

Romans in Trier!

Museum-Quiz in the Landesmuseum 6th grade upwards

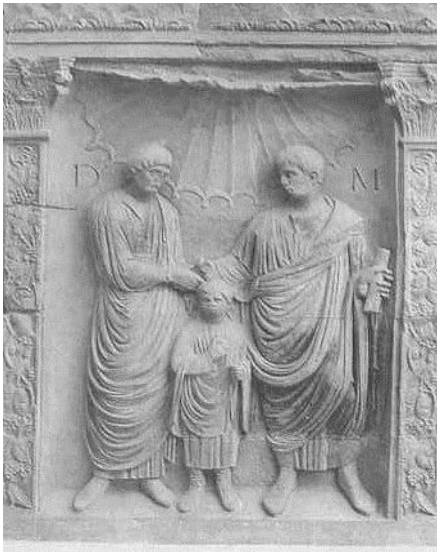
Many things of Roman times have been preserved in Trier. In the Rheinische Landesmuseum you can see exhibits telling you about the life of the Romans. Therefore you first need to go through a different area in the museum. The exhibits displayed there derive from a time long before the Romans. In the adjacent area you will encounter the world of the ancient Romans.

Roman funerary monuments

Family

Roman funerary monuments are a lot larger than our tombstones today. The wealthy Romans didn't order the building of these monuments just for a single person but for the whole family. In this room you can have a look at such roman funerary monuments built of stone. Not all of them are perfectly preserved. But on many of them you can still discover how the Romans presented their family.

Take a close look at the monument opposite the entrance. On the front you can see the family to which the monument belonged.



How can you tell that these persons belong together?

The family also wanted to show how they lived. Go to the left side of the monument. There you can see the wife sitting on a chair while her handmaids are helping her to dress her hair.

What are the servants holding in their hands?

On the right side of the monument the life of the man is shown. At the bottom you can see him in his office. Above you can see him in his spare time, on the hunt. Already he's holding up his prey – a rabbit. He is accompanied by another man. Who could that be?

Roman funerary monuments depict a lot more stories about the life of the family who ordered to build them than contemporary tombstones do. Especially the wealthy families showed their everyday life on the large monuments.

Why do you think they did that?

School

If you go further, on the right hand side you can see a stone illustrating a roman school-scene.



There are four persons depicted on the relief. Who's the teacher? How can you tell?

Two of the pupils are reading in papyrus scrolls. Papyrus derives from Egypt, it is made of a plant and it is similar to our paper. Another pupil is coming into the room. He's holding a wooden tablet applied with wax. With a pointy metal pen it was possible to scratch the writing into the wax. With the other, flat side of the pen the writing could be erased.

Which writing material do you think was the more expensive one, the wax tablet or the papyrus scrolls? Why?

Profession

Professions often are an important theme on the funerary monuments. On the left hand side of the school scene you can see a ship. It is carrying a cargo of barrels. Maybe these are wine barrels. The Romans were the first to grow wine in the region of Trier.



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In which profession would the family which ordered the building of this funerary monument likely have worked?



Trier lay in the north of the Roman Empire. Here wine was stored and transported in barrels and then sold in other cities. Can you see the containers with the handles on the large monument to the left of the ship? They're called amphorae. In the south of the Roman Empire they were used for the storage and transport of wine instead of barrels.

Where does the wine in the barrels most likely come from?

Where does the wine in the amphorae most likely come from?

Roman Religion

From the room with the roman funerary monuments you can get to an adjacent one wherein the attention is given to the Gods of the Romans. The Romans prayed to many gods representing miscellaneous aspects.



Search for this group of figures. Here you see the three supreme roman deities. How are they called? Name them from left to right.

Left: _____

Middle: _____

Right: _____

Which aspects of the Roman State do the three gods represent?

The roman gods can often be identified by certain accompanying items or animals, so-called attributes or emblems. Which gods are depicted with which animals?

Connect the names of the gods with the correct animals. To find the solution take a look at the showcase opposite the figures of the three gods.

Juno	Owl
Minerva	Eagle
Jupiter	Peacock



Search for this depiction of the goddess Diana. She's also often accompanied by animals. Which animals can you see next to her? Also pay attention to the other figures of the goddess nearby and on the opposite side.



Roman Mosaics



Now go back to the funerary monuments and in the following room. On the left hand side of the room you can see how the mosaics are created with an assemblage of many small stones.

In most of the cases the stones used to create the mosaic were small pieces of marble, a very expensive stone. Assembling the pictures was a very elaborate work. Only the wealthy Romans could afford these precious pictures.

The mosaics were designed according to strict geometric patterns. In the center of the room you find two large mosaics. Take a close look at the quite damaged one. Which geometric patterns and ornament can you still find?

In several square fields on the edges the names of the months are written but they are abbreviated. Which months can you find?



On the right hand side of the room you can see a large mosaic on the wall, which shows a man on a chariot. His name is Polydus, you find his name written above the picture.

What are the items he's holding in his right hand? What could be the meaning of these items?

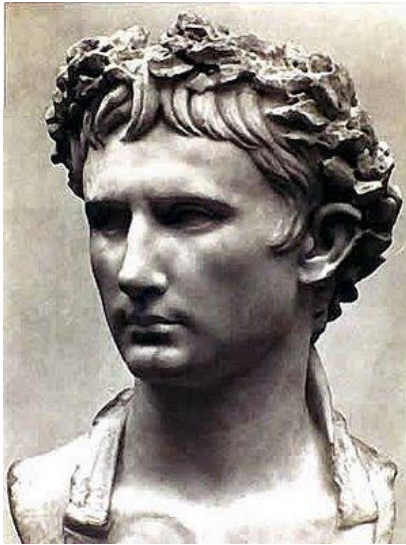


The mosaic also tells us the name of Polydus' most important horse, the lead horse (or leader). If you look closely, you can identify it by its adornment. What's the name of the horse?

The lead-horse is the most important horse of the team. Take a close look at the roman racecourse. The teams raced for several rounds counterclockwise. Where exactly was the lead-horse and what was its special task in the team?

The foundation of Trier

Leave the room with the mosaics and walk across the next room. At its end there's a staircase leading up.



Here you come across the “founder” of Trier in form of a golden copy of a roman portrait. What's his name?

How was Trier called back then? What's the meaning of the name?

Trier is the oldest city in Germany. The evidence is inconspicuous and made of wood – a piece of the first bridge the Romans build across the Moselle. The bridge was built simultaneously with the foundation of the city. When was the bridge built and therefore, what is the foundation year of Trier?

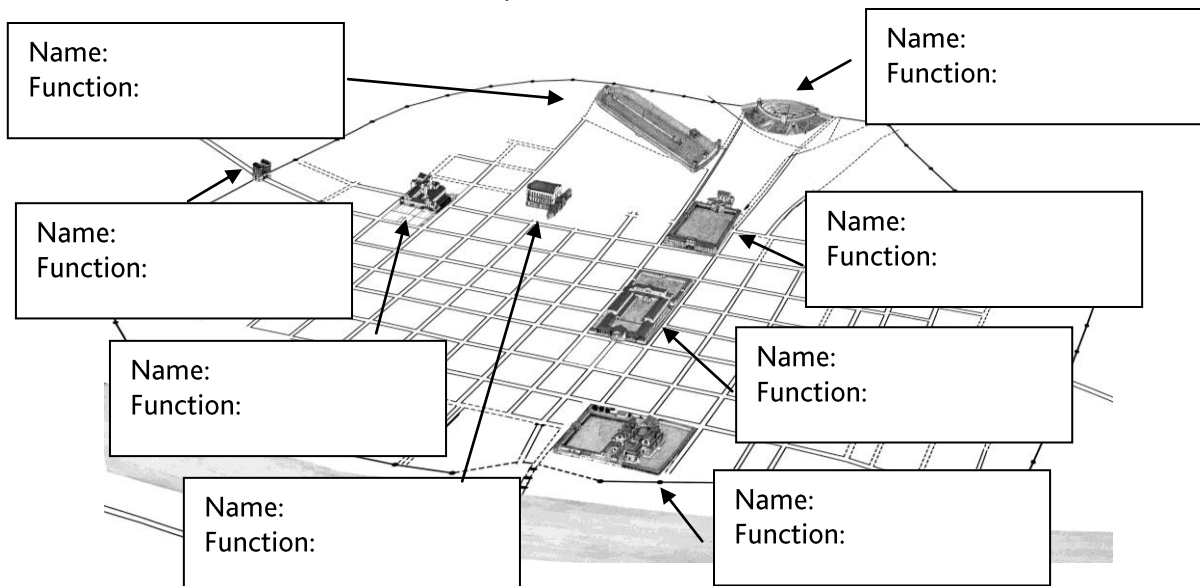
The Roman Trier

Now go around the corner and up the stairs. In the middle of the next room you find a model of the roman Trier.

Here's a plan of the city model. The most important buildings are already drawn in.

Write the correct names to the buildings and explain their functions.

The following functions are available: *Racecourse, christian church, public bath (2x), imperial audience hall, arena, administrative centre and marketplace*



Coins

Now go down the stairs next to the city model and a little further straight ahead. Just before the next flight of stairs you find the Numismatic Cabinet to your left.

In this room coins are displayed. In the centre you find a large treasure found 1993 in Trier. It's the largest roman gold treasure ever to be found and it weighs more than 18 kilograms. Most of the coins show miscellaneous roman emperors.



How can you tell on most of the coins that the depicted person is an emperor?

On the coins you can also read the name and the titles of the emperor. The romans called their emperors Imperator, Augustus or Caesar. On the coins you can often find abbreviations of these titles. Find these abbreviations!

The roman coins are of great importance for today's archaeologists, especially if they are found together with other objects of ancient times. Thanks to the coins the scientists and scholars can determine the time in which the objects were used. But first of course, the age of the coin has to be determined.

How can you tell the age of a coin? Do you have an idea? It has something to do with the emperors!

We hope you have enjoyed your visit!