







IX ART AND MOSAICS

“Urbem latericium inuebit, marmoreal reliquit”, Emperor Augustus found a city of bricks and left a city of marble.

Motivation task:

 1. Mosaic	 3. Roman sarcophagus.	 4. Amphitheatre (Rome).
 2. Titus Arch (Rome).	 5. Bridge in Rome.	
 6. Villa of Livia, Prima Porta.		

1. In pairs classify the following images into architecture, sculpture, painting and mosaic. Write your findings in the chart below:

Picture 1	Picture 2
The 1 st _____ is a _____	
Picture 3	Picture 4
Picture 5	Picture 6

ROMAN ART

Roman art was closely related to Etruscan and Greek art. Roman art appeared in about 500 BC with the birth of the Roman Republic.

a) **Architecture**

Ancient Romans are mostly famous for their architecture. The Romans were much more practical than the Greeks, so they developed a lot of building and engineering techniques. The Romans made important contributions to architecture; the three most important are the **arch**, the **baked brick**, and the use of **concrete**.

In the Republican period the Romans built **basilicas**, **temples**, **forums**, **aqueducts**, **roads** and **sewers** in Rome. They also built **amphitheatres** for games. Aqueducts were made from a line of arches joined together, with a channel on the top to carry water. The Roman used them to supply towns with water.

In Augustus' time, **brick** and **marble** were used in building. The *Ara Pacis Augustae* is an exceptional example of this.



7. Portonaccio sarcophagus.



8. Basilica of Maxentius (Rome).

❖ Look at the text and answer the questions.

"We paint, make music, even wrestle [fight] better because the Greeks have taught us how. In fact, although we conquered Greece, they conquered us."

Horace (lived 65-8 BC).

- ❖ What does this sentence suggest to you? _____
- ❖ Who was Horace? Can you find information about him on the Internet? _____
- ❖ Can you find other poets from the same period? _____
- ❖ Write 5 lines describing Horace. You can include a picture.

The Colosseum was built in 69 AD in Vespasian¹ time. Titus built a great triumphal **Arch**. A new forum was built with a new market-place and a big **column** in it (Trajan's column). People went to **public baths** to have a bath and enjoy themselves. There were also private baths in rich people's houses and villas. Another important building is Hadrian's **Pantheon**, a temple devoted to all the Roman gods. In this temple, there is a huge dome made of brick and concrete. Nobody built a dome as big as this for more than a thousand years.

In the rest of the Roman Empire's cities they built forums, baths, amphitheatres and insulae although they were smaller than the ones in Rome. There are many Roman cities around the Empire: in Italy there is Pompeii and Ostia. In Spain there is Italica (Seville) and Tarraco. There are also important Roman remains in places along the Mediterranean coast.



9. Triumphal arch in Rome's forum. 10. Trajan's column in Trajan's Forum (Rome).

❖ **Construct an aqueduct** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire/roman/aqueductjava.html>

b) Sculpture

Roman people liked portraits; their statues looked like real people. Greek artists were more interested in ideals but what interested the Romans the most was reality.

In about 200 BC the Romans began the conquest of Greece and this gradually changed their style of art. During the invasion of Greece, the Romans saw Greek art in the cities, the cemeteries and houses. So Romans brought home a lot of samples of art from Greece. They also brought back Greek sculptors as slaves to work for them in Rome. For example, Augustus' **Ara Pacis** (the Altar of Peace) shows a clear influence of Greek art.

Romans used art as propaganda to demonstrate what the rulers wanted people to think. Excellent examples of this are the Arch of Titus and Trajan's Column.



10. 11. Ancient Roman heads sculpture.

¹ Vespasian was a Roman Emperor.

c) Painting

Rich people decorated their houses a lot. They painted their walls with beautiful murals. This kind of painting, that is to say wall painting is called **fresco** painting. The art of painting of the first century AD is divided into four different styles, especially because of the styles that were found at Pompeii. In the first style, the painting on the walls looked like marble pane (but it is only painting!).

In the second style, the artists added motifs to the marble imitation such as garlands, birds or fruits.

The third style adds whole scenes to the walls. An exceptional example is the Villa of the Mysteries at Pompeii, as you can see in the picture.

d) Mosaics

Some Roman buildings had richly decorated floors which were covered in mosaics. Many described pictures of history and daily life. Some mosaics were ready-made following standard designs whilst others were made specifically for the wealthiest villa owners. Some of the finest Roman mosaics in Tarraco can be seen at Centcelles Roman Villa (Constantí) and at Villa dels Munts (Altafulla) both near Tarragona.

A little piece of a Roman mosaic was called a **tessera**. They were made of natural materials, so the range of colours was limited. Roman mosaics were not only geometrical but they could also form more complicated pictures. To make a mosaic thousands of tesserae were needed and all kinds of pictures were made.



Medusa mosaic is an important example that we still can admire in Tarragona Museum. Medusa was a monster. She had snakes in her hair, and it was believed that if she looked at you, you turned into stone.



1. Match the concepts in the word bank with the sentences.

PAINTING TESSERA SCULPTURE ARCHITECTURE MOSAIC

_____ is the art or practice of building.

_____ is a pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of coloured stones, tiles or glass.

_____ is the process or art of using paint.

_____ is the art of making forms in the round or in relief by chiselling stone, wood, clay or metal.

_____ is a little, square piece of a mosaic.

2. Define the following words. Write down the answer in your notebook.

concrete	tessera	mosaic	fresco	aqueduct
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3. Roman art word search puzzle. There are 12 words.

A D E F M U N O P J R R C B T
 R R U C O P E T A V N I R C G
 C A C T S M R J E B O I M E H
 H W X H A O D A Y S D K A Y H
 I F T U I Y Z R V G S T B T N
 T A P I C T U R E U H E J L P
 R O P V J G E Z R R Y O R U B
 A J H D Y A T C U D E U Q A V
 V A C O L U M N T S M K W V K
 E I R I U D B O P U F V N W Z
 N T A M I B V J L N R I S Z C
 Q Y Z X J U U X U D E E H E J
 J Y I W L N L A C I S V S V H
 Z J W Q X E A T S C C G I P P
 W D C J V O D T T A O L D W D

4. Fallen phrase. In pairs, try to find out the definition of a Roman art technique.

O O E A U
 D E A T C A Y E O L O T O E
 A P E T F R F M S S O N P O T S D
 A M E C S C I O O T S C E D E S R T E D
 P I M D E S O R R I U T F L O A R A N R N

- Instructions: each letter appears in the same column, but below where it should be. You must put the letters back in the grid and rebuild the phrase. Write down the correct answer in your notebook.

5. Cryptograms: try to find out the two hidden definitions about two important Roman buildings.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

13	26	23	26	22	4	14	11	12	20	5	20	4	26	13	7	17	25	15	13	7	7	4	9	26
6	15	5	25	15	10	19	5	7	1	26	25	9	4	13	7	6	13	22	4	19	5	7	22	11
													22	11	6	7	26							

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

23	4	1	23	17	18	22	6	18	10	18	10	26	20	23	16	5	22	18	16	24		
24	26	22	23	24	17	6	23	16	9	20	23	1	5	23	16	19	4	18	26	4	1	18
													13	9	15	6	24	9	16	15		

1. Roman art scramble: unscramble the words below and translate them:

COSEFR		
PECUTRUSL		
NIGTANIP		
MSICOA		
AHCR		
ULTVA		
ECNETROC		
ESTSRAE		
KCBRI		
LUNOMC		
TRELIYA		
IEATHRCTECUR		

7. Roman art matching exercise: match the pictures in column A with the names of the pieces of art in column B:

A

B



___ Titus Arch in Rome



___ Rome's Forum



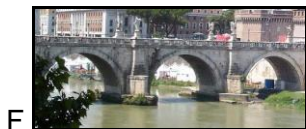
___ Tiger's attacking a calf (opus sectile)



___ Hadrian's bridge (Barcelona)



___ Tarraco's aqueduct (model)



___ Basilica of Maxentius, Rome



___ Mausoleum of Hadrian