

GRAMMAR AND WORD USE QUESTIONS

1. Why is dactylic hexameter fitting for this poem's genre? (See Appendix 4, Latin Epic Poetry.)
2. As the meaning of a Latin sentence is not tightly tied to word order, Latin poets often arrange words to form a picture. Horace named this *callida iunctura*—clever joining. *Divis notas dum conderet artes* is an example of this. How does it picture Quetzalcoatl?
3. Here are the first of many literary allusions in this work (brief and indirect references to persons or ideas that have literary significance. They are passing comments, not detailed descriptions).

Line 5 is very similar to *Aeneid* 1.5: *Multa quoque et bello passus dum conderet urbem* “also having endured many wars until he could found a city.”

Line 9 is very similar to *Aeneid* 6.853: *parcere subiectis et debellare superbos* “to spare the humble and war down the proud.”

Write down all four lines and compare them.
4. In line 9, *parcere subiectis superans furorem* has a present participle following a purpose infinitive. Add “in order to” before the infinitive *parcere* and translate the phrase.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of this epic?
2. What kind of ruler was Quetzalcoatl? How long did he rule?
3. What task did he give the people as soon as he was on the throne?
4. What are three of the plants grown by the Mexica?

POETRY QUESTIONS

1. Review and read aloud the scanned *Aeneid* 6.847–853 given in Appendix 4 and referenced above.
2. Copy on paper and scan the first four lines of the lesson above. Remember the mute-liquid rule and the consonant *i* rule. Read the lines aloud.