

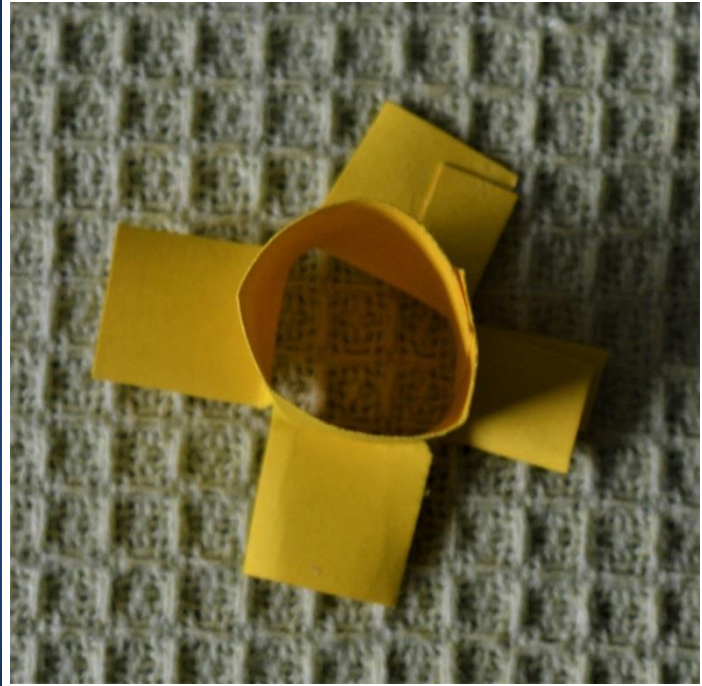
## Roman Festivals – Goddess Flora

THE  
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The Romans celebrated their gods and heroes throughout the year. Every Roman, unless you were a slave, was given many holidays. Originally, these were days that celebrated religious festivals. No business took place at these times and they were celebrated by races, games and theatrical shows. Over time, these activities began to lose their religious meaning and became pure entertainment. In the reign of Claudius, 159 days a year were declared as public holidays. By the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., this had risen to 200 holidays a year. Enjoying their spare time was important part of Roman life.

This is the story of the festival of Flora. The Romans called it [Ludi Florales](#). It ran from 28<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Flora was the goddess of flowers. Her name comes from 'flos' which means 'flower' in Latin. During her festival there were games and lots of eating and drinking. The festival of Flora was one that lots of different people could join in with, not just rich people.

There were some customs that we would find quite odd today; the Romans would release hares and goats to celebrate the coming of spring. Men would wear flowers and women were able to wear bright multi-coloured clothes.



Make a spring flower to wear or put on a picture.

You will need:

- Coloured paper or card, scissors, glue, a pen or pencil

What to do:

- Cut a strip of coloured card or paper about 3-4 cm wide.
- Wrap it around your pen or pencil to make a small cylinder.
- Glue the cylinder together with the glue.
- At the end of the paper make some cuts approximately 1 cm long up the cylinder and then fold them back.
- You can now make some petals to stick to the folds. (Look at the picture below).

If you want to, you can make some leaves and a stalk. If you want to wear your flower you will need to attach a safety pin or some tape to the back of the flower.

Well Done! You have created a flower to celebrate the Roman goddess Flora!