



*The Oath of the Horatii*

## **Oath of the Horatii - Lesson Plan**

### **1. History Lesson**

Read the account of the Horatii vs. the Curiatii (English or Latin) as written by Livy in Book II.24-26. Consider the following as you read:

1. Against what regional tribe did Tullus Hostilius wage war?
2. What two sets of brothers famously fought to decide victory in the war mentioned in question #5?
3. Who won and by what strategy?
4. What family discord occurred among the Horatii as a result of this battle?
5. What lesson on Roman values can readers (ancient and modern) draw from this story?

### **2. Art History Lesson**

Take notes on this painting as you watch the Smart History Video:

<https://smarthistory.org/jacques-louis-david-oath-of-the-horatii/>

1. Title
2. Artist
3. Nationality
4. Museum
5. Characters
6. Setting
7. Vanishing Point
8. Other Features of Interest

**\*\*For Discussion:** How does this piece of art compare to the story in Livy 1.24-26?

### **3. Non-Verbal Review**

In order to reflect on the story and the art, color the picture of the “Oath of the Horatii.” Students are free to exercise artistic license in using colors not specific to the original work.

Note: This review is intentionally non-verbal. Instead the students review the story and the art through using their visual and tactile senses. They may even wish to make purposeful color choices to reflect some ideas within the painting. For example: Color could reflect the mood of characters, emphasize the vanishing point, distinguish (or subdue) the background, emphasize certain objects or characters, et cetera.