

Name: _____ Date: _____



Draw pictures to make a storyboard for an episode of a Roman crime show.

The inside of a public bath changing room. Someone is sneaking off with other people's clothes.	A citizen comes back to get dressed and can't find his clothes. He shouts at the bath slave.	The citizen goes to see the bath owner who says he will try to find the thief.
The bath owner puts a slave in the changing room to keep an eye on the clothes, but he is called away and while he's gone, more clothes are stolen.	Lots of citizens are complaining to the bath owner. Who is taking their clothes? Why hasn't he found the thief?	The bath owner looks at the names of the people who have come to his bath in the signing in book. He checks this against when people have complained about thefts.
A bath slave follows one citizen around the baths. He catches him stealing other citizens' clothes and quickly runs to tell his master.	As the man is leaving, the bath owner goes to say goodbye in person, and pulls out all the stolen clothes from the man's bag.	The man is put on trial in front of a judge and found guilty. He cannot be whipped so he is sentenced to pay money to the bath owner.

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Fill in the blanks and draw pictures to make a storyboard for an episode of a Roman crime show.

The inside of a public bath changing room. Someone is sneaking off with other people's _____.	A citizen comes back to get _____ and can't find his clothes. He shouts at the bath slave.	The citizen goes to see the bath owner who says he will try to find the _____.
The bath owner puts a _____ in the changing room to keep an eye on the clothes, but he is called away and while he's gone, more clothes are _____.	Lots of _____ are complaining to the bath owner. Who is taking their clothes? Why hasn't he _____ the thief?	The bath owner looks at the names of the people who have come to his _____ in the signing in book. He checks this against when people have complained about _____.
A bath slave follows one citizen around the _____. He catches him stealing other _____' clothes and quickly runs to tell his master.	As the _____ is leaving, the bath owner goes to say goodbye in person, and pulls out all the stolen _____ from the citizen's bag.	The citizen is put on _____ in front of a _____ and found _____. He cannot be whipped so he is sentenced to pay money to the bath owner.

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Complete the captions and draw picture to create a storyboard for an episode of a Roman crime show.

The crime	The crime is discovered	The detective
Catching the criminal	A problem	The solution
The criminal is caught	Guilty or not?	The punishment

Roman Crime and Punishment

What kind of crimes did Romans deal with?

The main crimes at this time were crimes dealing with a citizen's property. Property included his wife, children and slaves as well as his house and any possessions. They also had to deal with many of the same crimes we face today, such as murder, arson and vandalism. Treason against the Empire was the most serious crime.



What did the Romans think about how to tackle crime?

The Romans had laws to cover every possible crime, from assassination of the Emperor to polluting the streets and the River Tiber. The Romans believed in deterring crime by harsh punishments and how you were punished depended on how important you were. For example, nobles were sometimes sent into exile instead of being executed for a crime as a citizen or slave would be.

What punishments did Romans use?

Prisons were not used as punishment but only to hold those awaiting trial or execution. Punishments were much harsher and included whipping, reparation, branding, exile and execution. The Romans had lots of creative ways to put people to death for their crimes. For example, patricide was punished by throwing the person into a sack full of snakes and throwing them into the river to drown. The worst punishment was crucifixion. This was reserved for slaves, pirates and foreigners, unless the crime was treason in which case a citizen could be crucified. This is how rebels like Spartacus were punished. Crucifixion involved being nailed to a wooden cross and being left to die. It was a slow, disgraceful and extremely painful death.



Spartacus is captured

How did people catch criminals?

The Romans had no police force so for crimes such as burglary, citizens were expected to catch the criminal themselves and bring them to court. A judge or magistrate would decide whether or not they were guilty. For more serious crimes, a jury would decide guilt. The defendant was always innocent until proven guilty and had the right to present evidence in his defence.



Remains of a curse tablet

What happened if you couldn't catch the culprit?

A lot of crimes went unpunished. In these cases, the gods were the only hope. People made curse tablets with the name of the person who had committed the crime and how they wanted them to be punished. They would then take them to the temple and give the gods an offering in the hope they would punish the culprits for them.

How to make a Roman curse tablet

Using some air-drying clay and clay modelling tools, carve a curse into a tablet of clay and leave it to dry.

Step 1:

Choose one of your friends to curse. Change their name to something that sounds Roman. Alternatively, you might not know the name of the person who has committed the crime so you can leave it blank.

Step 2:

What has your friend done? Describe the crime on the tablet.

Step 3:

Choose a Roman god to dedicate the curse to.



Step 4:

Decide what revenge you want the Roman god to take on your friend and write it on the tablet.

Here are some examples of Roman curse tablets to give you some ideas...

CENACUS COMPLAINS TO THE GOD MERCURY ABOUT VITALINUS AND NATALINUS HIS SON CONCERNING THE DRAUGHT ANIMAL WHICH HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM, AND ASKS THE GOD MERCURY THAT THEY MAY HAVE NEITHER HEALTH BEFORE/ UNLESS THEY RETURN AT ONCE TO ME THE DRAUGHT ANIMAL WHICH THEY HAVE STOLEN, AND TO THE GOD THE DEVOTION WHICH HE HAS DEMANDED FROM THEM HIMSELF.

LORD NEPTUNE, I GIVE YOU THE MAN WHO HAS STOLEN THE SOLIDUS AND SIX ARGENTIOLI OF MUCONIUS. SO I GIVE THE NAMES WHO TOOK THEM AWAY, WHETHER MALE OR FEMALE, WHETHER BOY OR GIRL. SO I GIVE YOU, NISKUS, AND TO NEPTUNE THE LIFE, HEALTH, BLOOD OF HIM WHO HAS BEEN PRIVY TO THAT TAKING-AWAY. THE MIND WHICH STOLE THIS AND WHICH HAS BEEN PRIVY TO IT, MAY YOU TAKE IT AWAY. THE THIEF WHO STOLE THIS, MAY YOU CONSUME HIS BLOOD AND TAKE IT AWAY, LORD NEPTUNE.

JUST AS THE DEAD MAN WHO IS BURIED HERE CAN NEITHER SPEAK NOR TALK, SO MAY RHODINE DIE AS FAR AS MARCUS LICINIUS FAUSTUS IS CONCERNED AND NOT BE ABLE TO SPEAK NOR TALK. AS THE DEAD MAN IS RECEIVED NEITHER BY GODS NOR HUMANS, SO MAY RHODINE BE RECEIVED BY MARCUS LICINIUS AND HAVE AS MUCH STRENGTH AS THE DEAD MAN WHO IS BURIED HERE.

LADY NEMESIS, I GIVE THEE A CLOAK AND A PAIR OF BOOTS; LET HIM WHO WORE THEM NOT REDEEM THEM EXCEPT WITH HIS LIFE AND BLOOD.