

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Name: _____
Date: _____

Teacher for a Day

For completion of this project, you will be working in small groups to become the classroom experts about your topic. Topics are listed below and will be assigned randomly to each group.

1. The Roman Arch
2. Roman Aqueducts
3. Roman Baths
4. Roman Numerals and the Abacas
5. Ancient Roman Central Heating and Cooling Systems
6. The Roman Sewer System
7. Ancient Roman Medicine and Surgery

As teachers, your job is to provide your classmates with a lesson (not to exceed one class period) about your assigned topic. The lesson should:

- Explain clearly why the topic was important in the Roman Empire.
- Teach students about important aspects of the topic (who, what, when, where, why, and how).
- Discuss and provide examples how this piece of technology was used by the everyday Roman.
- Explain processes or procedures associated with the topic.

When planning your lesson, you must include the following:

- An attention getter to get students interested in your topic.
- An interesting way of presenting the facts about the topic (something for students to do, read, discuss, watch, or interact with).
- An activity that requires students to use the information they learned (e.g., solve math problems using Roman numerals, construct/build a structure, write a journal entry, diary, or paper about a given topic or complete an experiment).
- A closing discussion about what students learned and why this topic is considered important in the study of the Roman Empire.

Before presentations begin, we will work as a class to develop a scoring guide that will be completed by the teacher and all students after each group teaches its class. As teachers for a day, you will be evaluated on:

- Accuracy of the information presented

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- Inclusion of all lesson planning elements listed above
- Participation of all group members
- Organization and preparedness
- Quality of presentation and materials
- Overall effectiveness—Did students really learn from your class?

Below you will find a list of resources that can be used in addition to the content from [The Roman Empire in the First Century Web site](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html)

[\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html) including Baths

[\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/baths.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/baths.html). Remember, your goal is to create an exciting lesson that can be used to teach students about your topic. To assist you, there are some suggestions for things that could be done to make each subject more interesting.

- Have students build arches from different materials and test their strength and durability.
- Draw a diagram or make a model of an aqueduct.
- Create a flow chart with pictures showing the different parts of a Roman bath.
- Make a model of a Roman temple, coliseum, or bath showing all of the key parts and architectural features.
- Teach students how to read and write Roman numerals. Challenge their skills by having them solve addition and subtraction problems written in Roman numerals, using Roman numerals to write the answer.
- Show students an abacus and explain how it would have been used to calculate complicated math problems in ancient Rome. Follow up by having students write a math problem and explain how it would have been calculated on the abacus and have students write the answer in Roman numerals.
- Explain how central heating and cooling systems worked in ancient Rome and create a model or experiment that demonstrates the principles behind these systems.
- Create a diagram, flow chart, or model that explains how ancient Roman sewer systems worked and compare this to the mechanics of modern day sewer systems.
- Write a diary or journal from the point of view of a doctor in ancient Rome. Document the types of cases you saw, treatments you prescribed, and procedures you performed to aid your patients.
- Create a list of common ailments and the treatments for these ailments.
- Create a poster showing pictures of tools used by ancient Roman doctors and compare them to the tools used by modern day doctors. What are the similarities and differences between the two?

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Related Resources:

NOVA Online: Baths of Caracalla

[\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/roman/day.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/roman/day.html)

provides a detailed tour and a description of all areas of the bath house.

NOVA: Roman Bath [\[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/roman/\]](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/roman/)

describes the construction of a Roman bath. There is also information on aqueducts, including a game where students can construct an aqueduct.

Ancient Roman Architecture

[\[http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Workshop/5220/ancient/roman.html\]](http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Workshop/5220/ancient/roman.html)

provides information about typical Roman design features as well as pictures of some of Rome's most famous structures.

Nova Roma: On Roman Numerals

[\[http://www.novaroma.org/via_romana/numbers.html\]](http://www.novaroma.org/via_romana/numbers.html)

describes the number system developed by the ancient Romans. It also provides a conversion feature that allows you to type in a number and see it represented as a Roman numeral.

Ask Dr. Math: Roman Numerals [\[http://mathforum.org/dr.math/faq/faq.roman.html\]](http://mathforum.org/dr.math/faq/faq.roman.html)

explains how Roman numerals are read and used to work out a variety of math problems. It also explains the use of an abacus to calculate complex math problems.

Teacher Net [\[http://members.aol.com/TeacherNet/AncientRome.html\]](http://members.aol.com/TeacherNet/AncientRome.html)

has a complete listing of resources related to Rome and various aspects of Roman technology and life.

The Medicine in Ancient Rome Web pages

[\[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medicine_in_ancient_rome1.htm\]](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/medicine_in_ancient_rome1.htm) on the History Learning Site [\[http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk\]](http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk) explore various medical practices.

They also show what the Romans did to prevent disease when designing cities and caring for themselves.