

Using Fingerprint Analysis To Study Ancient History



<https://www.abroadintheyard.com/ancient-fingerprints/>

Fingerprint analysis has helped historians and archaeologists learn more about everyday life in different periods of ancient history. Studying ancient fingerprints can help determine the age of the person, whether they were male or female, and even their occupation.



<https://www.abroadintheyard.com/ancient-fingerprints/>

Fingerprints were discovered in this pot of face cream that is believed to date back to the 2nd century BCE. The pot had remained unopened for almost 2000 years. When archaeologists opened the pot, they found a woman's fingerprint that probably belonged to the woman who owned the cream.



<https://www.abroadintheyard.com/ancient-fingerprints/>

This is an ancient loaf of bread made over 3000 years ago by an Egyptian baker. The bread was discovered in a tomb and would have been included as part of the grave's goods placed with a mummy. The fingerprint of the baker was found when studying the ingredients and process for making the bread.



<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/241509>

This is a Roman terra cotta lamp believed to have been made sometime between 175-250 BCE. On the left side of the handle, archaeologists found the fingerprint of the creator, still visible after all this time. Studying for fingerprints is now considered an important part of understanding ancient artifacts.

Steps for Part 1 of Activity

Follow the steps below to create an artifact.

Step 1: Creating an Artifact

- Read through the identification card that your teacher gave you. The identification card will have information about a person who lived in ancient Rome and his or her occupation. You should not share this information with other students in your class.
- Decide which artifact you want to build that belonged to the person you chose to be.
 - The artifact I am creating is: _____
- Use clay and other art supplies to build your artifact.

Step 2: Marking your Artifact

- Add your fingerprint to your artifact. To do this, stamp your thumb on a stamp pad and then stamp your artifact.
- Next, get a permanent marker from your teacher. Come up with a 4-digit code. The code can be whatever you want.
- Write the code somewhere on the artifact using the permanent marker.

Step 3: Creating an Artifact Report

Next, you will fill out all of the necessary information on the report handout. To do this, follow the steps below.

- Stamp your same thumb on the ink pad again. This time, place a fingerprint in the “Cataloged Finger Print Found on Artifact” box on your artifact report.
- Write the same 4-digit code in the “Identification Code” box on your artifact report.
- Fill in all remaining information on your artifact report based on what you learned from your card.
- Cut out the report when you are finished and hand it to your teacher along with your artifact.

Identification Cards for Students

Card 1

Occupation: Soldier

Description of Occupation:

- Protected the Roman empire by fighting against enemies.
- Patrolled borders.
- Helped build bridges and aqueducts. Aqueducts are structures used to move water across a valley.

Gender: Male

Items Person Would Use:

- Libella: A libella was a tool used to lay out roads and aqueducts. This would have been used to make sure that surfaces were level and straight.



<http://www.romanaqueducts.info/aquasite/foto/P5190011.jpg>

- Body armor: Soldiers would wear breastplates, helmets, and carry spears and shields



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/29/a0/b1/29a0b1c14d04b3b81fee9e932ea348d5.jpg>

- Arrows



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/81/71/9b/81719b91a2a7c3d6ec2a51fb1e7793f8.jpg>

Identification Cards for Students

Card 2

Occupation: Potter

Description of Occupation:

- Created ceramic objects, like clay pots and lamps, that were used in Roman homes.
- Created ceramic objects, like vases as grave goods, figurines, fine dinnerware for eating for the wealthy.
- Created other items used in the Roman household such as water pipes, small portable grills to cook, roof tiles.

Gender: Female

Items Person Would Use:

- Kiln: A kiln is an oven that gets very hot and is used to bake the ceramic pieces.



<https://www.cravenmuseum.org/archaeology/fact-sheets/roman-pottery-lamps/>

- Molds to make decorations on ceramic pieces: The clay was dropped into the mold to form the shape of the final product. Decorations or patterns could be etched into the clay. Then, the piece was lifted out and placed in the kiln.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Roman_pottery#/media/File:Terra_Sigillata_Museum_Formschuesseln.jpg

- Polishing stones used to smooth out the finished piece.



<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/34541806.pdf>

Identification Cards for Students

Card 3

Occupation: Goldsmith

Description of Occupation:

- Created objects out of gold, jewelry and belt buckles, that were used by wealthy Romans.
- Designed and created ornaments for temples, and later, Roman Catholic churches, decorated pages of illuminated manuscripts, or books elaborate decorations.

Gender: Female

Items Person Would Use:

- Weights to measure out gold for making objects.



<https://www.ancient.eu/image/4744/roman-balance-weights/>

- Gold ingots, or blocks.



<https://www.ancient.eu/image/5867/roman-gold-bar-stamped-with-assayers/>

- Goldsmith's box in which small tools were kept.



<https://www.doralia.com/antique-tools.html>

Identification Cards for Students

Card 4

Occupation: Musician

Description of Occupation:

- Provided entertainment and music for people at banquets and events.
- Played for religious ceremonies and athletic competitions.
- Music was used to signal commands for the army.

Gender: Male

Items Person Would Use:

- Tuba: A long, straight horn.



<https://melodyful.com/ancient-roman-musical-instruments>

- Panpipes: A small hand held instrument of reed pipes.



<https://melodyful.com/ancient-roman-musical-instruments>

- Lute: A small string instrument and early form of a guitar.



<https://melodyful.com/ancient-roman-musical-instruments>

Identification Cards for Students

Card 5

Occupation: Carpenter

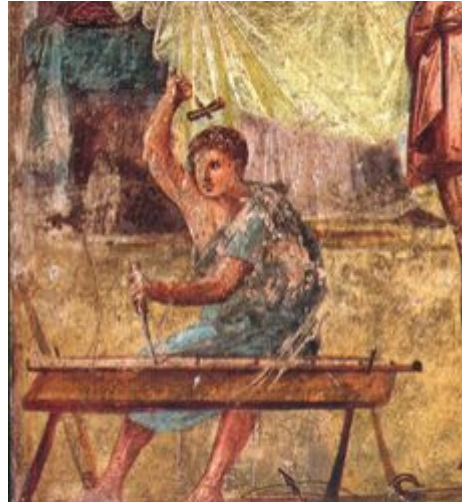
Description of Occupation:

- Built furniture.
- Oversaw large building projects such as watermills (structures used for grinding grains), roads, buildings.
- Built ships

Gender: Male

Items Person Would Use:

- Workbench: A bench where carpenters built their products.



<https://www.popularwoodworking.com/woodworking-blogs/the-first-recorded-workbench/>

- Nails



<https://www.objectlessons.org/houses-and-homes-romans/nails-ancient-rome-original/s57/a1018/>

- Concrete made with volcanic sand, lime, and water



<https://www.objectlessons.org/houses-and-homes-romans/nails-ancient-rome-original/s57/a1018/>

Identification Cards for Students

Card 6

Occupation: Wife of wealthy Roman Senator

Description of Occupation:

- Oversaw the daily management of the households. Many wealthy Romans had more than one house.
- Entertained guests at dinners and social functions held at the home.
- Was responsible for the weaving and making of clothing for the family.

Gender: Female

Items Person Would Use:

- Mirrors



http://etc.ancient.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Hairpin_with_Eros.jpg

- Hair pins used in styling hair.



<https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/lucius-romans/2018/03/15/the-painful-art-of-being-a-roman-woman/>

- Loom for weaving cloth.



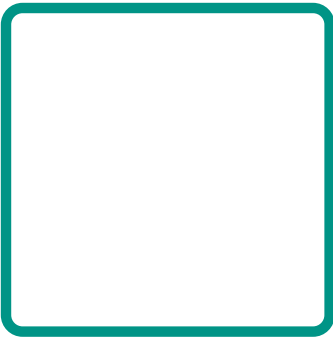
<http://www.the-romans.eu/MY-museum/singlepage.php?path=Archeological-sites/Limes-castellum-Saalburg-Germany/LCS024-roman-weaving.jpg>

Artifact Report

Identification Code

Name of Artifact:

Cataloged finger print found on artifact:



Gender of Artifact Owner:

Profession of Artifact Owner:

Other known Details:

Steps for Part 2 of Activity

Follow the steps below to identify an ancient artifact.

Step 1: Gathering Information Without Fingerprint Data

- First, get another student's artifact from your teacher.
- Then, fill in as much as you can on artifact discovery form below.
 - Note: You can only fill in things on your form that you have evidence for. You can't add in guesses.

Step 2: Gathering Information from Fingerprint Data

- Once you have filled in all of the information you can from studying your artifact, it is time to get extra information that came from the fingerprint on the artifact.
- Use the Identification code and fingerprint on your artifact to find the matching artifact report form from the pile your teacher has.
- Read the form and learn more about your artifact.
- List at least 3 things you learned from the fingerprint that you couldn't learn from the artifact alone:

Artifact Discovery Report

Identification Code

Name of Artifact:

Gender of Artifact Owner:

Profession of Artifact Owner:

Other known Details: