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Opening extract from

Roman Mysteries Quiz Book

Written by

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WELCOME!

If I had a time machine, and could go back to any period in the past, it would be Roman times. I would give anything to know what it was really like to go to the baths, witness a gladiator fight, watch a chariot race . . . I would love to know what first century Rome smelled like, felt like, tasted like. And what it *really* looked like. Sadly, nobody has yet invented a time machine, so I can't go back.

But if someone could fill a book with accurate facts about ancient Rome – as well as vivid descriptions of the sights and smells and tastes –wouldn't that be almost as good as a time machine? That's what I've tried to do in The Roman Mysteries. How do I know what it looked and smelled and tasted like? By visiting the ancient sites, going to museums, reading books, studying their ancient languages and dressing up like a Roman. In so doing, I've collected tons of facts and artefacts. My Roman Mysteries are full of them. So is this Quiz Book.

Artefacts are the things that people used in past times. The Latin word 'artefact' means 'something made by skill'. Artefacts reveal the sight and feel and smell and sound of the ancient world. A glass chariot beaker, with moulded charioteers racing round the central barrier of the Circus Maximus, is the ancient equivalent of a souvenir mug you might buy at your team's stadium gift-shop. It even tells us the names of some ancient charioteers. A

cold bronze bleeding-cup makes us shiver, as we imagine our own lifeblood filling it up. It was the ancient equivalent of paracetamol. A statue thrusting its hand palm outwards shows us what one of the signs against evil looked like. It was the ancient equivalent of knocking on wood or crossing yourself.

I get some of my facts about ancient Rome from modern historians but most I get from the writings of the ancient Romans themselves. For example, we have an eyewitness account of the opening of the Colosseum from a poet called Martial. We have accounts of chariot races, including one which describes the horses' legs 'crackling in the spokes of the wheels' during a terrible crash. We have philosophical accounts in which the wise men of old discuss whether it is better to remain aloof from the pleasures of this world, or to embrace them wholeheartedly. Some of these philosophers were very dull. Roman writers could also be clever, witty and funny. The more I read, the more I suspect the Romans were just like us.

For example, today most people support a football team, and proudly wear its colours to a match. If your star player leaves, then you are sad but you are still faithful to your team. In ancient Roman times, it was exactly the same with chariot racing. If you supported the Greens, and your star charioteer got sold to the Reds, you would be sad. But you would continue to support the Greens.

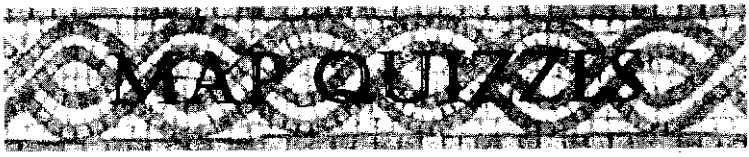
Sometimes people say to me, 'Oh, we're not like the Romans. They were so barbaric. They liked to watch people die horribly in the arena.' But today's films give us a far more visceral view of blood, gore and death than the best seat in the arena ever did. And we love it!

So, as you consider the facts and artefacts in this book, and as you learn more about real life in ancient Rome, ask yourself: 'Am I really so different from them? How would I survive if I was suddenly transported to ancient Rome?'

I would like to thank the four fans, young and old(er), who helped me think up the questions for this quiz book. I would like to thank my husband Richard for his delightful drawings of a ship, a Roman Villa and the Circus Maximus. I would especially like to thank my editor Jon, who is always cheerful and patient.

Finally, I would like to thank Peter Sutton, who has not only produced a succession of exciting book covers for the Roman Mysteries series, but has here taken my photos and clippings of Roman artefacts, and has transformed them into clear and attractive illustrations, so you can know what things really looked like in Roman times.

Vale! (farewell) Caroline

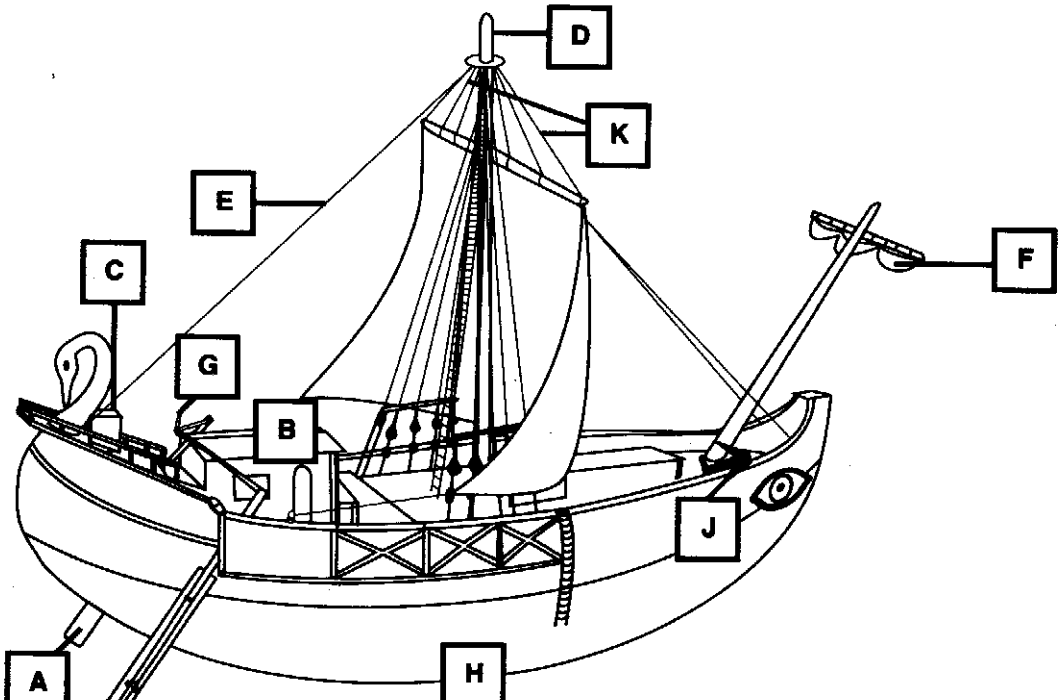


In every Roman Mystery there are maps at the front to show you where the story's action takes place. Can you match the place name to the letter that appears beside it on the map?

ROMAN MERCHANT SHIP

1. Altar *Answer:* .....
2. Anchor *Answer:* .....
3. Artemon *Answer:* .....
4. Deck-house *Answer:* .....
5. Halyard *Answer:* .....
6. Hull *Answer:* .....
7. Lifts *Answer:* .....
8. Mainmast *Answer:* .....
9. Steering oars *Answer:* .....
10. Tiller *Answer:* .....

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 134.

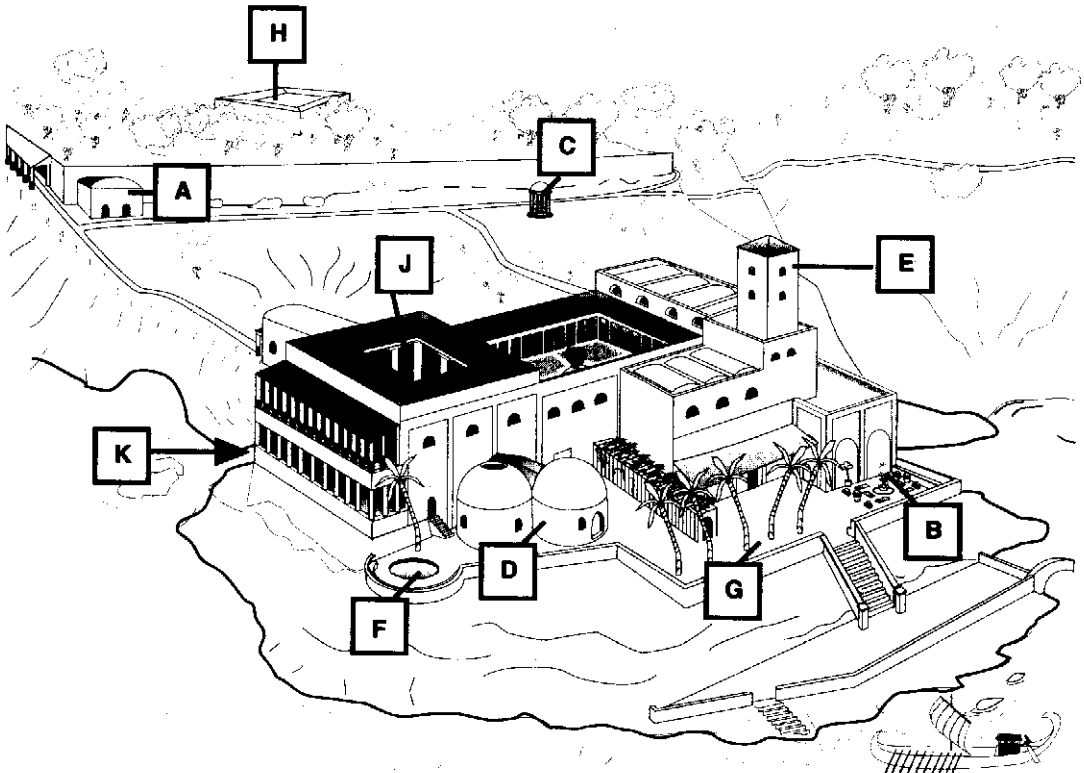


ROMAN MERCHANT SHIP CIRCA AD 80

VILLA OF POLLIUS FELIX

11. Atrium — *Answer:* .....
12. Baths — *Answer:* .....
13. Entrance to the Secret Cove — *Answer:* .....
14. Library Tower — *Answer:* .....
15. Ornamental pool — *Answer:* .....
16. Shrine of Venus — *Answer:* .....
17. Slave quarters — *Answer:* .....
18. Stables — *Answer:* .....
19. Statue of Felix — *Answer:* .....
20. Terrace — *Answer:* .....

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 134.



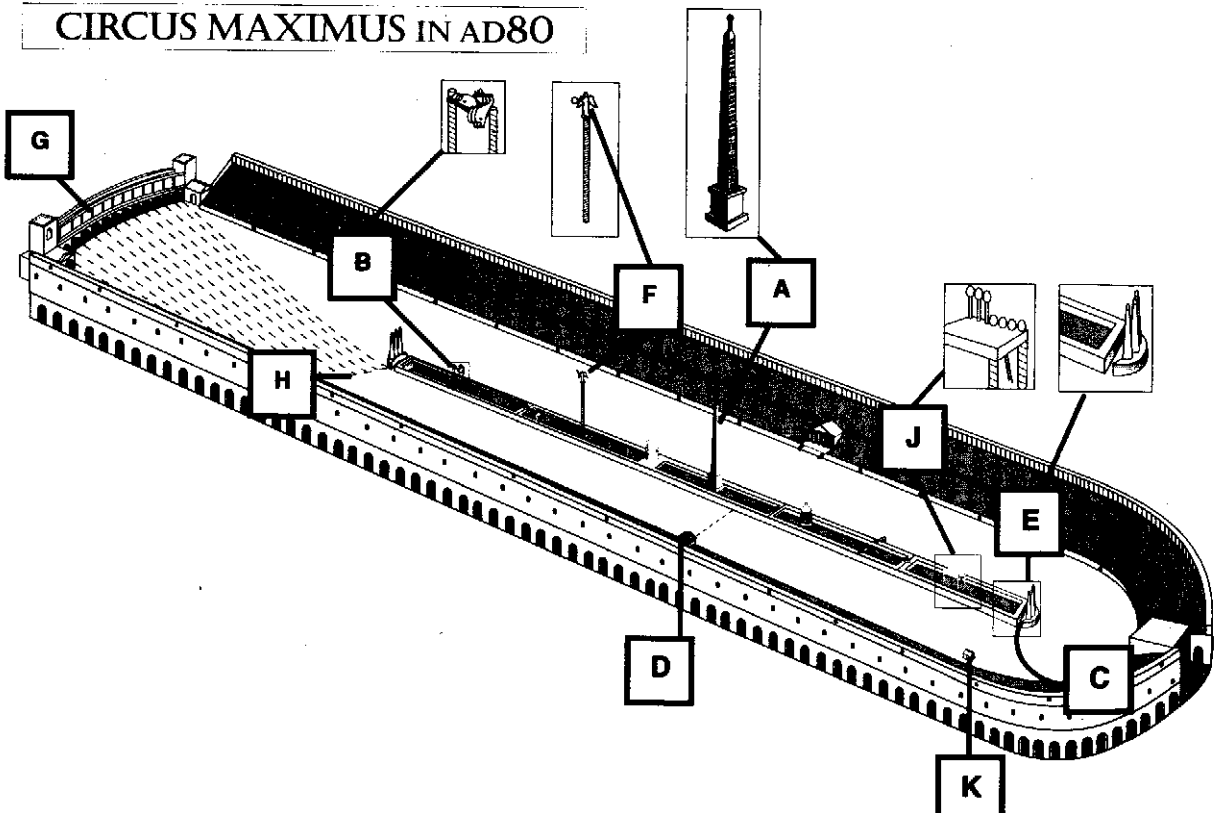
VIEW OF THE VILLA OF POLLIUS FELIX IN AD80

CIRCUS MAXIMUS

21. Carceres (starting gates) *Answer:* .....
22. Dolphin markers *Answer:* .....
23. Egg markers *Answer:* .....
24. Linea alba *Answer:* .....
25. Meta prima *Answer:* .....
26. Obelisk of Augustus *Answer:* .....
27. Shrine of Consus (underground) *Answer:* .....
28. Shrine of Murcia *Answer:* .....
29. Statue of Victory *Answer:* .....
30. Temple of the Sun and Finishing Box *Answer:* .....

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 135.

CIRCUS MAXIMUS IN AD80



THE ENEMIES OF JUPITER



Prometheus, bound, has his liver pecked by a vulture.
(Illustration based on a black-figure vase from c.530 BC)

31. In the opening scroll of *The Enemies of Jupiter*, what kind of meat does Jonathan accidentally burn while cooking his father's birthday dinner?

32. Why did Mordecai ask his daughter Miriam not to attend his birthday dinner party in fever-ravaged Ostia?

33. Which ONE of the following is NOT a diagnostic method used by Doctor Mordecai when he and Jonathan examine the widow Helena Aurelia?
    A. Asking her to say what's bothering her
    B. Asking her to stick out her tongue
    C. Taking her temperature
    D. Observing the general colour of her complexion

34. Which ONE of the following is NOT an ingredient of Doctor Mordecai's special elixir?
    A. Marjoram
    B. Poppy Tears
    C. Turpentine
    D. Honey

35. In the upstairs storeroom of Jonathan's house, in Mordecai's medicine cabinet, is a large, greyish-white cylinder. According to Mordecai, it is extremely expensive and rare. What is it?

36. Flavia's great-grandfather made his fortune trading in which ONE of the following?
    A. Salt
    B. Sugar

C. Silver
D. Slaves

37. Aristo says that tragedy warns us against hubris. What is his two-word definition of hubris?

38. The Romans believed there were four physical types, based on an excess of one of the four humours in the body. Which ONE of the following was NOT one of the four humours?
A. Blood
B. Water
C. Phlegm
D. Yellow Bile
E. Black Bile

39. Which of Mordecai's medical instruments does Nubia mistake for a bronze goat-bell, 'but with no bell noise'?

40. Each of the four humours is associated with one of the four elements. According to Lupus, which element goes with choleric types, like Nubia?

41. Jonathan and his friends receive an invitation to dinner on their first night in the Imperial Palace. The man with bushy eyebrows who delivers the invitation is someone Jonathan has met before. Who?

42. Beside the Imperial Palace on the Palatine Hill stands the Temple of Apollo. From here Flavia and her friends can see the Circus Maximus, the

Roman forum, and – on a hill opposite – the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus. On what hill does that temple stand?

43. Directly behind the Temple of Apollo is the imperial library, two colonnades full of scrolls. One is full of scrolls in Greek. What language are the scrolls in the facing colonnade?

44. Titus's long-haired slave-boys wear a perfume which was very popular in first century Rome. Today we use it as a spice. What is it?

45. Titus gives each of the detectives small rectangular imperial passes, giving them access to all areas. Of what material are these rectangular passes?

46. Which sacred animals – which once raised the alarm against approaching barbarians – live on the Capitoline Hill?

47. What was the name of the rocky part of the Capitoline Hill from which traitors were thrown?

48. In the library housed in the Temple of Apollo, Flavia and her friends meet a freedman of the Emperor who is writing a history of the Jewish people. They have met him before. What is the name of this famous Jewish historian?

49. Which landmark of Rome does Nubia first mistake for a 'boat with trees and temples on it'?

50. The original Sibylline books – foretelling Rome's future – were destroyed in a fire on the Capitoline Hill. According to Ascletario, which Roman emperor tried to reconstruct them?

51. According to Titus's astrologer, Ascletario, the replacement books of prophecy are kept in a golden box in a temple on the Palatine Hill at the foot of the statue of which god?

52. The young apothecary on the Tiber Island keeps his pet – called Ptolemy – in a circular basket. What kind of creature is Ptolemy?

53. At one point, Titus's own daughter falls ill with the fever. What is her name?

54. What holy relic from Jerusalem does Jonathan believe he has found in Nero's Golden House?

55. Hebrew letters are also numbers. Whose name – when written in Hebrew – adds up to 666, the number of The Beast?

56. The friends agree to rendezvous at the library in the Temple of Apollo on the Palatine Hill. If for any reason one of them can't make it on time, the others will leave a message in code. The code will be Latin written backwards but in a different alphabet. Which alphabet?

57. As Josephus is struck down by the fever, he begins to rant. Which ONE of the following animals does he NOT mention in his delirium?
    A. Kitten
    B. Puppy
    C. Buzzing flies
    D. Rock badger

58. When Mordecai and the young detectives are ejected from the Imperial Palace, they seek refuge with Flavia's aunt and uncle? What is the name of Flavia's aunt?

59. As proof of God's wrath against Titus, Agathus lists the disasters that have befallen Rome since he came to power. Which ONE of the following does Agathus NOT mention?
    A. The volcano
    B. The giant wave caused by the volcano
    C. The blighted harvest
    D. The blood red sunsets
    E. The pestilence

60. When Flavia thinks she sees the sun rising in the west – what is she really seeing?

For the answers to these questions, turn to page 135.



61. Which Latin word beginning with 'N' and meaning 'shipwreck!' did people shout when a chariot crashed in the hippodrome?

62. In a chariot race of four bigae from each faction, how many horses are involved?

63. Historians estimate that first century Rome had a million residents. They believe the Flavian amphitheatre (now known as the Colosseum) could seat fifty thousand people. According to some historians, how many people did the Circus Maximus hold?

64. Ancient Roman games and modern Spanish bullfights have all the following things in common except one. Which one?
    A. Important personage sits in the best seat
    B. A procession before the main events
    C. Cushions and snacks sold by vendors
    D. Music played during the events
    E. Handkerchiefs waved to show approval
    F. Execution of criminals during breaks between events
    G. Dead animals dragged off with hooks
    H. Bloody sand raked over to make it look clean again