

## Daily Life in Rome

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_/20

Directions: As you read, **highlight answers in text** to the ?s on the left. Then answer the ?s on the right.

How did the people of ancient Rome live? Even by modern standards, some of them had very lavish lifestyles. For those who could afford it, there was every **luxury!**

During the 200 years known as the *Pax Romana*, Rome had many good rulers & a prosperous empire. *Pax Romana* literally means, "peace of Rome." It lasted from 27 BC to 180 AD. Many Romans lived in splendor. They ate rare foods like peacocks' & larks' tongues at daily feasts. When they went out, they were carried in soft chairs by slaves. Women wore clothes of imported silk, perfume, & makeup. They were laden with jewelry. These things were only for the rich. However, even the poorest people enjoyed luxuries & entertainment.

One of the good rulers of the *Pax Romana* was the emperor Trajan. He ruled from 98 to 117AD. During that period, bathing was a social custom that everyone ~ rich & poor ~ enjoyed. People went to big public bath houses in the afternoons. The Romans were some of the *cleanest* people in history.

Roman baths were housed in big stone buildings. Sometimes they were surrounded with gardens. When people went in to bathe, they first paid a small admission fee & then undressed. Men took off their **togas** ~ garments that all free men had to wear. Togas were large pieces of *woolen* cloth carefully draped over one shoulder. They were usually white, but some had brightly-colored borders. Women took off their **pallas** ~ thin wool capes. Both sexes wore long, colored tunics underneath.

After undressing, people exercised. Some of them wrestled. There were also many games played with balls, hoops, & other equipment. When they grew tired, they went into a hot, steamy room to sweat. This was followed by a hot bath in the **caldarium**, a cold bath in the **frigidarium**, then a swim.

Synonyms: Another word for **luxury** is \_\_\_\_.

- a. poverty                      c. money  
b. extravagance                d. luxurious

(Roman / Pax Romana ← circle 1) means literally "peace of Rome."

**Describe the lavish lifestyle of wealthy Romans.** 1) \_\_\_\_\_

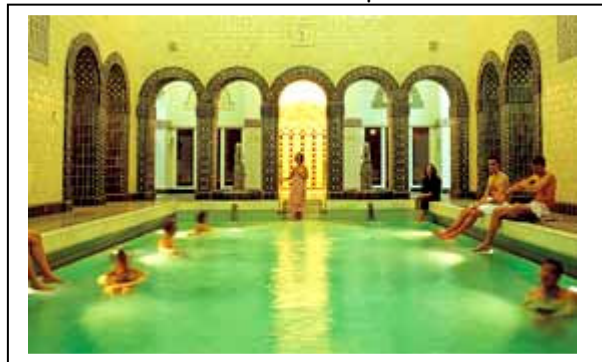
2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts)

**T or F:** (← Circle 1.) Poor Romans were never allowed to participate in entertainment.

**T or F:** (← Circle 1.) Both poor as well as rich were allowed in the Roman public baths.



Women wore \_\_\_\_\_ while men wore \_\_\_\_\_ in Ancient Rome.

List **activities** that Romans partook in at the bathhouses: 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Match the term to its description:**

- \_\_\_ frigidarium                a. hot bath room  
\_\_\_ caldarium                b. cold bath room

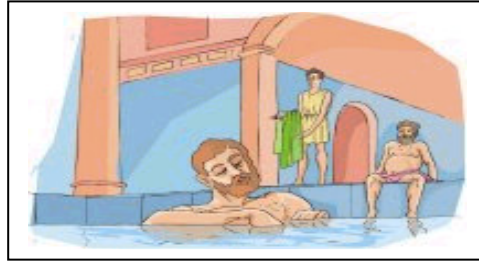
While rich & poor people alike bathed together, you could tell who was rich because they had slaves to scrub them. In some bath houses, men & women bathed together. However, many Romans found this immodest. Eventually, bath houses began to keep separate hours for men & women.

After bathing, if it was a holiday, there might be free entertainment at the **Colosseum**. This was a huge, round stadium that was open to the sky. Most of the entertainment there was *horrifying* by modern standards. Armed men & women called **gladiators** fought fierce animals such as lions & tigers. They would often fight each other to the death! Other fights were often made to resemble sea battles! The floor of the Colosseum was flooded (if you can imagine!) & the gladiators were set afloat in small ships. Thousands of people & animals *died* there each year! Most of these people were criminals, prisoners of war, & others considered undesirable. Hence, Romans saw nothing wrong with this!

There was another ugly side to life in Rome. That was the slave system. Slaves were mostly people who were captured in wars. They were bought & sold as property. Some Romans treated their slaves with kindness, but many others treated them like work animals! Slaves were even kept chained by some owners. Owners had the right to kill their slaves for the slightest mistake. Sometimes a slave was punished unjustly. A slave once rebelled & killed his cruel master ~ the family of the dead man *retaliated* by killing hundreds of other slaves in the household!

But then in 73 BC, a slave called **Spartacus** led a slave rebellion. He was a prisoner of war in training to be a gladiator. Spartacus managed to escape from gladiator school. He formed an army of 40,000 escaped slaves & frustrated peasants. The army terrorized southern Italy for two years, until they were beaten by the Roman army.

Hey, look! A slave! ↓



Describe 2 events *held* in the Colosseum.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_



Gladiators *were* what kinds of people?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

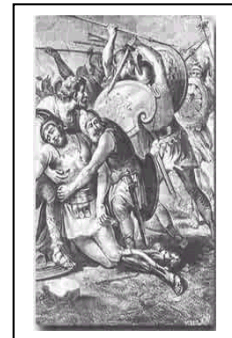


Making inferences: To "retaliate" *means* to:

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. get back at      | c. share mutually     |
| b. trade good deeds | d. forgive and forget |

Spartacus is *credited with*

- a. being the *greatest* gladiator
- b. *founding* a gladiator school for slaves
- c. *leading* a slave rebellion
- d. *bringing* the Pax Romana to Rome

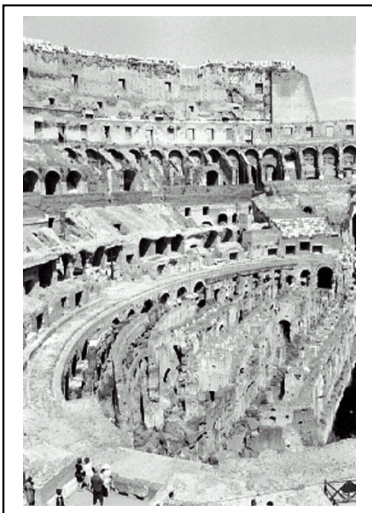


Spartacus was crucified along with many of his soldiers! Approximately 6,000 of them were crucified along the Appian Way from Capua to Rome. *Never* were orders given for the bodies to be taken down; thus, travelers were forced to see the bodies for years, perhaps decades, after the final battle!

The memory of Spartacus made many Romans a bit afraid of their slaves. The slave system was gradually reformed. The emperor Hadrian & Antoninus Pius introduced laws that made it illegal to kill or maim a slave. A Roman historian called Appian, who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., noted that in Rome it was hard to tell a slave from his master. Slaves were able to dress & act like citizens. If they were freed, they often became very important people.

Some historians, though, think that even with reforms, the slave system was bad for everyone. Romans forgot how to do anything for themselves! Even people who were not very wealthy had slaves to fulfill their every need. And free **artisans** & peasants were deprived of a way of making a living. Anything they could make or grow, a slave could do cheaper!

The Romans had created a culture of beauty & wealth unsurpassed by any previous culture. But underneath everything lay the seeds of decay! Great as the empire was, it could not last. *Why?* Because, it is said, that **all great civilizations fail...**



**How did Spartacus die?**

**Drawing conclusions: Why would Rome leave the bodies of these rebel slaves crucified along the road for so long?**

**Cause & effect: What were some of the consequences of Spartacus' rebellion?**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**BONUS: What Greek city-state also experienced a violent slave uprising?**

**Making inferences: Why was the slave system bad for Romans?**

**Applying past knowledge: What is another word for **artisan**?**

**Drawing conclusions: Why do you believe all GREAT civilizations eventually fail?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts.)

