

The Felix Gem Jigsaw activity

ASHMOLEAN

This engraved gem is one of the treasures of the Ashmolean. Felix, which means fortunate in Latin, is engraved in Greek on the gem. This was the maker's name. Also in Greek is the name of the Roman owner, Calpurnius Severus. He used this gem as a seal. A seal could be used almost like a signature by pressing the seal into hot wax.

The gem shows a key scene from the siege of Troy - a war between Greece and the Trojans. The Greeks discovered that the city of Troy was protected by an idol known as the Palladion or Pallas which was safely guarded in a temple to Athena. Two Greek warriors, Diomedes and Odysseus planned to steal it. Diomedes killed a guard and then touched the emblem with his bloody hands. The image on the gem shows Odysseus, on the left, gesturing at the feet of the dead guarding and scolding Diomedes. Diomedes sits on the altar with the statue in one hand and his bloody sword in the other. In the background Poseidon the sea god turns his back in disgust at the warriors' deeds. Without the idol, the Greeks were eventually able to capture Troy.

You might know the story of the Trojan Horse. If not, why don't you find out more about it?

Odysseus is gesturing at the dead guard's feet. What do you think he might be saying to Diomedes? _____

The name of the Roman owner, Calpurnius Severus is shown here. It is written in the Greek alphabet and reads from right to left. Why do you think this might be? _____

Look closely at Diomedes' face... Choose and circle the word you think best describes his expression:

- Embarrassed
- Worried
- Proud
- Ashamed
- Upset
- Happy



Felix is written here in Greek and it also reads from right to left.

ΞΙΛΗΦ ←

Print the desired numbers of this image of the Felix Gem. Cut along the lines to create jigsaws to complete. Laminate if desired.

