

Work Sheet: Visual Association in Trajan-Hadrianic and Antonine Coinage



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Legend: IMP CAES NER TRAIAN
OPTIM AVG GERM DAC

Description: Bust of Trajan, laureate, draped.

Note: Trajan's titles on this coin are:

Imperator
Caesar
Optimus
Augustus
Germanicus
Dacicus



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Legend: PARTHICO P M TR P COS VI
P P S P Q R

Description: Felicitas, draped, standing, holding caduceus up in her right hand and cornucopiae in her left

Note: Felicitas is holding symbols of wealth and prosperity, and the goddess herself is the personification of good luck, happiness and blessedness.

Another title of Trajan is written here:
Parthicus

1a.) Why might Trajan choose to associate himself with Felicitas?

1b.) Why might Trajan have been given the titles Germanicus, Dacicus, and Parthicus?

1c.) How does the association of Trajan and Felicitas give more meaning to his titles?

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The Trajan-Hadrianic and Antonine Emperors are known for succession based on merit based adoption rather than hereditary line.

Hadrian



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Antoninus Pius



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Marcus Aurelius



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2a.) How do the coins above depict the emperors in a way that links them to their predecessors?

2b.) Why might the emperors choose to depict themselves in this way?



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3a.) What aspects of Mars, the Roman god of war, might Marcus Aurelius wish to associate himself with?

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3b.) Why might this association be beneficial?

The legend on the reverse reads CONCORDIAE AVGVSTOR TR P XV COS III.



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4.) Why might Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus, adopted brothers and co-emperors, have displayed themselves as above?