The globe with a Roman gate at its center on the VRoma home page invites visitors to time travel to an interactive simulation of the ancient city of Rome. The scroll offers links to classical images (over 2000 images, which can be searched at <http://www.vroma.org/images/image_search.html>) and cultural and pedagogical Internet resources created by VRoma core faculty.

VRoma is first and foremost a community of teachers and students who create on-line resources for teaching Latin and ancient Roman culture and use these resources in their courses. The home of VRoma's virtual community is an on-line “place,” a metaphor of ancient Rome, where faculty and students can meet in real time, interact, collaborate, hold classes, and access databases, texts, images and teaching materials.

Clicking on the globe gateway allows both registered members and guests to log on to the site and make use of its cultural and spatial environment, individually or in groups. To visit VRoma as a guest, simply click the Login button, leaving the Password box blank, and you will arrive at the Prima Porta VRomana. Clicking on the exit link to Rome will take you to a map of the fourteen regions of the ancient city:

Clicking on a region in this map will enable you to visit ancient sites and monuments in that area of the city; each site will have exit links at the bottom of the Web Window so you can “walk” through the streets and rooms. By typing in the Typing Window, you can communicate in real time with other visitors; the bottom of the Web Window will list any visitors who are in the same room with you. Simply preface what you want to say with a quotation mark; for example, if you type “Salve! I am a guest exploring this great city.” and press Enter, this will appear in the Interactive Window: HospesI says, “Salve! I am a guest exploring this great city.” Any visitor in the room will see this message in the Interactive Window and can respond.

For more information on how to navigate and communicate in the VRoma MOO, see Basic MOO Commands <http://www.vroma.org/help/basic_commands.html>.
The virtual city of Rome offers multiple ways to set the *Aeneid* in its original cultural context. Various sites in VRoma can be used to give students a new perspective on the epic, as they explore the links and interconnections between Augustan Rome and the *Aeneid*. The Vergil in VRoma page <http://www.vroma.org/course_materials/VergilAugRome.html> provides links to assignments that are designed to be carried out by small groups of students working together; the students should be studying the *Aeneid*, but not necessarily in Latin. The following assignment sheets, designed by Barbara McManus, Co-Director of the VRoma Project, are available in printable Acrobat format:

- Vergil in VRoma: Exploring the Temple of Palatine Apollo
- Vergil in VRoma: Exploring the Forum of Augustus
- Vergil in VRoma: Exploring the Capitoline Hill
- Vergil in VRoma: Exploring the Theater of Marcellus

Students reading the *Aeneid* in Latin have another resource in VRoma — they can visit Vergil’s house on the Esquiline and find there Vergil’s Thesaurus, a special room with images and questions devoted to online discussions of passages in the *Aeneid*, especially geared to the AP Vergil syllabus but usable by other Latin students as well. Information about how to use this room can be found at the Teacher’s Guide <http://www.vroma.org/~bmcmanus/thesaurus.html>.