

Name:

Date:

Period:

The Testimonium: Evidence for Jesus Outside the Bible

Directions: Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. The author claims that the Biblical text is often rejected as evidence that Jesus existed. Why?
2. When was Josephus born, and when did he die?
3. What are his two most important works, and when did he write them?
4. How many times does Josephus appear to refer to Jesus in each of these writings?
5. Which of these references is considered 'spurious,' and why?
6. Which reference is most likely to be authentic, and why (2 reasons)? What does this reference say, exactly?
7. What are the three 'Christian interpolations' the author identifies in the Testimonium?
8. How does the author use the passage in *Antiquities* Book 20 to support his case that his 'pared down' Testimonium comes from Josephus?

9. Why does the author think that the reference to Jesus as a 'wise man' -along with its 'main components'- is likely authentic?

10. How does the author use the Testimonium's vocabulary and grammar to support his argument?

11. The author thinks that the Christology of the Testimonium without the Christian interpolations 'flies in the face of the overall description of Jesus' ministry' in the gospels. Explain why he thinks this with respect to the following points:
 - a. The claim that Jesus won over both Jews and Gentiles

 - b. The role played by the Jewish authorities and Pilate in Jesus' crucifixion

 - c. Josephus' claim that the 'tribe of Christians' had not died out in his own time.

 - d. The portrayal of John the Baptist in *Antiquities*.