



the **Art Curator**    for **Kids**  
experiencing art with kids of all ages

# The Art of Ancient Rome

THINK PAIR SHARE: Make a list of words to describe these men.



Trajan-Statue in Xanten, Gesamtbild. photo by Lutz Langer



Augustus of Prima Porta, 1st century, photo by Till Niermann



# What do these two artworks have in common?



Arch of Titus, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Jebulon



Augustus of Prima Porta, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Till Niermann

What do these two artworks have in common?



## PROPAGANDA (noun):

“information or ideas spread by an organized group to influence people’s opinions, especially by not giving all the facts or by secretly emphasizing only one way of looking at the facts”

Source: Cambridge Academic Content Dictionaries: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/propaganda>



Arch of Titus, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Jebulon

Augustus of Prima Porta Date 1st century - Photographer  
Till Niermann



# The Story of Rome



Capitoline Wolf: She-wolf with Romulus and Remus, Bronze, 12th century (wolf), 15th-century (twins), photo by Jean-Pol Grandmont

# What are the challenges of expanding such a large empire?



# Ancient Rome

- Major art forms include architecture, sculpture, fresco painting, and mosaic
- Influence of Ancient Greek ideals and artistic conventions but with a Roman twist
- Significant advances in engineering, technology, and politics





# THINK PAIR SHARE: Compare / Contrast



*The Parthenon - Athens (Temple of Athena), 5<sup>th</sup> century, photo by Steve Swayne*



*The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Roberta Dragan*



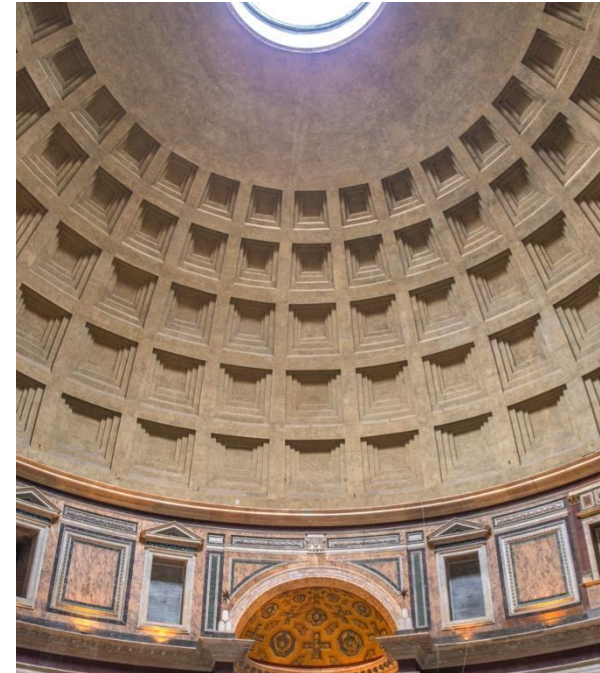
# Discuss

What new technology allowed the Ancient Romans to create arches and domes?



**Barrel vault**

*Roman Colosseum - Roman, 5<sup>th</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman*



**Dome**

*The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman*

# Discuss

What new technology allowed the Ancient Romans to create arches and domes?



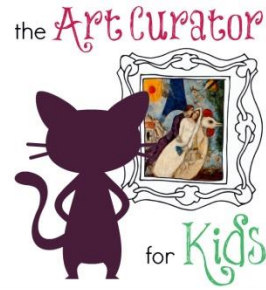
Roman Colosseum - Roman, 5<sup>th</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman



The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman

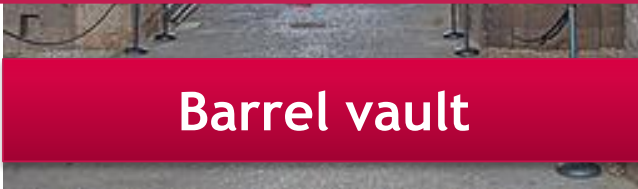


# Discuss



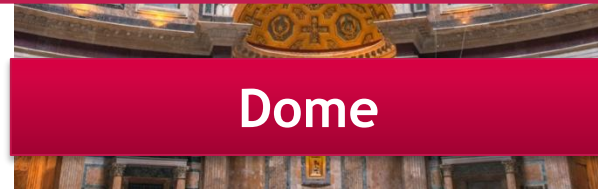
## What new technology allowed the Ancient Romans to create arches and domes?

The ancient Romans were particularly skillful in rapidly building new structures and at the same time, they were also good at maintaining their structural integrity and built. The revolutionary concrete developed by the Romans inhibited an impeccable built and lasting formation – playing a huge part in the architectural accession of ancient Rome. The scientists who studied its composition in detail found it to be superior to modern day concrete and far more environmentally friendlier than its modern counterpart.



**Barrel vault**

*Roman Colosseum - Roman, 5<sup>th</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman*



**Dome**

*The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman*

# Architecture - Temples



*The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Maros M*

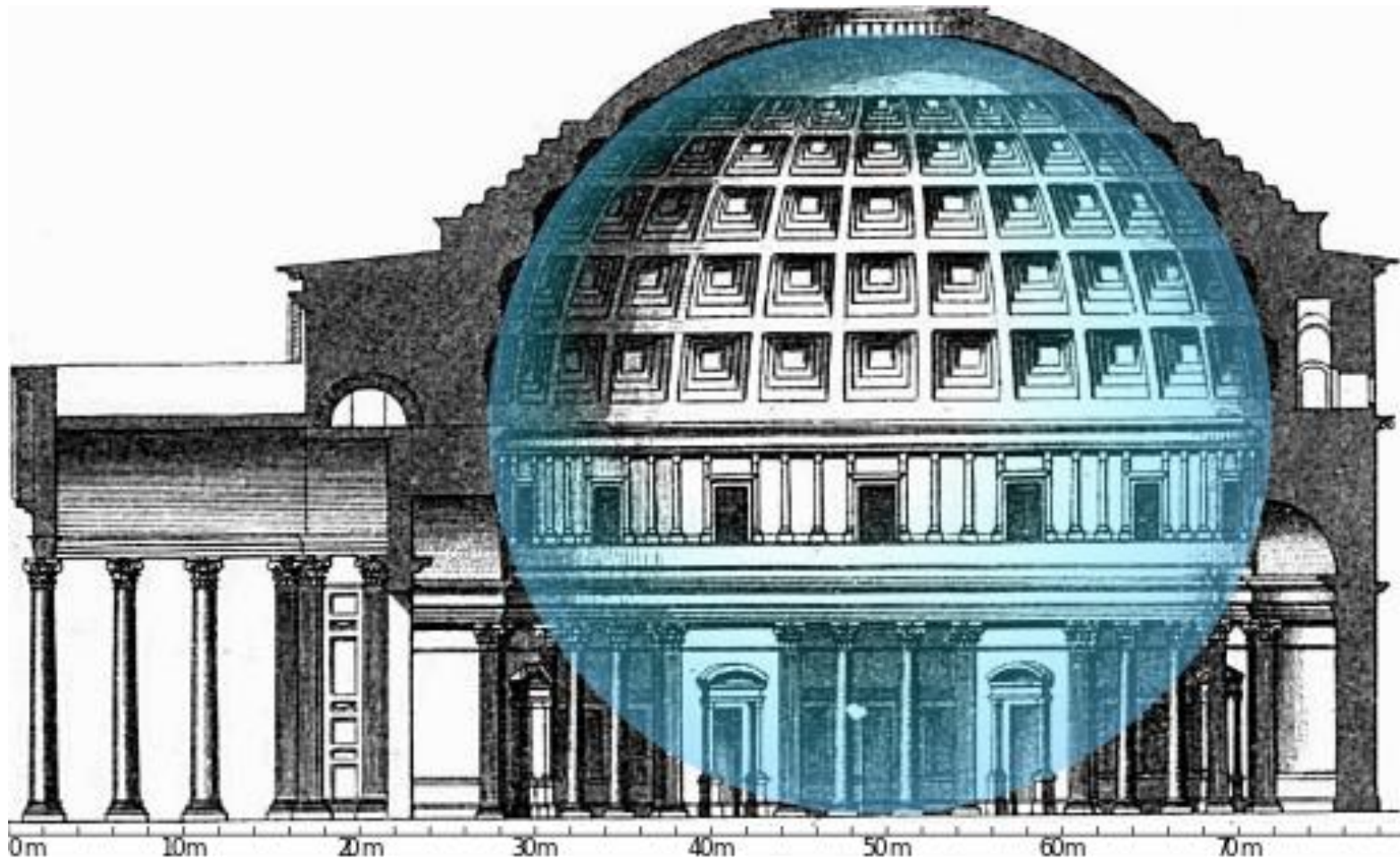


# Architecture - Temples



*The Pantheon - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Bengt Nyman*

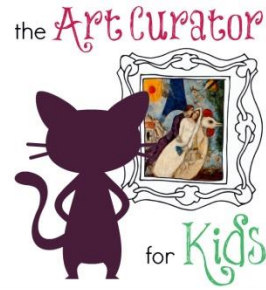
# Architecture - Temples



Roman Pantheon interior drawing, unknown origin, photo by Baukunst Etrusker-Römer



# Arches



Romans first found out a way to set an arch on top of two tall pedestals such that it would span over a walkway. These arches went on to become a pivotal engineering construct that laid the foundation for many of the subsequent structural highlights of ancient Rome. Many bridges were built upon these arches, and so were the aqueducts, sewers, amphitheaters and the colossal Colosseum. The merits of Roman arches were utilized later in the middle ages when some of the most magnificent cathedrals in the history were built.

# Architecture - Amphitheaters



Colosseum - Rome, Italy, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by By Jerzy Strzelecki





**Amphitheater** - a round or oval building, typically unroofed, with a central space for the presentation of dramatic or sporting events. Tiers of seats for spectators surround the central space.



# Architecture - Aqueducts



*Roman Aqueducts - Pont du Gard, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by Emanuele*



# Review

What is the function of each of these structures?





# Discuss

THINK PAIR SHARE: Why do you think these artworks were made?



Ancient Rome, *Fish and Ducks*



*Portrait of Terentius Neo with his wife*, wall fresco on a Pompeii house, 2<sup>nd</sup> century



# Mural Painting



Were used to decorate the often-elaborate homes of the Romans. These paintings were not hung on the wall, but painted on the wall for décor.



# Fresco Painting

Fresco - a painting made onto wet or dry plaster



*Still Life* in the Pompeii home of Julia Felix, 1<sup>st</sup> century, photo by The Yorck Project



*Sappho*, Pompeii c. 50



Fragment of a Painted Wall, mid-1st century A.D.. Roman



## Common Features in Roman Frescoes

- faux finishes such as marble or wood
- architectural views
- small, framed scenes
- paintings that look like picture galleries





# Mosaic

Mosaic: Tiles called *tesserae* placed into wet cement or grout. Roman tiles were usually made of marble, pebbles, and other stones.



*The Alexander Mosaic depicting the Battle of Issus between Alexander the Great and Darius III of Persia; probably a copy (125-120 BC) of a Greek painting by Philoxenos at the end of the 4th C BC (now lost); photo by Dave Hill and Margie Kleerup*



# Examples of Mosaic



*Love Scene*, marble wall mosaic, 1st century, photo by Alberto Fernandez Fernandez



*Ulysses and the Sirens*, Tunis, 2<sup>nd</sup> century, photo by Giorces



# Teacher Instructions - Tic Tac Toe

Divide students in two groups/teams. Assign a number, letter or name to each team.

Determine which group will go first to start the game.

Teams take turns choosing a color to get a question.

If they answer the question correctly, they get the square (mark it with the team's number/letter/name).

If the team *doesn't* answer correctly, place the a box back over the square (any team can try it a second time).

The first team to mark three in a row wins the game.

# Review - Tic Tac Toe





# Answer key - Tic Tac Toe

**What was the function of an aqueduct?**

*Carry water*

**What are the tiles called in a mosaic?**

*Tessera*

**What material is frescoes painted onto?**

*Plaster*

**Name one convention of imperial portrait sculpture.**

*Propaganda for victorious and powerful Roman Emperor*

*Individualized features (we can tell who is who) but made more beautiful with idealized proportions, youth, and fitness*

**What did the Romans invent that allowed them to engineer domes, arches, and vaults?**

*Concrete*

**Which culture most inspired the art of Ancient Rome?**

*Ancient Greece*

**How do Greek and Roman sculptures differ?**

*Roman sculpture more realistic/usually depicts specific people*

**Name one architectural feature of the Pantheon.**

*Coffers, Ocuclus, Dome, Columns, Pediment, Large open space*

**Name one feature that Greek and Roman buildings share.**

*Columns  
Pediments  
Portico*



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Thank you!

# Pompeii



Clockwise, from top left: *Ruins of Pompeii from above, with Vesuvius in the background*, photo by ElfQrin; *The Temple of Jupiter with Vesuvius in the distance*, photo by Kim Traynor; *The Forum with Vesuvius in the distance*, by Heinz-Josef Lücking