

**Ovid’s *Fasti***

Romulus, after founding Rome, had a clever thought. He believed that the nine months it took a woman to give birth to a child was enough to count as a year. He added an extra month for a wife to mourn the loss of her husband.

Romulus, in his fancy and posh robes, decided to unofficially announce a ten month calendar. The first month was named after Mars, March. The second was named after the goddess Venus, April. Mars and Venus were the mother and father of the year. The third month was May, the fourth June.

All the other months were then named after the Roman numerals.

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| **English** | **Latin** |
| March | Martius |
| April | Aprilis |
| May | Maius |
| June | Iunius |
| July | Quintilis |
| August | Sextilis |
| September | September |
| October | October |
| November | November |
| December | December |

Using the table and text to help you, answer the following questions.

1. What is the Latin for July?

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II. Who were the mother and father of the year?

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III. If three of Romulus’ months were taken away, how many months would there be left? (Circle Answer)

But Numa, who became king after Romulus, did not want to ignore the God Janus.

Therefore, Numa added two extra months and made the year twelve months long.

He added …

January - Ianuarius

February - Februarius

IV. Who added two extra months to the calendar? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What were they?

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V. Circle the adjectives in the following sentence.

*“Romulus in his fancy and posh robes decided to unofficially announce a 10 month year.”*

