

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

The Stuff They Left Behind

Understanding History through Artifacts and Architecture

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From the Days of
Ancient Rome



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Use these beautiful photographs of artifacts and architecture either *before* you read from a living history book, to create interest in a time period, or *after* you read, to clarify and elaborate on what was read. The leading thoughts and discussion questions below will give you some ideas, but be careful to allow plenty of time for careful looking and encourage students to share their own observations and make their own personal connections.

Forum

Rome

Photo Credit: Carla Tavares



Roman cities almost always had a forum—a spacious, central area of land where people could gather. Many times government buildings surrounded the forum. You can see portions of them still standing in this picture. What do you notice about them? Why do you suppose they built those buildings near the forum? Statues honoring the city's great men and monuments of historic events were also placed in the forum. What else do you see?

The forum has been called “the teeming heart of ancient Rome.” Why do you suppose it got that name? Why would the people want to or need to gather? What kinds of things do you suppose happened at the forum?

Aqua Claudia Aqueduct

Near Rome

Photo Credit: Chris 73



The Romans used aqueducts to provide a steady supply of water to the people in their cities. Most of their supply lines ran underground, built at just the right angle to work with gravity and keep the water flowing at a good pace. But whenever they came to an obstacle, like a ravine or a valley, they built a water bridge like this one to keep the channel going. What do you notice about this aqueduct?

Structures like these were possible because the Romans had figured out the secret of concrete: a mixture of sand and stone, cement, and water. How do you suppose they constructed those arches? Why do you think they put arches there?

Parthian Warrior Statue

National Museum of Iran



Far to the east of Italy, the Persian culture was alive and well. In fact, Rome and Persia squared off in many battles. This statue was found in Iran, the area that used to belong to Persia. What do you notice about this warrior?

The statue was made from bronze and stands about six feet high. How is this warrior statue different from a classic Roman soldier statue? Compare it with the picture of Augustus' statue elsewhere in this portfolio.

Gladiator Helmet

British Museum

Photo Credit: Silver Tusk



As Rome grew more prosperous, many of its citizens lived for amusement. They started training their slaves to fight against other slaves or against wild beasts, and people would flock to watch those vicious fights.

These trained slaves were called gladiators, and this is one type of helmet that they wore. What do you notice about the helmet? Which parts are for decoration and which for safety, do you suppose?







