



ROMANS IN TRIER!

Museum rallye year 7 and above

Welcome to the Rheinisches Landesmuseum Trier!

Trier was once the largest Roman city north of the Alps. Many things from the Roman era remain preserved in Trier. In the Rheinisches Landesmuseum you can see many items that reveal the life of the Romans.

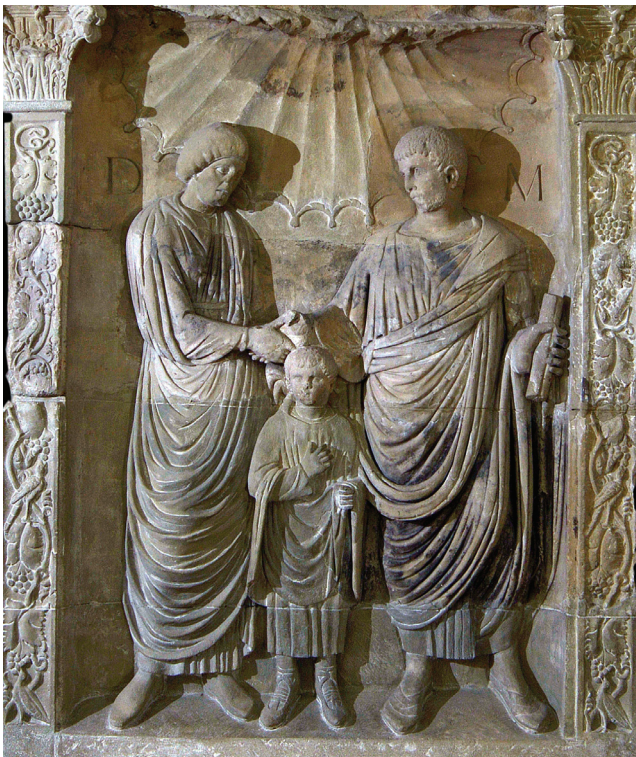
As our museum is so huge, we recommend that you take a flyer offering a tour of the museum. You can get one free from the museum's front desk. You can also ask the museum's staff if you have questions; they will be happy to help you.

A The gravestones of the Romans – revealing a lot about everyday life

Roman grave monuments are much bigger than our gravestones today. Wealthy Romans often had monuments erected for the entire family instead of just one person. In this room you can see Roman monuments of this type made of stone. Not all are completely preserved. However, on many you can still see how the Romans presented their family.

Family

Look for the tombstone shown here. On the front you can see the family to whom this monument belonged.



Describe how you can see that this is a family.

The family also wanted to show how they lived. Walk around the monument to the left. You will see the woman sitting on a seat.

Describe the scene. Also note the objects that the people are holding in their hands.



The right-hand side of the monument shows the life of the man. At the bottom you can see him in his office. At the top you can see him hunting in his spare time. He has already caught something – a hare, which he is holding in his hand. He is accompanied by another man.

Think about who that might be.

The Romans had far more stories from the life of their family depicted on gravestones than we do today. Wealthy families in particular showed their everyday life on large monuments.

Look for reasons why they did this.

Roman school

Look for this gravestone, on which a Roman school scene is depicted.

Compare the scene shown here with your everyday life at school.



Two of the schoolchildren are reading from papyrus rolls. Papyrus comes from Egypt, is made from a plant and is very similar to our paper. Another child is entering the room. In his hand he has a bundle of wooden tablets coated with wax. Using a sharp pen made of metal, it was possible to scratch lettering into the wax. Using the other, flat side of the pen, the writing could be erased again.

Guess which was the more expensive writing material: wax tablets or papyrus? Give a reason.

Business relations and professions



Professions are often an important topic on monuments.

Look for this ship. It is heavily laden with barrels. Perhaps the barrels are wine barrels. The Romans were the first to produce wine in the Trier region.

Think about the profession that a family might have worked in to have a wine ship of this kind depicted on their monument.

Trier lay to the north of the Roman Empire. Here, wine was frequently stored in barrels. The barrels could also be used to transport wine and then sell it in other cities.

Can you see the large containers with handles on top of the large monument to the left of the wine ship? They are called amphoras. People used amphoras to transport wine in the south of the Roman Empire.



In Trier, the remains of both barrels and amphoras have been found. Reconstruct what these different wine containers tell us about the trade relations of Trier in Roman times.

Look on the other gravestones to find depictions of other professions that existed in Roman Trier and note them down.

B The religion of the Romans

Go back a bit, to the adjoining room, which focuses on religion. The Romans had many gods who were responsible for different things.



Look for this group of figures. Here you can see the three top Roman gods. What are their names?

Name them from left to right.

Left:

Centre:

Right:

Note down what each god was responsible for.

Roman gods can often be identified using so-called attributes, certain objects or animals that accompany them. Which gods are depicted with which animals?

Connect the names of the gods with the correct animals. To find the solutions, look in a glass cabinet opposite the figure with the three gods.

Juno

Minerva

Jupiter

Owl

Eagle

Peacock

Look for this image of the goddess Diana. She too is often accompanied by animals. Find out which animals she is depicted with here and what might be the significance of the animals.



C Mosaics as an example of the Romans' home culture



In the next room you can see how the mosaics are put together from lots of small tiles.

Only really rich Romans could afford mosaics.

Give reasons why!

The mosaics were designed based on strict geometric patterns. In the centre of the room you will find two large mosaics. Take a closer look at the mosaic that is already pretty much destroyed.

Note down the geometric shapes that you can still identify.

In some square fields at the edge of the mosaic are the names of months, but they have been shortened. Note down the months you recognise.

Mosaics also served as status symbols. The owner of the house wanted to show visitors how rich and educated they were. Find one of the mosaics and examine it more closely. Take a guess at why the owner chose this motif in particular.

If you like, you can also think about what status symbols we have today.



One very special mosaic shows a man in a chariot drawn by horses. The man's name is Polyidus. You will find his name above his head.

What objects is he holding in his right hand? Consider what these objects say.

D The founder of the city of Trier

Cross the next very large room and turn right around the corner. Go up the stairs. There you will see a golden head.

You are now face to face with the "founder" of the city of Trier; this is a copy of a Roman portrait. Write down his name.

Also make a note of the Roman name of the city of Trier and its English translation.

Trier is Germany's oldest city. The evidence for this is something that looks rather unimpressive, and is made of wood: a piece of the first bridge that the Romans built in Trier over the Moselle river. The bridge was built at the same time as the city.

Find out when the bridge was built. This is also the year when the city of Trier was founded.

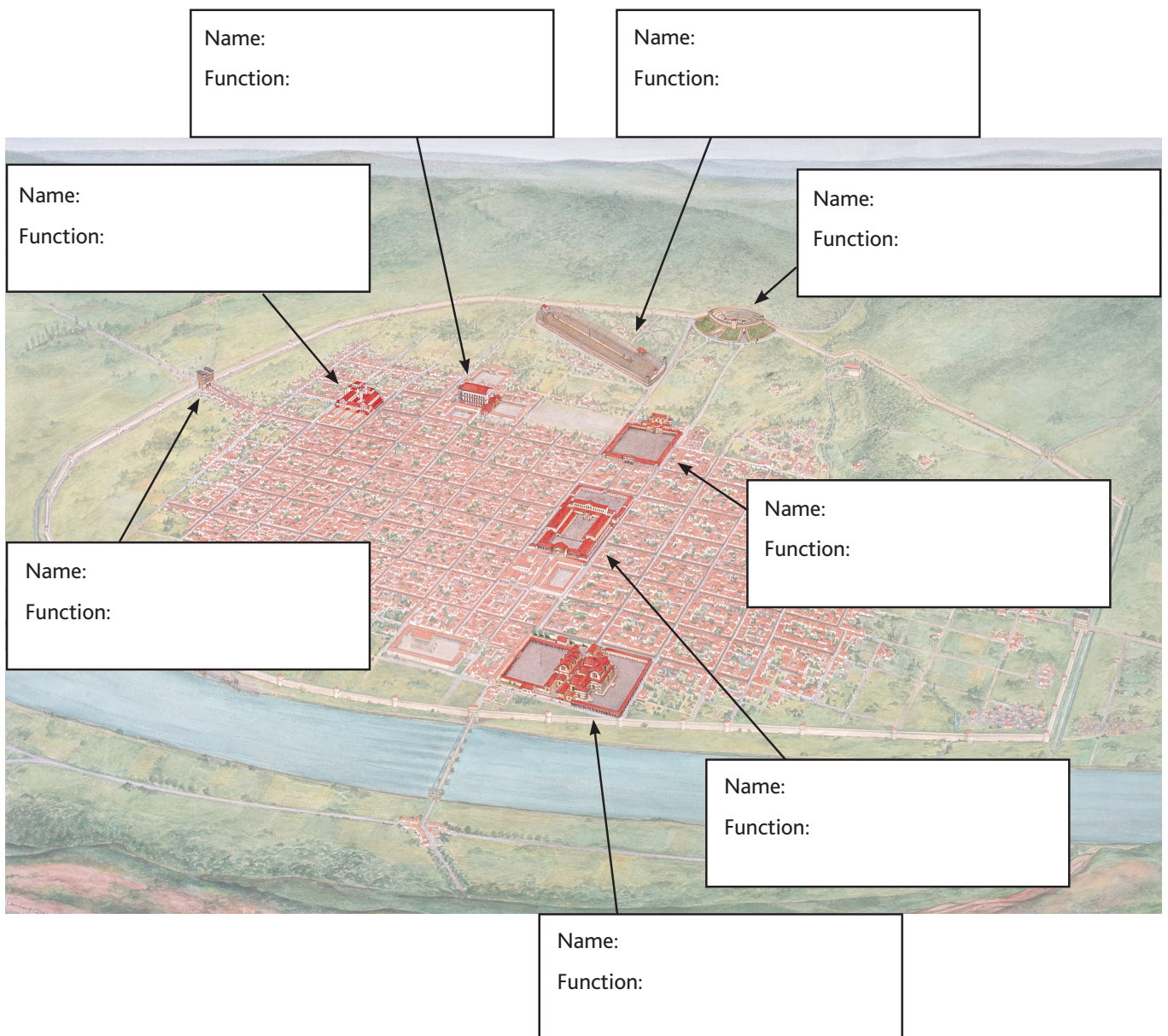


E Roman Trier: city model

Go up the next staircase. In the centre of the room you will find a model of the Roman city of Trier. This was what the city looked like in the 4th century AD when Roman emperors lived and governed here. Here you can see a map of the city model. The most important buildings in Roman Trier are already marked on it.

Write the correct names of the buildings and explain their function.

The following functions are available to choose from: *chariot racetrack*, *Christian church*, *baths (2x)*, *city gate*, *imperial reception hall*, *fighting arena*, *administrative and business centre for the city*.



F Roman money: coins

Go back down the stairs. In the centre of the room you will see an enormous hoard of treasure that was discovered in Trier in 1993. It is the largest hoard of gold from imperial Roman times that has ever been found.

It weighs over kilograms.

Various emperors from the Roman Empire are depicted on most of these coins.



Explain how to identify that it is an emperor that is shown on most of the images on the coins.

The name of the emperor and his title appear on the coins. The Romans called their emperors Imperator, Augustus and Caesar. You will often find short forms of these titles on coins. What are they?

Roman coins are hugely important for archaeologists today. Particularly when they are found alongside other things from the past. With the help of coins, scientists can determine the time at which the objects were used. However, to do so, you first have to know how old the coin is.

Think about how you can find out the age of a coin.

You have now collected lots of information about life in Roman Trier. Your teacher has the answers to the questions, so you can check whether all of your findings were correct.

We hope you enjoyed the museum. Please come back soon!

Legal notice
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