

LIFE IN Pompeii: Primary and Secondary Sources

Objective 1: To create a fictional, but accurate, interpretation of what life might have been like for a Roman in Pompeii in 79 A.D. by incorporating evidence from primary and secondary sources to support your interpretation.

Objective 2: To learn and follow a process for investigating primary and secondary sources.

Step 1: BACKGROUND- Part 1: YOU. You will be assuming the identity of a Roman living in the city of Pompeii in 79 A.D. In order to be authentic in describing your life in ancient times it might be helpful to carefully consider what your life is like now. Carefully considering how you live will enable you to establish a framework to construct your life as a Roman. **(See Worksheet Page for questions to help establish a framework to guide you in creating your Roman identity).**

Step 2: BACKGROUND- Part 2: Life of a Roman...as far as we know.

Based on our study of Rome thus far, what do you think a typical day for a Roman was like? What was a typical Roman? **(See Worksheet Page for questions to help establish a framework to guide you in creating your Roman identity).**

Step 3: Who will you be? You will assume the identity of one of the following people in Roman Society.

You will become a Bread Maker, Housewife, Soldier, Slave, Farmer, Weaver, Child, or Physician.

Step 4: Primary Document Analysis Worksheet (See Worksheet Page).

Investigate the Primary Sources to find evidence of what daily life was like in Rome. This can be tricky!!!! The topic of the document may not be about daily life, but you need to *“read between the lines”* to see if there are references to daily life and attitudes.

Step 5: Secondary Source Information Organizer (See Worksheet Page).

As you investigate the sources available to you, write down facts or ideas that you think will be useful to you in constructing your Roman character and how they go about their day. Consider not only what they do but where they go, what they see and who they encounter.

Step 6: Organize your Thoughts (See Worksheet Page for Outline).

It might be helpful to refer back to Step 1 to consider the different things your Roman might comment on in his/her journal. In addition, review the Journal Requirements below to make sure that your Roman is commenting on all of the required ideas.

Journal Requirements

1. You need to have *at least 4 journal entries*: two or more before August 24, 79; one the day of the eruption on August 24, and a last entry some days after the eruption (this can either be written by you if you survived, or by a friend or family member who did survive).

2. Include *at least 3* drawings to supplement your journal. These should be of places you spend time visiting or things you see, possibly something related to your identity. Use the internet sites you visit to inspire your drawing.

3. Use your knowledge of volcanoes to:

-Document warning signs for the impending eruption.

-Describe the actual eruption

-Name and visually describe the type of volcano and eruption (Since you have access to modern technology, you will know more than the Pompeians did!)

4. Throughout your journal entries you need to include information from all six culture categories. These might be things your Roman might participate in directly, talk about, or use.

-**Religion** (Household gods, temples, shrines, or ceremonies)

-**Art and Entertainment** (Statues, monuments, fountains or kids playing in the street, gladiator games, races, and betting)

-**Communication** (How is information communicated? Conversation and gossip, speeches or posted bulletins in the forum)

-**Daily Life** (Food, dress, routine...)

-**Government and Economy** (Might come up in conversation! Taxes, prices, public services, crime and laws)

-**Technology and Transportation** (What tools do you use? How do you or others get from place to place?)

-**Volcanoes** (Mt. Vesuvius dominates the natural scenery of Pompeii. People might take it for granted on a day to day basis unless..... Use your knowledge of volcanoes from Earth Science to highlight what your Roman may have observed prior to and during the eruption)

Step 7: Write.

Journal Requirements

5. Your writing needs to sound like it comes from a real person, in other words, *realistic* and *descriptive*. The reader needs to feel your thoughts and emotions.

-You need to write in first person - from their point of view, with their opinions.

-Include locations around the city as you walk and visit them, tell what you did there, etc

-Each entry should be several paragraphs long.

-Self-edit your entries (spelling, grammar, punctuation). Be sure to include the date, salutation, detailed descriptions describing your life and events, and a closure to each day

-Journals can be hand written (in black ink) or done on a computer (skip lines or double space).

Step 8: Self-Evaluation (See Worksheet Page for Rubric).

How do you think you did in following the process for finding, analyzing, organizing, and writing?

This project is based on *I Got a Lava Livin' to do in Pompeii*, A WebQuest for 6th Grade Social Studies, Language Arts and Science Designed by Robin McCulley and Kim Castagna.

http://www.education.ucsb.edu/ucsbt3/afield/teacher_projects/lavalivin/Pompeiiwebquest/pompeiiindex.htm

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