

## **Pompeii – A Roman City**

### **Notes, Plans, and Maps**

Pompeii is the best-preserved Roman city that survives today. **This is because of an Eruption in 79 A.D. of the volcano, Mount Vesuvius.** However, for this Topic on the Junior Cycle the focus is not on the death of the people of Pompeii but the lives.

You will need some knowledge of the Eruption event – as described by Pliny the Younger – and of the discovery and most extensive excavation of the site by Giuseppe Fiorelli.

These are the sections in these notes.

- Geographical location of Pompeii: region of Italy, local rivers/landmarks.
- History of Pompeii: key dates in Pompeian history, the peoples who had lived in the city.
- Pompeii's Forum: key buildings in the centre of the Roman Forum and their functions.
- Temples – outside the Forum.
- Pompeii Houses: types of Roman houses, ways in which they lived.
- Food
- Roman Family Life. Roman Slaves.
- Roman Education.
- Theatres, Baths, Amphitheatres.
- Jobs: Farming, Fullers, Bakers, Innkeepers etc.
- Public Office.

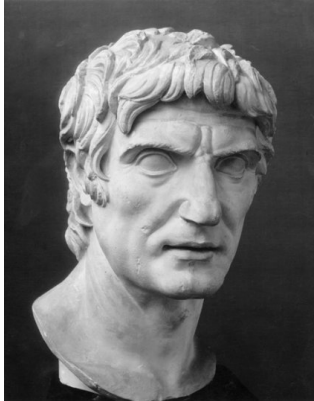
## Pompeii – Location and Geography



- The region of Italy in which Pompeii was settled is **Campania** – this is one of the richest and most fertile regions of Italy.
- Some of the most important landmarks in the locality: **the Sarno** – the River that runs nearest to Pompeii; **Mount Vesuvius**; the **Bay of Naples**; and towns such as **Nuceria**, **Herculaneum**, **Stabiae**, **Misenum**, and **Neapolis**.
- The Pompeiians built their town in this specific location because of a number of reasons: the land was fertile; it was close to a fresh water source (the Sarno); it was a good spot for trades

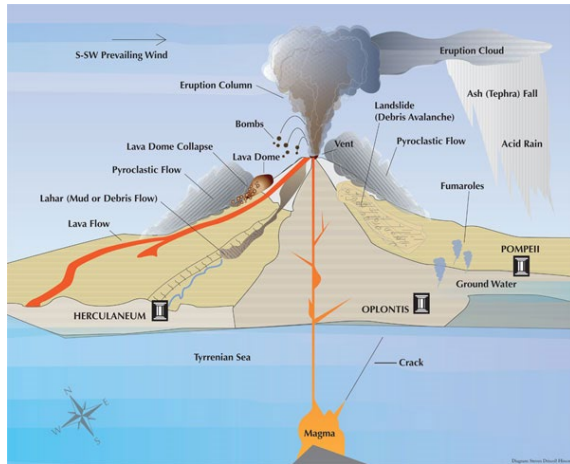
– the Bay of Naples and the main road from South to North Italy runs by Pompeii; and it was easily defensible.

## History of Pompeii



- Pompeii was founded by the **Oscans** – a people native to southern Italy who spoke a Non-European Language which we cannot understand today.
- Soon the **Greeks** would settle in this region and take control of Pompeii around the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. The language of the Oscans would remain however as the Greek intermingled.
- In **310 B.C.** the Romans came to the region and made the Pompeiians “allies” – subjects of Rome with some rights but not equal citizenship to Romans.
- In **89 B.C.** the Roman general (and soon to be dictator) **Sulla** besieged Pompeii during the **Social War** – this was a war between Rome and its Italian allies who were fighting for full citizenship rights. They lost the war but as compensation the Romans gave them full rights.
- **80 B.C.** Pompeii was made a **Roman military colony**.
- **70 B.C.** Pompeiians build the earliest surviving **stone Amphitheatre**.
- **59 A.D.** there was a riot in the amphitheatre between the Pompeiians and the neighbouring **Nucerians** – who did not have an amphitheatre of their own. **Nero**, the Roman Emperor at the time, closed the amphitheatre for 10 years.
- **62 A.D.** an earthquake.
- **79 A.D.** Vesuvius erupted. Pompeii was destroyed.

## Eruption and Pliny's Account



- The Eruption began in October/November 17 (according to modern scholars) but traditionally was thought have happened over 24-25<sup>th</sup> August, 79 AD.
- The Eruption lasted for **two full days**.
- It started with 18 hours of **ash fall, pumice stones (lapilli)**.
- Most of the Pompeians would have left town during this eruption. But about 1,150 people's bodies were found. Some holding jewellery.
- The Ash or Lapili showered over these citizens were they lay dying and encased their bodies in the stone. When the **pyroclastic** (extremely hot gas and rock of 250 C) flowed into Pompeii these bodies were cast in these rock encasings. As their bodies decayed the rock cast remained.
- The people of **Herculaneum** were thought to have escaped, but in 1981 skeletons (*not casts*) were found of some bodies. This indicated that they were not covered in the lapilli – like the Pompeians – but were incinerated by the **pyroclastic blast** directly.





- A first hand account of the eruption was recorded by **Pliny the Younger** in a letter to his friend Tacitus about the death of his uncle **Pliny the Elder**.
- He was prefect of the navy at **Misenum** (near Pompeii) in 79 A.D.
- He was planning to cross the Bay of Naples to observe the eruption closely, when he received a message from his friend Rectina asking to rescue herself and Pomponius.
- He took a fast-sailing 'cutter' to rescue his friends. When he arrived he found his friend Pomponius in despair, and Rectina missing. A strong wind prevented them returning straight away and so they were stranded.
- Pliny had them feast, bath, and sleep in order to distract them. Eventually they had to evacuate the building for fear it would collapse from the pumice stones on the roof.
- As they fled, Pliny could not move. They were forced to leave him behind to die.
- It is likely that he died from breathing in the ash which affected him because of asthma or ill-health.
- His body was later discovered beneath the rubble, by his friends, and retrieved.

### Rediscovery and Excavations

- **The Emperor Titus** appointed 2 ex-consuls (leaders of the senate) to organise the relief effort. He visited the site twice. But no recovery was attempted.
- There is evidence that robbers came to site and tampered with the remains.
- Soon, however, the name and location was forgotten. No mention of the city was heard of till 1592 when the architect Domenico Fontana built an underground aqueduct through the city – but he did not mention it.
- In 1689, **Francesco Picchetti** discovered an inscription reading *decurio Pompeiis* thinking it related to the villa of Pompey the Great. But Francesco Bianchini pointed out the true meaning; and in 1693 Giuseppe Macrini excavated part of the wall
- Further excavations of Pompeii and Herculaneum were made by the Spanish and the French.
- The greatest progress was made by **Giuseppe Fiorelli in 1863**, who began scientific documentation and cataloguing of the city.

### Forum

- The Forum is the town centre of Pompeii.
- The Forum was an open square with 108 columns surrounding.

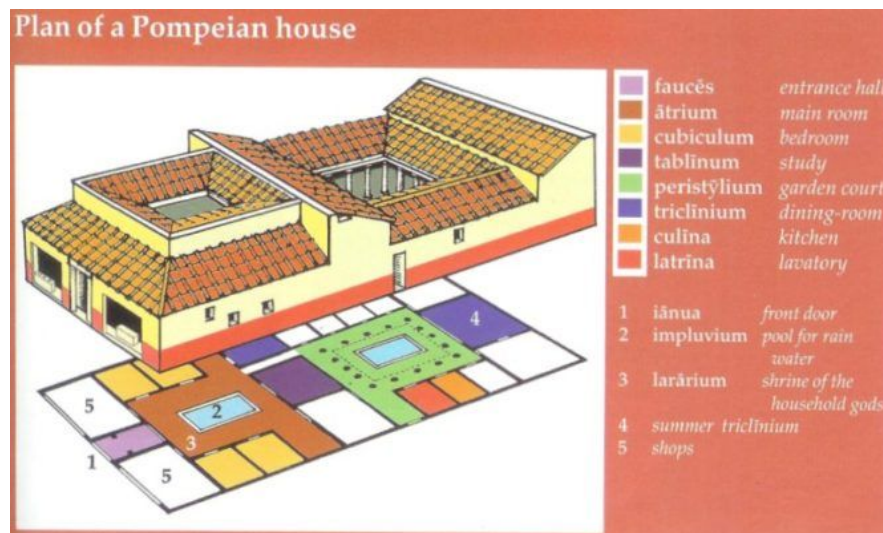
- One of the central buildings was the **Macellum** of Pompeii. The provision market. It was damaged in the earthquake of 62 B.C. Part of the Macellum on the east side was dedicated to the imperial cult – to the Emperor **Augustus**. It had three entrances, two main, one in the middle of the west side and the other to the north, and a side entrance to the southeast. The portico had **Corinthian columns**.
- **The Temple of the Lares** was a shrine dedicated to the public gods of the city. It is located on the east side of the Forum south of the Macellum. Public officials would have conducted public sacrifices here.
- **The Temple of Vespasian** was a shrine to the most recently deceased emperor – and father to the emperor at the time of the eruption, **Titus – Vespasian**. It is located south of the **Temple of the Lares** on the east side of the Forum.
- **The building of Eumachia** was a guildhall for the Fullers. Named by a matron, Eumachia from the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D., whose family was connected with this industry. It was divided into 3 parts, the chalcidium (front colonnade), the porticus (a peristylion – square of columns – around a courtyard), and the crytpa (a corridor behind the porticus separated by a single wall).
- **The Comitium** was the southeast. It originally constituted the headquarters of the polling station and then became the place intended for counting votes and the announcement of newly elected judges – the Forum became the place for casting votes.
- **The Municipal buildings** were to the south of the Forum. The **Tabularium**, a store with a gap that isolates it from the neighbouring buildings to avoid fire risk; the **Curia**, that is the Council meeting-house, with space for benches; and the **Building of the Duoviri**, the magistrates who governed the city.
- **The Basilica** was to the southwest. A large buildings with many lined columns which was used for trading, public events, but particularly as a lawcourt.
- **The Temple of Apollo** was on the west side of the Forum. It was on a raised platform with columns all the way around the walls – resembling a the Greek style of Temples. Another peristylion (square of columns) surrounded it. A statue of Apollo (and the other goddesses Diana and Minerva) were in this courtyard and an altar.
- **Public weights and measures tables** for merchants, bankers, and money lenders' businesses were to the North of the Temple.
- **A granary** for the storing and distribution of public grain was to the northwest.
- **Latrina** or **public toilets** were to the top northwest.
- **The Temple of Capitoline Jupiter** was to the north. On a raised platform, columns *only* around the portico (porch). There once stood horsemen on the sides of the entrance. A cult statue of the god would have been in the **cella** (central room of the temple).
- Other Temples in the Forum: **the Temple of Isis**. This was a privately owned temple. Isis was the goddess of life and magic from Ancient Egypt. Ceremonies with white-robed priests and drums for music would have been conducted at **dawn** symbolising the rising of Isis' husband, Osiris from the dead (which she did), and in the late morning with offerings of water. The mysticism of the religion would have appealed to the Romans which explains why they would accept the cult in the Forum. There were **fresco paintings** of the goddess with snakes around the temple.

#### Other Temples:

- The traditional Roman gods were Jupiter, Juno, Minerva, Ceres, Pluto, Neptune, Apollo, Diana, Vesta, Mercury, Vulcan, Venus, Saturn, Janus, among others.

- **Venus** would have been the patron goddess of Pompeii, and her temple was large and close to the Forum, to the southwest of the Basilica.
- **Bacchus** (Dionysus in Greece), the god of wine and revelry, was not a major god to the Romans and was considered an outsider. His main cult was not accepted in Pompeii. His cult conducted their rituals (drinking, partying, and sometimes orgies) outside in the **Villa of Mysteries**. **Fresco paintings** of their rituals can be seen on the villa walls. Before being initiated into the cult a would-be member would undergo physical and psychological tasks.

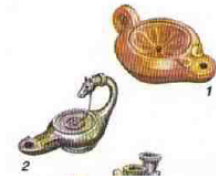
## Roman Homes



- Most Romans and Pompeians would have lived in high-rising apartment blocks. These were called **insula**. They would have been 5 to 6 storeys high. Top storeys were made of wood, bottom stone. Middle-class Romans would live on 1<sup>st</sup> floor, poor Romans in cramped conditions above. Shops would have been on the ground floor.
- The **Villa** was a larger country house for the very wealthy.
- The **Domus** was the townhouses and the home of the very rich Romans.
- Rooms of **Domus**:
  - Faucēs**: entrance passageway/hall
  - Atrium**: central hall at front of house. **Compluvium** was the square opening in the roof to let rainwater in, which would fall into the **impluvium**, the pool of water in the centre of the Atrium. Clients visiting the Patron would wait here every morning. The **Lararium**, a shrine to the household gods was also typically in the Atrium. The Paterfamilias would lead all religious services.
  - Taberna**: Domus could also have a place for working to the front: shops.
  - Cubiculum**: the bedrooms of the Atrium. With side-tables and oil-lamps.
  - Tablinum**: the Paterfamilias' office. A desk, scrolls, lamps, and chair for the Paterfamilias would have been here. All business of the house went through here. It was in the very centre, between the back on front spaces – usually the women would be to the back and business to the front.
  - Peristylum**: the square colonnade surrounding the **Hortus** (Garden).
  - Culina**: the kitchen, where the *slaves* would cook the food.
  - Triclinium**: the dining room – three reclining couches for the guests and family members.
  - Latrina**: toilets.



Wealthy Romans had a central heating system called a hypocaust. This ingenious Roman invention was powered by a furnace, which heated up the air under the floor. Once the house heated up it stayed warm for a long time. Other houses used small charcoal burning braziers made of bronze.



**(c) Lighting:** was provided by candles or oil lamps made of terracotta or bronze. Oil was poured in through a hole in the centre which was closed with a plug. The lamps had one or more spouts with wicks in them. The oil soaked up the wick providing a constant source of fuel for the flame. These lamps gave off a small amount of light. Therefore, a large number were required to light a room.



**Lararium**

- Most Villa's would have similar rooms, but bigger, in greater numbers, and more varied. They would also likely have spaces for farming. And much larger gardens and grounds.
- Only the wealthy had the luxury of water and toilets in their homes. Most Romans would have to make use of the *many* public toilets and fountains across the city.





## Food:

- There are lots of different types of Romans from different classes. Some poorer Romans would only get some grain and water – and have simple bread made for themselves at the bakery. However, there was also fast food and there was less difference between the rich people and poor people diets than you might have expected.
- They had three meals:
  1. **Ientaculum:** Breakfast. A drink of water or wine. Piece of bread or wheat biscuits sweetened with honey.
  2. **Prandium:** Lunch. Eaten at midday. Consisting of eggs, cheese, cold meat and fruit.
  3. **Cena:** Eaten in the afternoon. In the republic it was a simple meal – wheat eaten as porridge with sauces and vegetables. This improved to include poultry or fish. Poorer Romans would have bread, porridge and stew.
- The Romans drank *lots of wine* and they could choose from around **200** types. Wine was often spiced, sweetened with honey, and usually diluted with water. – it was usually considered disrespectful or unwise to drink unmixed. Alcohol content in Ancient wine was much higher than today. Romans would also drink grape juice and goats milk – or they could drink from public fountains. However, they drank water less often – as water was rarely clean.
- Romans loved spicing up their food with special sauces. This most popular sauce was called **Garum**. It was thick, salty, and made from pickled fish.
- Poor Romans would eat out – at fast food or restaurants.
- Richer Romans would have their slaves cook food in the *culina* and serve them in the *triclinium* – or in the *exedra* if the weather was warm. Sometimes they would have dinner parties:
  - Starters:** radishes, mushrooms, shellfish, sardines, and eggs – followed by a drink of *mulsum* (wine sweetened with honey).
  - Main course:** fish, game (wild animal meat), poultry, pork. Served with vegetables – beans, beetroot, garlic, marrows, and onions – and sauces.
  - Dessert:** honey cakes, stuffed dates, nuts and fruits – grapes figs.
- Lavish dinners could include delicacies such as dormice in honey, pig stuffed with blood puddings and sausages, flamingo's tongues, even elephant trunks.

## Roman Family and Slaves

- The head of *all* Roman families was a male – usually the father but otherwise the eldest male besides – sons, uncles, cousins. He would be called the **Paterfamilias** (father of the family). He was master of his family (sons, daughters, and wife) and the slaves. His main job was to **look after the family and all affairs of business**. He had complete authority and could even (in extreme circumstances) kill them. He also looked after **religious activities** in the house and the **daily ceremonies at the lararium**.
- **Paterfamilias** in wealthy families would be known as **Patrons**. He was a wealthy Roman in politics, public life, or with legal experience. He had **clients** who visited their patrons every

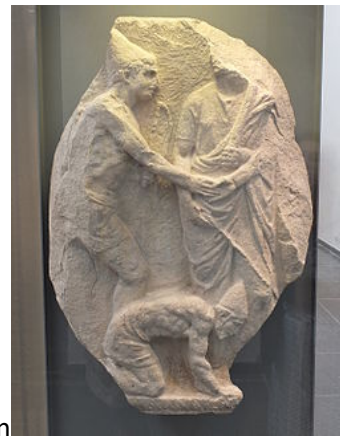
morning and conducted business with him in the **tablinum**. They would accompany him when he went out and vote for him. In return the patron would help the client in his career, might ask him to dinner (occasionally) and would defend him in court.

- All males had three names, **praenomen**, **nomen**, **cognomen**. First name, Tribal Name, Branch of Clan – e.g. Gaius (personal), Julius (Tribe), Caesar (Clan of Tribe).
- Women were all named after their father's nomen with the cognomen of the father or husband. For example, Julia Caesar, and Julia Agrippa when married. To distinguish between the older and younger of two daughters they would be named *maior* or *minor* (elder or younger), and with numbers if more than two. E.G. Clodia prima, Clodia secunda, Clodia Tertia.
- **Women** had a lot less rights than men. They were meant to have **children** and **manage the household**. A wife *might* have influence on their husband's business while he was away. They had a higher mortality rate because of the high mortality of childbirth. They had more freedom than many Greek women however, being able to visit the theatre, amphitheatre, festivals and baths.
- **Children** would only be accepted when recognised by the Paterfamilias – if he didn't they would be exposed, left out in the cold to die. If they were accepted, **wreaths** were hung on the doorposts. When girls were eight days old and boys were nine days old the family held the **Day of Purification**. Presents were brought and the **bulla**, a golden amulet, was hung around the a baby's neck as a good luck charm.
- At the age of 16, boys were released from their father's authority in a coming of age ceremony. The boy removed his bulla and swapped his **Toga Praetexta** (toga with a purple stripe) for a plain white one. Girls were only released when they got married. They were then under the authority of their husbands.
- The girl would usually marry around the age of 12/14. The men were much older (possible even in their 60s for political marriages).
- The **Sponsalia** was the engagement ceremony. The father promised his daughter to the husband, a dowry was arranged, and gifts were given to the bride-to-be and a gold ring for her thirds finger.
- **The night before the wedding**: the bride usually offered her toys to the household gods, the Lares. She was given jewellery and other gifts.
- **The Nuptiae**. The wedding. It was held in the house of the bride's father. Friends and clients attended. The bride was dressed in a straight white tunic, yellow cloak, and orange veil and shoes. Her hair was divided into six locks and adorned with ribbons. The bride would address the groom, 'Wherever you are Gaius, I Gaia am there.' Words of consent were spoken, the matron of honour performed the marriage ceremony linking their right hands. The marriage contract and dowry contract were signed by ten people. The followed the feast.
- **The Deductio** was a procession was the ceremony when the bride was escorted to the groom's house. A boy walked in front with a torch, she carried wool, a distaff and a spittle. At the threshold the groom carried her over the threshold to avert ill-omens. Then she would wear a wives toga the next day.
- **Clothing**: All Romans wore a *tunic* and sandals – calcei or perones.. Over this they wore their togas.
  - **Senator's** toga had two broad purple stripes at the front.
  - **Epuites** (knights) wore one with two narrow stripes
  - **Consuls** toga had a purple band along the long side.
  - **Emperor's** was complete purple.

- **Toga Praetexta** plain white **with broad purple band** at the edge like senator's.
- **Toga Virilis**: a plain white for all boys over 16.
- **Unmarried** women wore a **longer tunic**.
- **Stola** was a long robe to the ankles worn by married women.
- **Palla** was a rectangular shawl worn over this on the shoulders.
- **Slaves**: slavery was everywhere in the Ancient world. Household slaves would do all the household chores – shopping, cooking, cleaning, hairstyling, make-up, etc. Educated ones would also do the accounting and educating of the children.
- **Outside the home** slaves could be librarians and doctors if educated. Or they might work in galleys (ships), mines, farms, **baths**, shops, public secretaries, public cleaners etc.
- **Sources** of the slaves were varied: prisoners of wars, kidnapping, exposed children, criminals among others.
- **A libertus** was a freedman – a man/woman freed from slavery by their masters. They would have freed themselves by saving up their money (peculium) to buy their freedom. It could take 20 years.
- **The manumission** (freedom) ceremony would happen like this: the slave wore a pointed hat, knelt before this master, the master would touch his shoulder with a rod and proclaim him free. **The libertus would wear a toga praetexta** to distinguish him from other Romans. He would then become a client of his master, now patron.



Roman Marriage – Roman Manumission



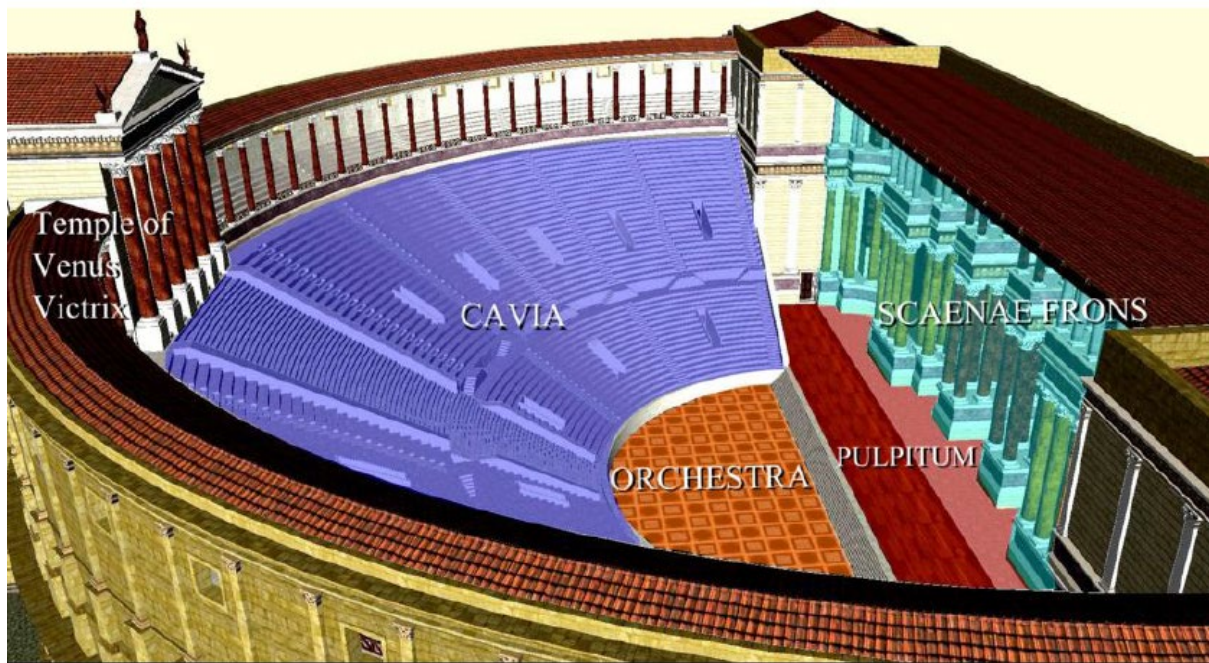
### Education:

- Only 20% of Romans could read and write. Education was not available to everyone in Ancient Rome. But the wealthy – or semi-wealthy – could afford school.
- **Roman Schools:**
  - School were located in a **pergola** (passageway with columns) on the side of the street with only a curtain. Most only had 12 pupils. Most teachers were Greek slaves.
  - School began in March and lasted from dawn till noon.
  - Pupils were accompanied to school by a senior slave called a *pedagogus*.
  - They used a **cerae**. Wax tablet with a **stylus**. Similar to that used by the bankers.



- Pupils would read from **scrolls** rather than books. And they would use an **abacus** and **chats** on the walls for counting.
- **Ludi magister** was a teacher in the **Ludus**. Girls and boys from 7 to 11 would attend this school. They learnt to read, write and count; recite proverbs, recite the alphabet. Many ended here and then attended a trade. Girls would then stay at home till married. Some girls might continue their education at home – if they had the money.
- **Grammaticus** was a teacher in the 'secondary' school. Boys from 12 to 16 were taught Greek and Roman literature, history, geography, astronomy, music, maths, and athletics.
- **The Rhetor** taught at the school equivalent to **college**. Only the very privileged got here. They would learn oratory/Rhetoric or public speaking. The ability to argue cases in the **lawcourts**, **politics**, or the **military**. The students would practice debating. Some would get to go to Athens or Greece to practice **philosophy**.

## Theatres

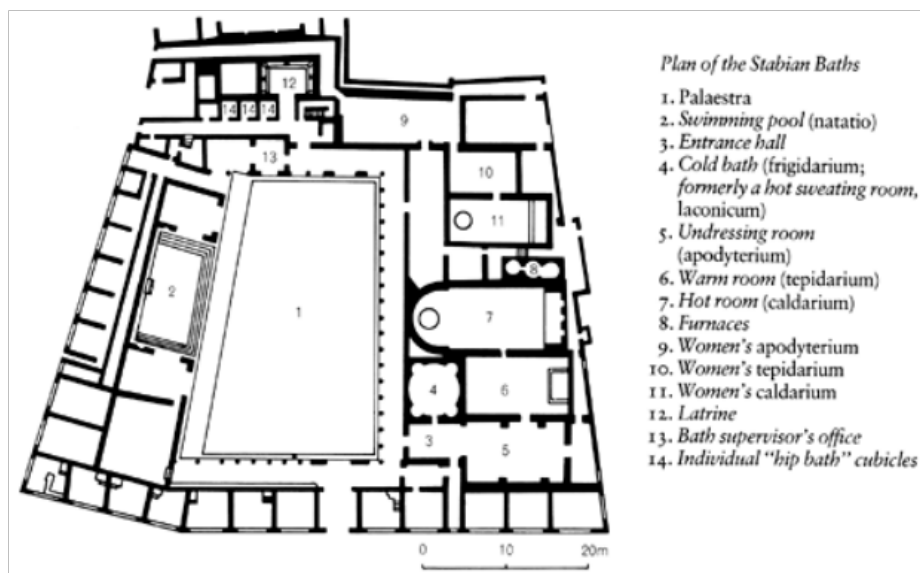


- **Cavia/Auditorium**: seating: a semicircle of rows of seats, rising in tiers, faced the stage.
- **Orchestra**: a semi-circular space in front of the stage for dancers and the chorus.
- **Pulpitum**: the stage.
- **Scaenae Frons**: the backdrop with columns, alcoves, statues, and doors.



- **Large Theatre:** The theatre was publicly owned. It held fewer than the amphitheatre but, as it has been badly damaged, we do not know its seating capacity for certain. On hot days awnings were arranged to shade the spectators. It seems probable that scented water was sometimes sprayed on them to keep them cool. **Parts of the stage machinery are still in place including bars that raised curtains from the ground.** The stage could be flooded and water scenes enacted. The back wall was probably decorated with statues, as at other Roman theatres, but stage machinery would often hide these. Greek and Roman comedies and dramas would have been performed at Roman theatres – as well as mimes, dancers, jugglers, clowns, and athletic exhibitions. They would usually end with a procession of nude women.
- **Odeon/Small Theatre:** Entry to the small one nearby was free. Poetry recitals and play and public speaking would have been performed here.
- Unlike today being an actor was not seen as a respectable job.

### Baths:



**Stabian Baths**

- One of the most popular past-times of the Romans was the **Baths**. Baths were publicly owned and all people of different classes and types went to these baths – some were also privately owned.
- Pompeii had 3 main bathhouses: **Forum Baths**, **Central Baths**, and **Stabian Baths**.
- Baths were more than just about hygiene – people had parties, drank wine, socialised, exercised, and conducted business meetings in the baths. The 1,328 lights in the Forum Baths indicate that the bathhouses would be open late at night.
- Different sexes visited the baths at different times.
- The water was also rarely changed.
- The hot rooms would be heated by the **hypocaust** system. The walls of the rooms would be hollow; a basement under the floor would have a furnace kept afire by slaves. This would

heat the air in the hollow walls and the floor above. The hot air would escape through vents on the outer walls.



- **Rooms:** **Apodyterium** = Dressing room. **Palaestra** = exercise area. **Natatio** = swimming pool. **Frigidarium** = Cold bath. **Tepidarium** = Warm/Tepid Room **Caldarium** = Hot Room **Laconicum** = Hot Sauna **Latrina** = Toilets
- **Step 1:** Entered through entrance hall. **Step 2:** Undressed in **apodyterium**. A slave would keep the clothes of wealthy men. **Step 3:** Exercise on the **palaestra** maybe swim in the **natatio**. Exercises would include, wrestling, boxing, running, weightlifting, bowls, discus-throwing and gymnastics. **Step 4:** Then they would visit the **tepidarium** and sit on benches in a war steamy atmosphere and sweat. **Step 5:** Then they would visit the **caldarium** and sit in the hot steam created by throwing water on the hot walls. They also might sit in a pool of hot water. **Step 6:** Then they would visit a slave who would cover them in **olive oil**. They would lay on a marble slab as the slave covered their bodies, which would fill the pores of their skin. This would collect the dirt in a oily paste on the skin. This would be scrapped of with a blunt scraper called a **strigil**. Then a masseur would massage their muscles. **Step 7:** Then he would either wash himself in a stone tub of cold water at the end of the caldarium or he might visit the **frigidarium**. Before leaving.

#### Amphitheatres:



#### Amphitheatre in Pompeii – and the riot in 59 A.D.

- The Amphitheatre in Pompeii is the *oldest* surviving amphitheatre.
- Built around 70 B.C.

- It is the earliest known to be built of stone – before amphitheatres were built from wood and were temporary.
- It was built from private funds of Gaius Quinctus Valgus and Marcus Porcius.
- It could hold about 20,000 spectators.
- Around 59 A.D. there was a deadly fight between the Pompeians and the visiting Nucerians at a gladiatorial game.
- Amphitheatres would often have a variety of spectacles for their audiences. They would start in the mornings with a parade of the gladiators, jugglers, musicians, dancers, and priests.
- There would then be a parade of the wild animals. Some rare animals for display only. Some were to perform tricks – there is even evidence that a Roman emperor made an elephant walk a tightrope. Most – bears, lions, panthers, and bulls – were forced to fight each other. Or be hunted down with spears, bows, and nets, by the **Bestiarii**. Others were set loose on prisoners. Some 5,000 animals might die a day.
- After the animals there were comic acts: mimes and mock fights.
- There would then of course be gladiatorial contests – a favourite was for the **Murmillo** or **Thracian** to fight a **Retiarius**. The idea being to see the contrast of weapon types. The former with short sword and large shield, the latter with tridents and net.

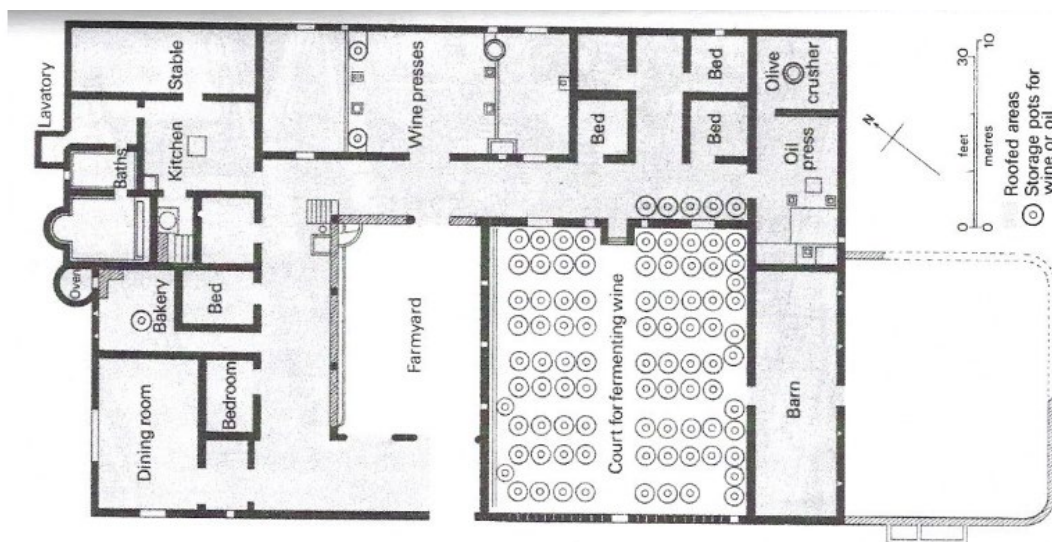


#### Public Officials:

Officials	Duties	Term of Office	How Appointed
Decuriones (about 100)	Town councillors for overall supervision.	life	Appointed by the council itself (you had to have property – and connections).

Duoviri (2)	Chief officials for the administration of justice. Leaders of the Decuriones.	1 year	Elected by all Pompeii's Roman citizens (male).
Aediles (2)	Officials for the maintenance of public buildings and order.	1 year	Elected by all Pompeii's Roman citizens (male).
Seviri Augustales (6)	Priests of the state Religion.	life	Appointed by the council

## Farming



- **The wine** produced in Pompeii was very popular – considered of high quality. There are over **130 bars and inns** known in Pompeii. The wine was usually stored on the farm and sold to the inns as needed. One farm near Pompeii had storage space for **22,000 gallons** (100,000 litres) of wine.
- **Olives** were grown in similar quantities. **The oil** would be extracted from the olives in presses made from the local volcanic rock. It would be used **for bathing, lighting, and cooking**. The oil would be stored on the farms till needed.
- **Farms came big and small** – some only enough for a farmer and his family. Others were large farms with many slaves working on them – both from old noble families and new merchant class families. See a plan for a farm at **Boscotreale** in the countryside not far from Pompeii. Above.

## Shops:



- **The city of Pompeii owned many of the shops** which they rented to private citizens. Most shops were public owned, though there would have been some privately owned shops, baths, and inns.
- These shops were often made by altering the private house to a new use. For instance, a retired centurion rented out premises in his house to an ex-soldier of his who was working as a cobbler. Marcus Vesonius Primus, a fuller, had the vats, ovens, and wheels used in his trade in his own house.
- A shop usually consisted of two rooms, a backroom used for living in and working in, and front room with a large opening on to the street where goods were sold. Shops selling similar goods would have been together
- Advertisements would have been on the walls. An innkeeper wrote: 'Once on of my hams is cooked and set before a customer, before he tastes it, he licks the saucepan in which it was cooked.'

#### Fullers:



- One of the most important professions in Pompeii were the Fullers – they even had there own guildhall in the forum. **The building of Eumachia.**
- Fullers were people who bleached and dyed cloths.
- We know a lot about this process because **Lucius Veranius Hypsaeus** had paintings of the various stages on the walls of his mill.



- **Raw wool was washed, stretched and dyed in the fulling mills and dirty garments were cleansed. There were small vats in which the wool or cloth was cleaned by workers who trod it in a mixture of fuller's earth, potash, carbonate of soda and urine. After this treatment the cloths was rinsed in larger vats and then hung over canes or lines to dry in the sun. The wool was dyed with mineral or vegetable dyes. The colours were made fast by soaking the cloth in vinegar, or something similar, and heated in stoves.**

#### **Bakers/Mills:**

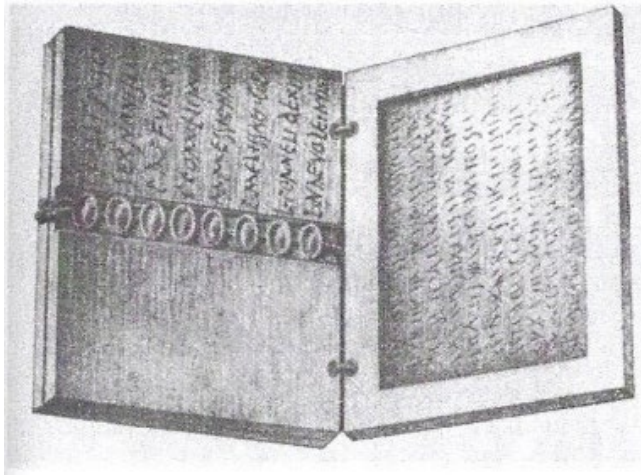


- **Baking bread was another important job.** The grain was ground in mills made of a fixed stone with a second stone rotating on top. The grain was fed through a hollow that ran down the centre of the upper stone. The flour would come out at the sides where the two stones met.
- Sometimes the mill was turned by a donkey, but often slaves had to do this hard task.
- **Once separated from the bran (or husks),** the flour was mixed with water and other ingredients to make dough. The dough was made into round loaves and baked. Then sold.
- This took place in one building.
- We know a ten kinds of Roman bread and dog biscuits. Some loaves were found during excavations.

#### **Inns/Brothels/other trades**

- Inns would serve cooked meals as well as drink. Judging from their large numbers, these inns employed several hundred people. Inns advertised by a picture, perhaps of a gladiator or a painted notice. Pompeii was covered with notices painted on the walls of inns, shops, public buildings and even private homes. Often the prices of wines or goods were shown.
- Other industries **included butchers, wineshops, potters, leatherworkers, ironmongers, coppersmiths** – there was even a *garum* shop.
- **Garum** was the most popular food in Ancient Rome – a fish sauce/paste they would put on all their food.
- Further to the inns there were also brothels in Pompeii. One was owned by a woman called Asellina upstairs in her tavern. An inn sign with a phallus might indicate that prostitutes could be hired out there. Cheaper brothels would have only had small cubicles separated by curtains with obscene paintings on the walls.

#### **Banker and Accounts**



- Pompeii was wealthy. So many bankers and money changers would have set up stalls in the forum.
- We have an illustration of a one, L. Caecilius Jucundus. 127 of his tablets were found – most of them business receipts or *prescriptio* in Latin. Most of these were made of three pieces of wood (13cm by 7.5cm) joined at the edge to form a book of 6 pages. 1 and 6 were covers; 2, 3 and 5 were hollowed out, filled with wax and written on with a stylus. The receipts were written on pages 2 and 3, and the seals of witnesses in was were fixed over the groove in the middle of page 4 (holding the wood together). Signatures were beside the seals. A summary of the receipt was on page 5.