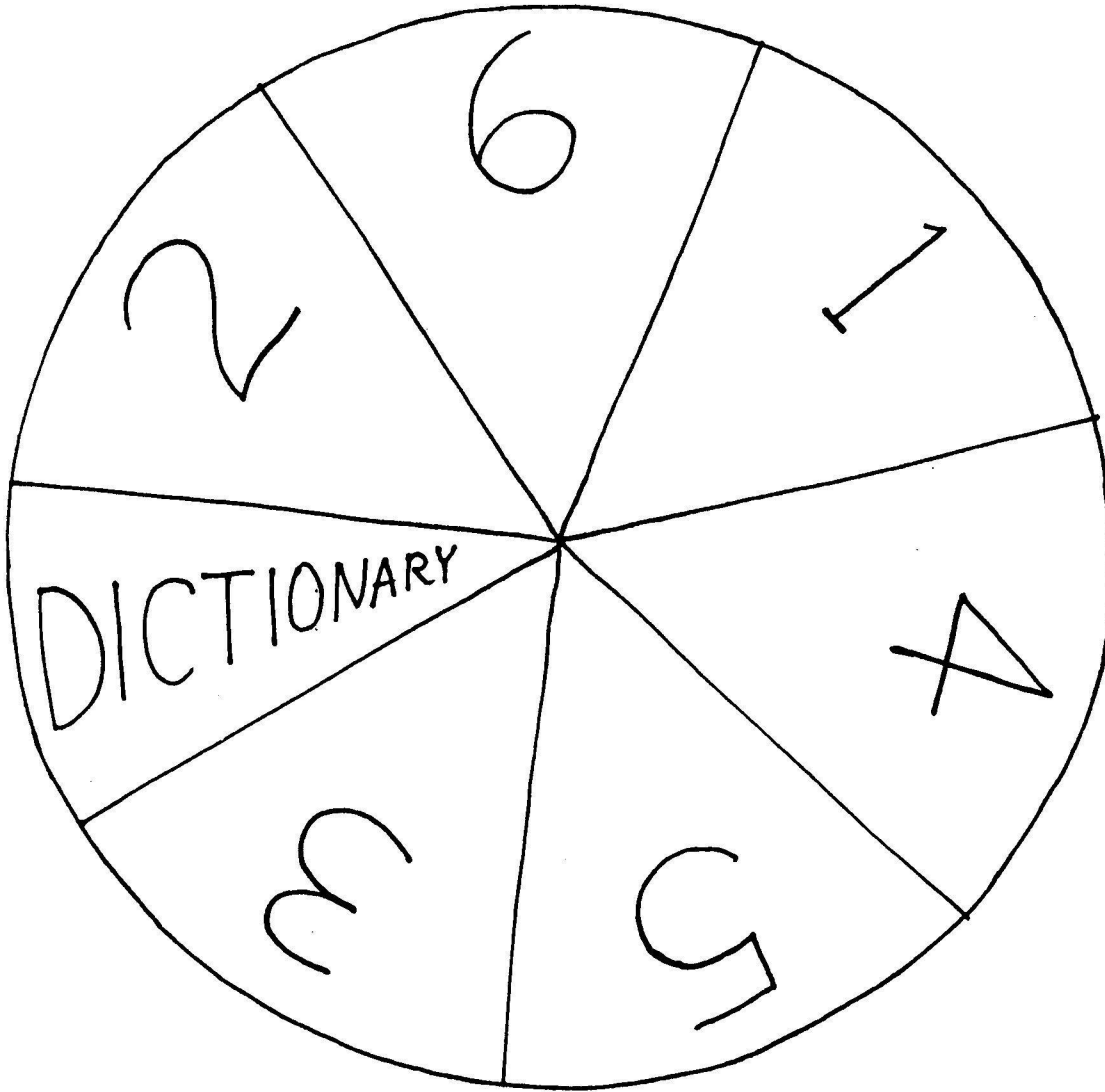
insula

specto

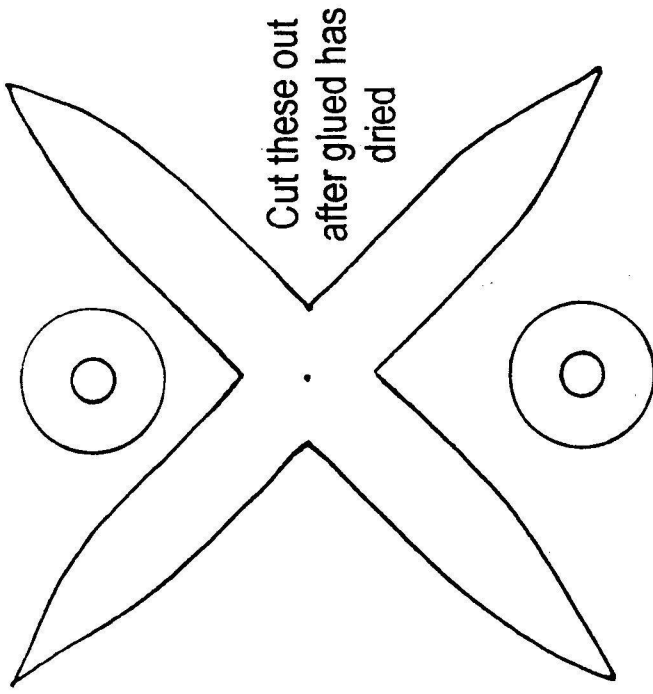
sedeo

carne

piscis



Glue this whole sheet to the side of a cereal box, then cut on this line ↑  
 Do NOT cut out the circle!



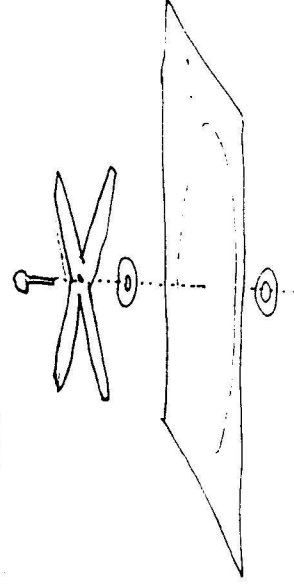
Cut these out  
 after glued has  
 dried

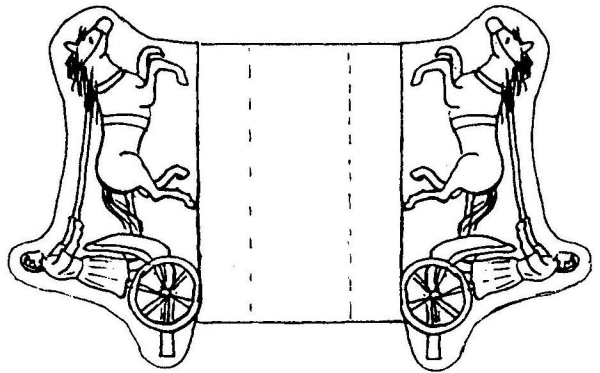
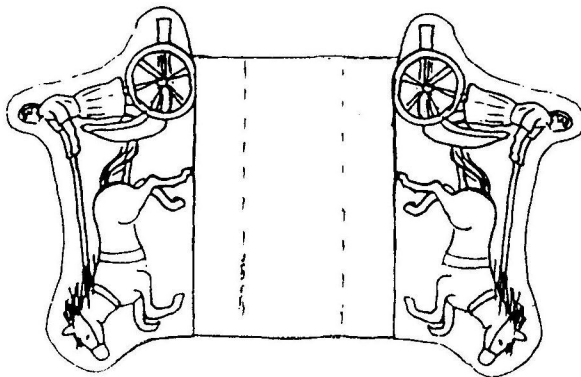
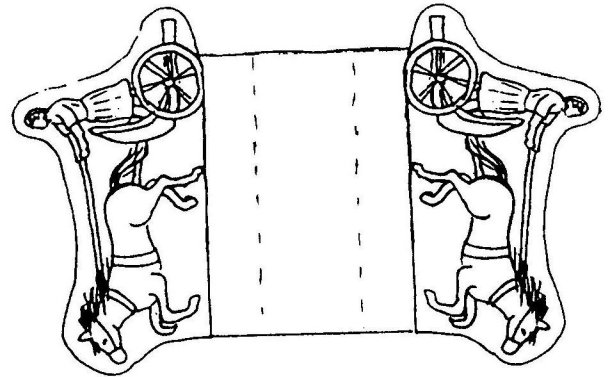
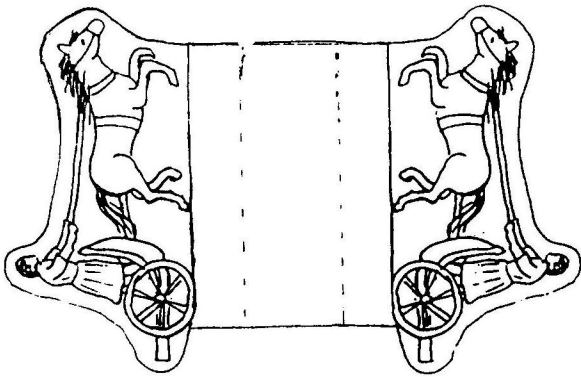
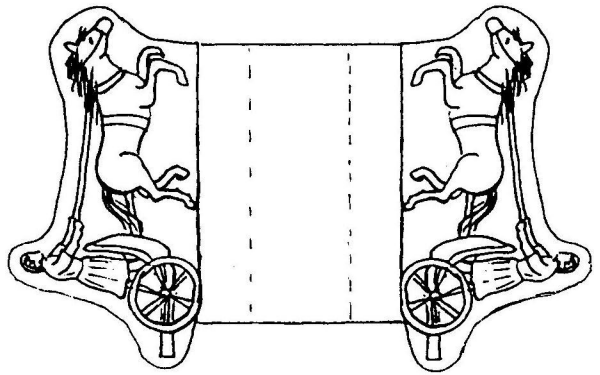
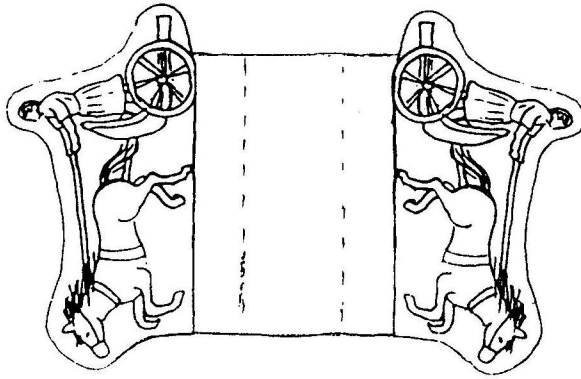
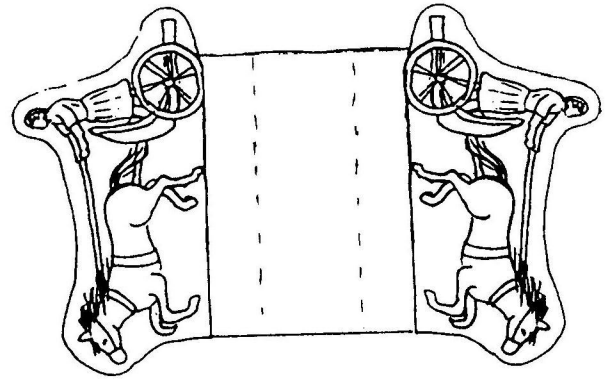
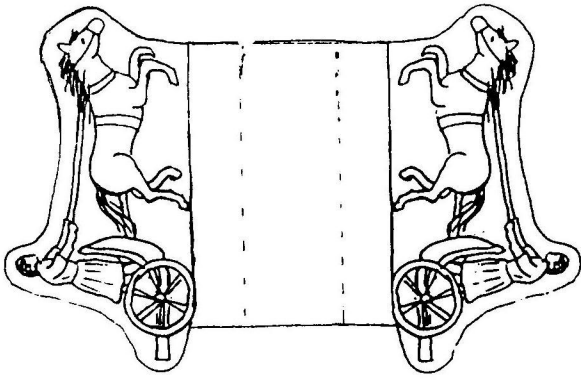
Direction for assembling the spinner:

For best results, glue this sheet onto a side of a large cereal box (or similar cardboard). Put a stack of books on it and allow to dry for an hour or so. Then cut out the square with the numbered circle on it (DO NOT CUT OUT THE CIRCLE!) and the spinner and the little donut-shaped piece.

Punch a hole in the center of both the spinner and the numbered circle. Assemble the pieces in the order shown in the diagram below. Use the paper fastener to secure them.

NOTE: You may have to fuss with the spinner just a little to get it to work really well. If the paper fastener is too loose or too tight, the spinner won't work right!







|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Fortunately, the chariots only bumped each other slightly. The race continues normally.</p>   | <p>You both got lucky this time. The horses swerved at the last minute and the chariots did not collide at all. The race goes on.</p>  | <p>Both charioteers are severely wounded and cannot return to the track. Both players miss one turn.</p>   | <p>Both chariots are severely damaged but one charioteer has many relatives to push in a new chariot. The charioteer with the most cousins goes ahead two spaces. If it is a tie, both chariots stay where they are.</p>            |
| <p>You both got lucky this time! The chariots near you steered clear and avoided an accident. The race goes on normally.</p>   | <p>Both charioteers are injured. They both must go back one space.</p>   | <p>One of the horses has broken a leg. While its owner gets a new horse, he must miss a turn. Which horse is it? It belongs to the charioteer with the most pets. (If pets is a tie, use pairs of shoes as a tie breaker.)</p>                 | <p>Fortunately, the accident was not serious this time. The charioteers give each other a dirty look, but the race goes on normally.</p>  |
| <p>Both chariots spin out of control and slide off the track. Both charioteers must spin the spinner to find out how many spaces they must go back.</p>  | <p>Age and experience help when racing a chariot. The oldest charioteer may go ahead one space.</p>  | <p>The charioteer who was already on the space is not injured and can go on ahead. The charioteer who just arrived sustained major damage and must go back two spaces. If you arrived together, whoever is shorter may go ahead one space.</p> | <p>The charioteer who was already on the space is not injured and can go on. The charioteer who just arrived on the space sustained major damage and must go back two spaces. If both arrived together, both stay on the space.</p> |
| <p>One of the chariots got a wheel knocked off. This chariot must go back one space. Whose chariot is it? The charioteers must have a spin-off. Whoever spins a lower number must go back one space.</p> | <p>This accident strews chariot parts across the whole track and sets everyone back. All players must go back one space and the chariot that caused the wreck must go back two spaces.</p> | <p>One of the chariots got a wheel knocked off. This chariot must go back one space. Whose chariot is it? The charioteers must have a spin-off. Whoever spins a lower number must go back one space.</p>                                       | <p>Both chariots are severely damaged. Both chariots go back two spaces.</p>  |



# HINTS

Quick tips on Latin pronunciation: “C” is always hard (like in cat), “g” is always hard (like in goat) and “v” sounds like “w.” The letter “i” is pronounced as “ee” and the letter “e” is pronounced as “ay.”

How to spot a verb: All the verbs (action words, such as “carry” or “see”) end with the letter “o.” We choose to use the first person singular tense of the Latin verbs, which is what you say for yourself. For example, “I sit” or “I want.” So if the word ends in the letter “o,” look for a clue in the sentence that is an action word, not a person, place or thing!

Tip on how to use this hint list: Each sentence contains an English derivative of the Latin word. (A derivative is a word that came from another word.) You can find the derivative in the sentence by looking for an English word that looks or sounds a bit like the Latin word. For example, look at the first word: AEDIFICIUM (ay-duh-fi-kee-um). The word “edifice” is the only word in the sentence that looks anything like the Latin word. However, you can’t just write down the derivative! You don’t know what an edifice is, right?! You need to figure out what an edifice is. Can you figure out what an edifice is by reading the sentences? Apartments, castles, churches, and houses are examples of a \_\_\_\_\_. (building)

AEDIFICIUM: An apartment building is an edifice. So is a castle or a house or a church.

ALBO: The albino rabbit was solid white, with not a trace of brown anywhere.

AMBI: If you are ambidextrous, you can write with both your right and left hands.

AMICA: The two girls have an amicable relationship; they enjoy being with each other.

ANTE: The morning hours are called A.M., which stands for ante meridiem. Meridiem is noon.

ANTIQUUS: The old antique shop had objects dating back to the 1700’s.

ANNUS: Annual plants only bloom for one year, then you have to replant them.

AQUA: The aqueducts were large troughs that brought fresh water into the city of Rome.

ARBOR: The way you celebrate Arbor Day is to plant a tree.

AVIS: We went to the aviary and saw owls, pelicans, toucans, and hummingbirds.

BELLUM: The “Antebellum period” is the time right before the Civil War.

CANIS: Keep your canine on his leash!

CAPUT: Criminals in ancient times were decapitated using an ax or guillotine.

CARNE: Some dinosaurs ate plants, other were carnivores.

CENTUM: How many centimeters are in a meter? (It’s the same as pennies in a dollar.)

CIRCUM: We measured around the outside of the tire and found the circumference to be 2 meters.

CLAMO: With all the clamor of the screaming crowd, I could not hear what she said.

CO: He was the co-chairman of the committee, along with Mr. Zotz.

CONTRA: Don’t contradict me. Don’t go against what I am saying.

CORPUS: Corporal punishment hurts the body, not the mind.

CREDO: The Apostles’ Creed states the beliefs of the church in the first centuries.

CRUX: A crucifix hung over the altar in the Catholic Church.

DECEM: He was king for a decade, which was half of his father’s twenty-year reign.

DIGITUS: Your pinky is one of five digits on your hand.

DO: Could you please donate some money to help our group?

DOMUS: Our modern house cats are considered to be domestic creatures.

DUO: Batman and Robin are sometimes called the Dynamic Duo.

EQUUS: The equestrian team rode their horses superbly and won first place.

EX: If there is a fire, get out! Head for the exit!

FACILIS: To facilitate their move and make it easier, they hired extra help.

FACIO: The factory makes plastic parts for toasters.

FEMINA: He thought the shirt looked too feminine, so he took it to the women’s section.

FERUS: Ferrous substances rust because they contain iron.

FIDELUS: The servant’s fidelity was never questioned; he never betrayed his master.

FORTIS: The fort held up against repeated attacks and was so strong it could not be destroyed.

FRATER: College guys need “bro’s” to hang out with, so they join fraternities.

FRIGIDUS: Food spoils faster when it is not refrigerated.

GLACIE: At one time, frozen glaciers covered most of the northern areas of the world.

HORA: I can manage to fall asleep at any hour of the day.

HORTUS: The horticulture department specializes in research on garden plants.

IGNIS: The burning match ignited the gasoline and burned down the building.

INSULA: A peninsula is almost an island.

INTER: The interstate highways go between states.

LACTE: After a cow has a calf, she begins to lactate.

LINGUA: As a linguistic student, she had to learn French, Latin, and Chinese.

LUNA: The lunar cycle includes these stages: full, half, crescent, and new.

MARE: The maritime museum showed the history of vessels built for the sea.

MATER: Maternity clothes are worn by mothers-to-be.

MILLE: Do you know how many millimeters are in a meter?

MONS: Have you been to see Mount Rushmore?

MULTI: The dress was multi-colored; it had red, orange, yellow and pink stripes.

MUTO: A mutation occurred in the DNA, causing the virus to change its shape.

NIMBUS: Look up in the sky today and you will see examples of nimbus, stratus and cumulus.

NOVUS: What a novel idea! I’ve never heard of that before!

OMNI: God is omniscient and knows everything.

OPTIMUS: For optimum performance, use only high-quality fuel.

PATER: A paternity suit was filed, trying to prove that the man was the child’s true father.

PAX: In the time of “Pax-Romana” there was no war.

PISCIS: We went on a piscatorial outing to the pond. In other words, we went fishing.

PONS: In your brain, the part called the pons is the bridge from the upper to the lower sections.

PORTO: We transported the merchandise by carrying it from the truck to the store.

POST: During the post-war period, many buildings were repaired and rebuilt.

POTENS: That drink was potent! It really powered me up!

PROHIBEO: Smoking is prohibited in public buildings.

PULVIS: He pulverized the rock into a fine powder.

REGINA: Queen Elizabeth sometimes signed her name as “Elizabeth R.”

REX: We sometimes call the Tyrannosaurus Rex the kind of the dinosaurs.

SCIO: Scientists are trying to add to our knowledge of how the world works.

SCRIPTUM: This ancient manuscript is written in letters I don’t understand.

SEDEO: His job is sedentary. After a day of sitting at the office he needs to exercise.

SEMI: A semi-circle is half a circle.

SICCUS: The desiccated meat was totally dried up and was not edible.

SILVA: Pennsylvania means “Penn’s woods.” It was named after William Penn.

SOL: Our house runs on solar energy.

SPECTO: The spectators were amazed as they watched the sporting event.

STELLA: The constellations are like dot-to-dot pictures made by groups of stars.

SUB: A boat floats on the water. A submarine goes under the water.

SUPRA: She was a super-achiever, going above and beyond what was required.

TARDUS: He came to class an hour after it started so they marked him “tardy.”

TAURUS: In Spain, a torero is a bull-fighter; he carries a red cape to tease the bull.

TERRA: Ancient peoples used to think the Mediterranean Sea was in the middle of the Earth.

URSA: The most famous constellation is Ursa Major, which ancient peoples saw as a giant bear.

VACUUS: Outer space is a vacuum; there’s nothing out there, not even air.

VIDEO: I have good vision. I can see extremely well.

VERNAL: The vernal pond appears every spring and disappears by the end of summer.

# LATIN DICTIONARY

|                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AEDIFICIUM: building       | LACTE: milk                        |
| ALBO: white                | LINGUA: language                   |
| AMBI: both                 | LUNA: moon                         |
| AMICUS: friend             | MARE: sea                          |
| ANTE: before               | MATER: mother                      |
| ANTIQUUS: old or ancient   | MILLE: thousand                    |
| ANNUS: year                | MONS: mountain                     |
| AQUA: water                | MULTI: many                        |
| ARBOR: tree                | MUTO: change                       |
| AVIS: bird                 | NIMBUS: cloud                      |
| BELLUM: war                | NOVA: new                          |
| CANIS: dog                 | OMNI: all or everything            |
| CAPUT: head                | OPTIMUS: best                      |
| CARNE: flesh or meat       | PATER: father                      |
| CENTUM: hundred            | PAX: peace                         |
| CIRCUM: around             | PISCIS: fish                       |
| CLAMO: I shout             | PONS: bridge                       |
| CO: with                   | PORTO: I carry                     |
| CONTRA: against            | POST: after                        |
| CORPUS: body               | POTENS: power                      |
| CREDO: I believe           | PROHIBEO: I forbid or do not allow |
| CRUX: cross                | PULVIS: dust or powder             |
| DECEM: ten                 | REGINA: queen                      |
| DIGITUS: finger            | REX: king                          |
| DO: I give                 | SCIO: I know                       |
| DOMUS: house               | SCRIPTUM: writing                  |
| DUO: two                   | SEDEO: I sit                       |
| EQUUS: horse               | SEMI: half                         |
| EX: out                    | SICCUS: dry                        |
| FACILIS: easy              | SILVA: forest or woods             |
| FACIO: I make or do        | SOL: sun                           |
| FEMINA: woman or lady      | SPECTO: I look at or watch         |
| FERUS: iron                | STELLA: star                       |
| FIDELIS: faithful or loyal | SUB: under                         |
| FORTIS: strong             | SUPRA: over or above               |
| FRATER: brother            | TARDUS: late                       |
| FRIGIDUS: cold             | TAURUS: bull                       |
| GLACIE: ice                | TERRA: earth                       |
| HORA: hour                 | URSA: bear                         |
| HORTUS: garden             | VACUUS: empty                      |
| IGNIS: fire                | VIDEO: I see                       |
| INSULA: island             | VERNAL: spring                     |
| INTER: between             |                                    |