Questions for Thought and Discussion

- What did you think you knew about the Etruscans before you read the book, and has the book changed your mind?
- What are the limitations of archaeology in helping us to understand a society?
- Does it make sense to think that whole populations moved? Or is it better to think that people adopt different cultural packages?
- How different does Etruscan religion seem from other religions, including our own?
- What are the uses of luxury in Etruscan society?
- What kind of social and political organization does Etruria have? How does it change?
- What do you think may have been the purposes of tomb painting in Etruria?
- How open to change and development was Etruscan society?
- What were the main differences between the Romans and the Etruscans – and the main similarities?
- What are the consequences of language loss to a society?
- Do you think the Etruscans disappeared because their language was no longer used?
- How would you characterise the Etruscan landscape under the Romans?
- What strikes you about the sarcophagi illustrated in the volume – what messages are they intended to convey?
- Why do you think the Etruscans continue to be fascinating?
- What does Etruria mean to you now?

Other Books by Christopher Smith

Early Rome and Latium: Economy and Society c 1000-500 BC
Smith, C. J (Clarendon Press 1996)

Religion in Archaic and Republican Rome: Evidence and Experience

Sicily from Aeneas to Augustus: New Approaches in Archaeology and History

The Roman Clan: The Gens from Ancient Ideology to Modern Anthropology
Smith, C. J. (Cambridge University Press 2006)

The Cambridge Ancient History: Plates to Volumes VII, Part 2 and VIII: the rise of Rome to 133 BC
Smith, C. J. (ed.) (Cambridge University Press 2013 2nd ed)

The Fragments of the Roman Historians: in 3 volumes

Further Reading


