

Roman Baths Home Education Session 2: Friday 1st Feb 2019

About this session

This session will offer the opportunity to discover more about Roman family life. Find out about the games Roman children played, how they would have spent their day and the clothes they would have worn. Handle real Roman objects, explore replicas, dress up and create board games to take home.

Location: Education Room, Roman Baths

Format: Children explore Roman artefacts and replicas with a Workshop Leader and have the opportunity to take part in activities, crafts and trails.

Duration: 2 hour drop-in, opportunity to stay on in museum after activities have finished.

Price: Free to take part in session. Normal entry fees apply.

Details:

Handling Table

Look at Roman artefacts, including games and coins, alongside replicas that help us understand Roman childhood and family life. A Workshop Leader will be with the objects to explain their history and uses and to answer any questions.

Activity Table

Try out writing on a 'wax' tablet, using a stylus, like Roman children would have done when learning to write. Can you write your name using the style of writing the Romans used?

Have a go at playing a Roman board game - Merels and find out about a game to play outside called Delta. Try our 'True or False' activity to find out about Roman families.

Craft Table

Make a Merels board game to take home.

Try some simple weaving using cardboard and wool. Weaving is a skill learned by Roman girls to make clothes and furnishings for their household.

Floor

Dress up in Roman togas and tunics. Experience for yourself how Roman families would have dressed. Draw a picture of a Roman citizen and label their clothes with the Latin names.

Museum Explorer's Mission: Can you find out more about Roman family life?

Explore the museum and find artefacts that tell you more about what Roman family life was like.

Record your discoveries by taking photographs or by making drawings and notes. Don't forget to ask the 'real Romans' down by the Great Bath some questions too!

Follow-up Ideas

- Explore the Roman Baths website, especially the Children's Pages.
- Roman children liked making up their own ball games. Make up your own ball game to play with friends.
- Write a message using the Latin alphabet.
- Play Roman Nut Games using Roman numerals.
- Roman children learned from their parents how to look after their house. Can you learn a new task today that will help you take care of your home?
- Imagine life as a Roman child? Write about your day.

- The Romans had clothes made of natural materials. Look through your clothes and find things that are made from natural materials (e.g. linen, wool) Notice the differences between natural materials and synthetic ones.
- Think about the toys you have/ or had when you were younger. Which ones do you think a Roman child would have played with?

Important words:

Toga
 Palla
 Stola
 Tablet
 Stylus
 Merels
 Paterfamilias

Roman Nut Games

Rolling walnuts

2 or more players

Each competitor has 10 walnuts, in turn they roll 1 nut down a slope. If one player's nut hits another it becomes his/hers. If a player has lost all nuts he/she is eliminated. The winner has the most nuts.

Orca Game – Shark

2 or more players

Each competitor is given 5 nuts (hazelnuts preferably). In turn they try to throw their nuts into the ORCA from a distance of 2 metres. The winner has succeeded most often. Play over several rounds. There is no indication of the size of the orca so we will use a bucket!

Castellatae

2 or more players

At a distance of 2, 5 and 7 metres five small clusters of nuts are erected. (3 walnuts and 1 on top). Each player has 5 nuts and tries with five throws to disturb the nut clusters. The units he/she has managed to hit are kept. After that the clusters are reconstructed from a 'large' pot and the next player tries in turn. Whoever has the most nuts after 5 rounds is the winner.

Delta Game

2 or more players

Mark out a large triangle on the ground, subdivide it into 10 fields, starting with a 1 at the bottom and a 10 at the top. You could use Roman Numerals to make it a little more difficult. Draw a line 2-3 metres from the triangle and the competitors throw from this either nuts or small blocks (each player has his own colour) into the triangle. Whoever has the most points is the winner. Note the points scored and play over several rounds.