



# The Day and Life of a Child of Ancient Rome

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Grades 6–8



## Introduction

In this lesson, students will learn about what life was like for an ancient Roman child. They will partake in small-group and independent activities and research the topic of ancient Rome.

## Learning Objectives

1. [Culture](#). Study the daily life on a child from ancient Rome.

## Materials Needed

- Ancient Rome facts
- Computer
- Poster

## Procedure

For the warmup, ask students what a typical day in their life looks like. As you go around the classroom, write down students' answers on the board so they can see the similarities and differences. Next, ask students what they think life would have looked like 100 years ago. Again, go around the classroom to get student answers and write them on the board. Next, tell students they will be learning about ancient Rome and what daily life was like for a child their age.

### Activity 1: Ancient Rome

1. Display a map of Italy and share some background information about ancient Rome.
2. Next, as a class or independently, have students read about [ancient Rome](#).
3. Then, instruct students that they will be doing some of their own research about the daily life of a child in ancient Rome.

### Activity 2: Research Project

1. Explain to students that they will be researching the daily life of a Roman child and writing an essay on what life was like if they were a child living during that time. The essay should include an introduction, three supporting paragraphs that include evidence from their research, and a conclusion.

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2. Explain to students that children born during that time were not given a name until about 8-9 days after they were born because of the high infant mortality rate. Then, instruct students they are to choose a Roman name from [the list](#) to use as their “character name” in the essay.
3. Give students time to research [a typical day in the life of a Roman child](#).
4. Instruct students to take notes that would answer some of the following items.
  - What foods they eat
  - How they play
  - When they wake and sleep
  - What their clothing looks like
  - What their house looks like
  - What they do for fun
5. Challenge students to draw a picture of what they looked like during that time. Students can use the internet to help them get a sense of how children looked back then. Instruct students to attach their drawing to their essays.
6. Finally, have students present their essays and drawings to the class.

### Activity 3: Partner Interview

1. As an enrichment activity, have students partner up and interview each other. Students can ask one another questions like, “Would you have liked living during ancient Roman time? Why or why not?” or “What is the difference between living back then and living now?”
2. Then, have each group share one question and answer from their interview with the class.

## Evaluation

Assess students' knowledge by their essays and partner interview. Evaluate essay to determine if it includes all the required components.