

## **TOPICAL LESSONS – ROOTS OF THE PRESENT**

### **INSIGHTS INTO TOPICAL LESSONS**

#### **LESSONS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

##### **Rome at play. Fun and games in the ancient world**

Playing has always been an essential aspect in life since ancient civilizations. The Romans were very skilled at playing games, both as kids and adults. They played everywhere: at home, in shops, in the street and in public places. While waiting in front of basilicas or doing their daily chores, they played the most varied games, among which many were forbidden by law.

##### **Walnuts, astragali and tabulae lusoriae. Table and street games of the ancient Romans**

Playing was very common among the Roman population at all ages and in all social backgrounds. Children had a large variety of games and entertainments, among which many were very similar to modern ones.

Adults also loved playing: in particular they liked gambling with dice, knucklebones and tabulae lusoriae. The latter were similar to chessboards and were found carved or painted on tablets and stones also in public places, such as fora.

##### **Trajan's Column**

By using a dedicated app you can explore the 3D virtual model of the Trajan's Column and listen to its story and how it has changed over the time.

Follow its spiral bas relief and look at the images of the Dacian Wars (101-102 and 105-106 AD). Find out about the history of emperor Trajan, the main character of the story, and his opponent Decebalus. Through the virtual model you can understand the Column's history that was and still is a landmark, both in medieval and modern Rome. The Trajan's Column is a key element in the Museum Roots of the Present. From its windows you can see the real Column, that visitors can explore live by using a camera framing the bas-reliefs carved on the monument.

##### **The imperial fora over time**

The exciting adventure of the city of Rome told by the 3D reconstructions of the Imperial Fora at the time of their building, in the Middle Ages, in the Renaissance and Baroque eras up to the time when they were discovered during Napoleon's excavations near Trajan's Column.

A new and easy, diachronic and visual approach to the urban history of the City of Rome.

## **LESSONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

### ***Domus* and *insulae*: to each his home. Luxury homes and condominiums in ancient Rome**

In the Augustan Age Rome had one million inhabitants! Where did they live? *Domus* and *insulae* were scattered throughout the city centre and mirrored the Roman society. They are usually defined as "houses of power and condos for the Plebeians" but officials, entrepreneurs and army officers could also have a flat or rent a house in a condominium.

This is the case for the *insula* that was found under Assicurazioni Generali building in Piazza Venezia, which in ancient times was inhabited by people who needed to live in the heart of Rome.

### **From the rooms of the Roman house. Old inhabitants tell their stories**

Luxury and modest Roman houses tell the life of their inhabitants with their habits, customs, traditions, family and personal events. Many ancient writers spoke about architects and designers, poets and owners who lived there. The shape and organization of house spaces, stone and painted images, furniture and utensils complete the story about people whose names, faces and voices are still alive.

### **Images of gods, heroes, emperors: a crowd of silent inhabitants in imperial Rome**

Augustus, the first Roman emperor, boasted that he had found Rome brick and left it marble. His successors were not inferior to him, as they all ordered the construction of majestic and richly decorated buildings. The main public places were therefore scattered with a multitude of statues and figure decorations portraying scenes related to history and mythology, bearing witness of the greatness of Rome.

### **See you at Forum! A walk through the busiest places of the ancient Rome**

The Ancient Romans lived their daily life in a city that became increasingly rich in monuments over the centuries. Activities took place among wonderful temples, majestic fora, luxurious spas and impressive show buildings (theatres, amphitheatres and circuses) in a unique scenario that is worth visiting.

**The initiative, for Italian schools, is free subject to booking:**

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