

The Romans in Malta

Fill in the blanks with the words provided below:

Melite; first; Rabat; 1882; Maltese; peristyle;
mosaic; birds; grapes; 218 BC; Domus Romana.



Malta in the territories of the Roman Empire

The Romans occupied Malta during the Second Punic War when Titus Sempronius Longus invaded it in _____. The capital city was Mdina, which was called _____. At that time this was larger than it is now and incorporated parts that today are called _____.

One of the many roman structures is found close to Mdina and is called the _____. This house probably belonged to a rich Roman and dates back to the 1st century BC.

The remains of the house were first excavated in _____ and was then covered by the present Museum to house Roman remains found all over the _____ islands. The main attraction of the house is the _____, covered with _____ and surrounded by 16 columns, only one of which is original.

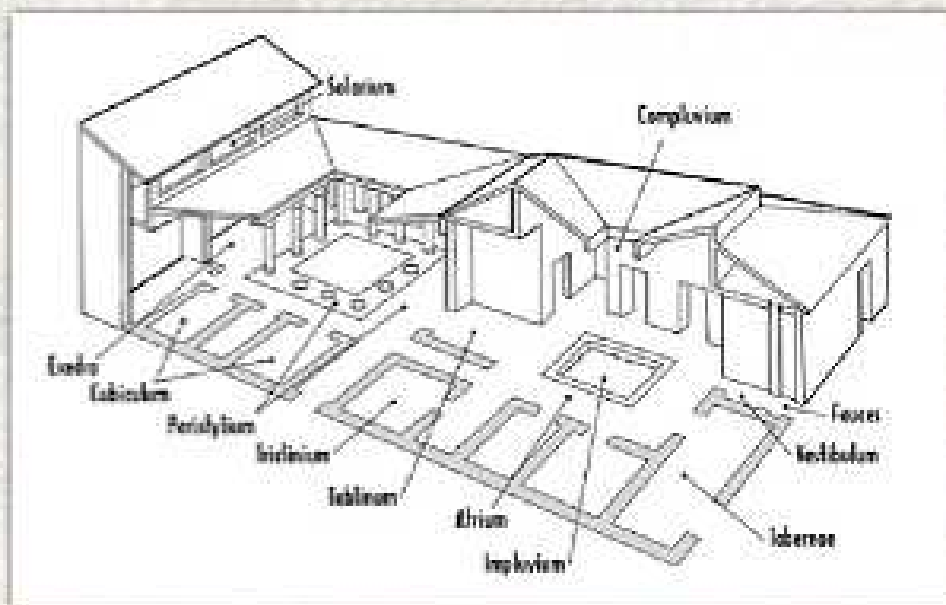
There are various other mosaics in the house. One of the mosaics depicts two _____, perched on the rim of a bowl of water. Another shows a little boy holding a bunch of _____ in one hand and a pomegranate in the other. Yet another shows a nude male figure held by two women. The mosaics probably date back to the _____ century BC.



The mosaic floor of the central courtyard

What were Roman homes like?

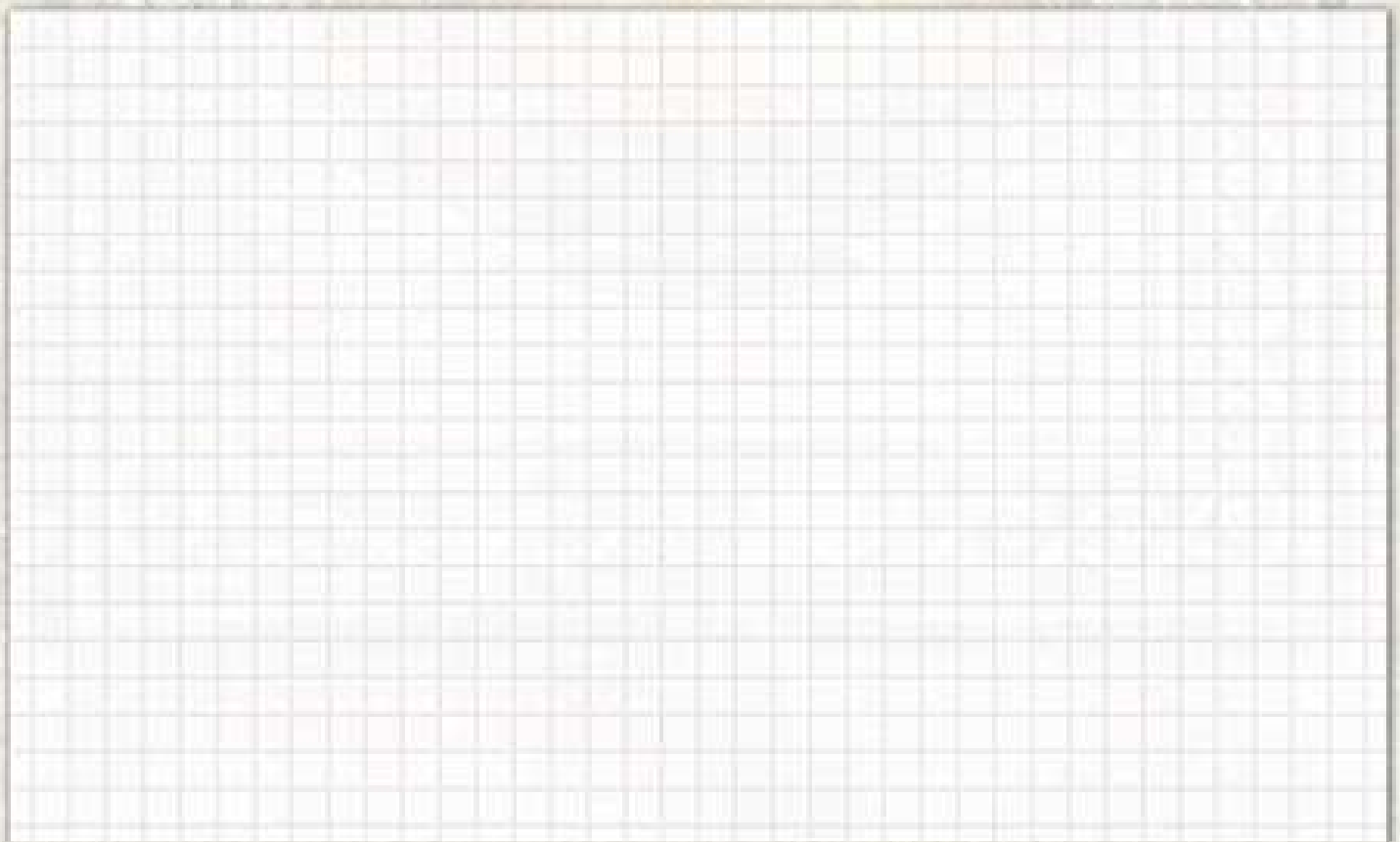
Wealthy Romans living in towns lived in a domus which was a town house built around courtyards known as atrium and peristyle. These had rooms opening up from them and had no roofs.



A rich Roman house had many rooms including a kitchen, bathroom, dining room, bedrooms and rooms for slaves.

A long covered porch, or verandah, with a low wall and pillars, was built along the front of the house to keep the rooms cool in the summer.

Draw a plan of the Roman Domus at Rabat. Keep in mind the description given above and the archaeological remains in the museum.



Roman Food

Write a list of the various food items you can observe from the mosaics and artefacts in the museum.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Can you create a menu for a buffet lunch from the items you have found?



List of Food which was **NOT** available during the Roman period.

- Potatoes
- Tomatoes
- Chocolate
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tea
- Pasta

Roman Numerals

The Romans used only 7 letters to represent all numbers ...

I	1	VIII	8	LX	60
II	2	IX	9	LXX	70
III	3	X	10	LXXX	80
IV	4	XX	20	XC	90
V	5	XXX	30	C	100
VI	6	XL	40	D	500
VII	7	L	50	M	1000

Letters are placed before or after each other to lower or increase their value.

IX = 9 MXI = 1011 MCMLXXXVIII = 1988 IIMM = 1998 MMXII = 2012

Can you complete the table using Roman numerals?

	Amphorae	Statues	Roman Columns	Glass Cups	Broaches	Masks
How many can you count? Write down your answer in Roman numbers in each column.						

The Roman Language

Our alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet. The Romans spoke Latin.
These are the letters of the Roman alphabet:

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V X

The letters K, Y and Z weren't used very often. The letter J was the same as I, and U the same as V.

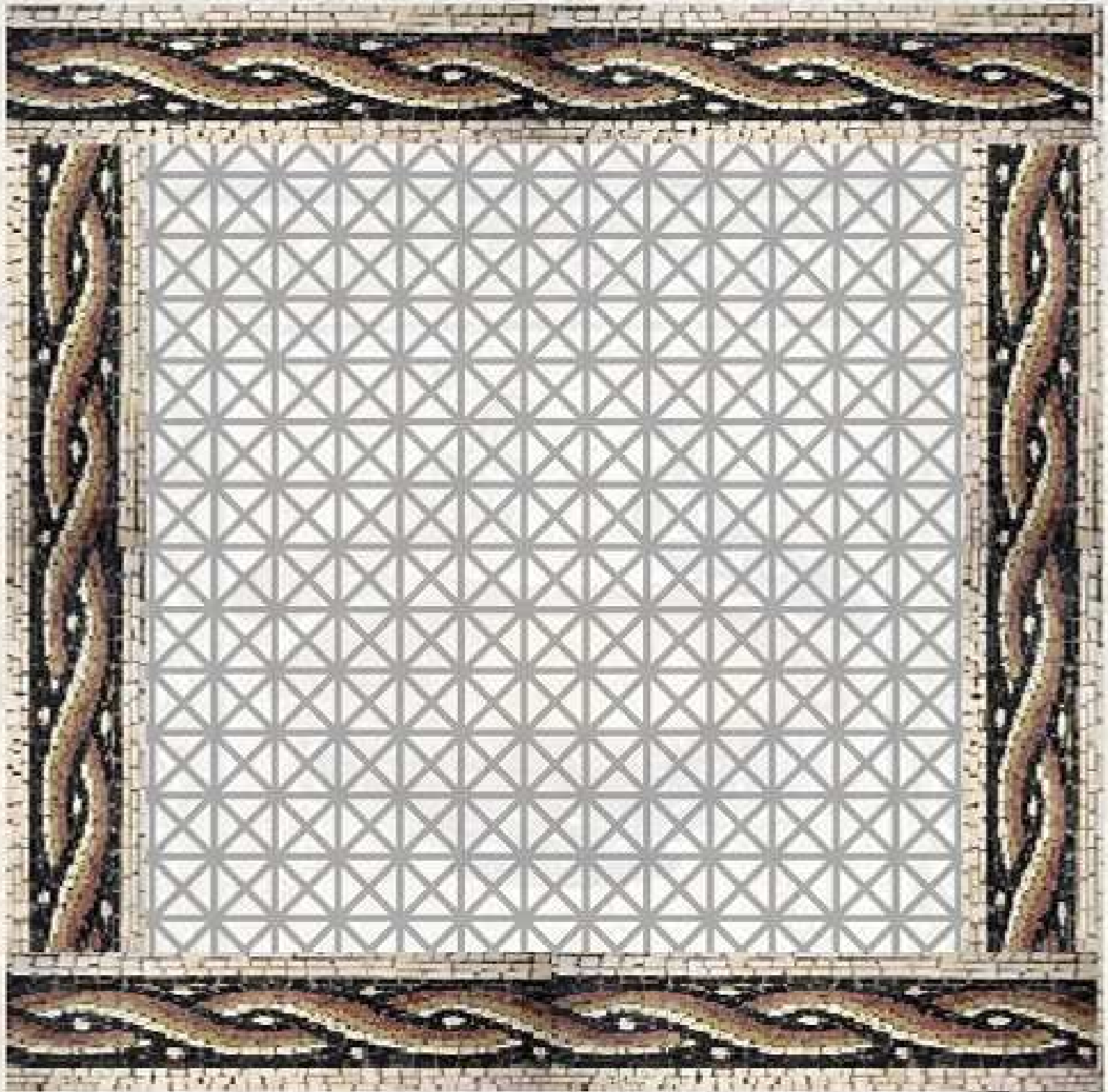
Write your name and surname using the Roman alphabet:

NOMEN (Name):

COGNOMEN (Surname):



Roman Mosaics



Using the styles of mosaic found at the Domus Romana and using your imagination, create your own mosaic by filling in the spaces with different colours.

Send your mosaics to the Museum and the best will be exhibited.

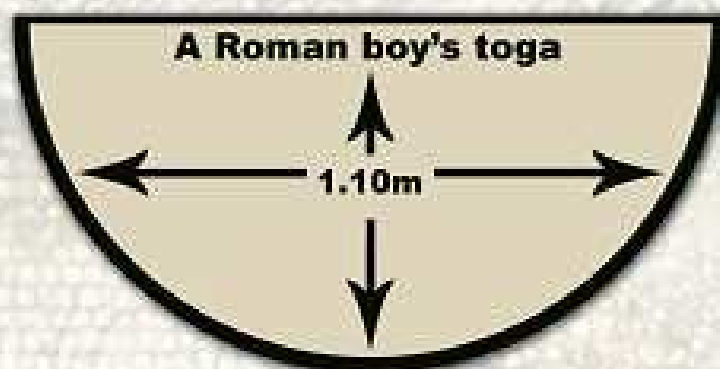
Roman Dress

Why don't you try to make your own toga? Ask one of the museum employees at the front desk to give you a piece of fabric and follow these simple instructions to make your own toga which you can wear while touring the museum.

Instructions:



1. Drape the left-hand end of the toga over your left shoulder.
2. Hold the other end in your right hand and bring it up under your arm.
3. Now throw the right end over your left shoulder.
4. Finally tuck the middle of your toga into your belt.



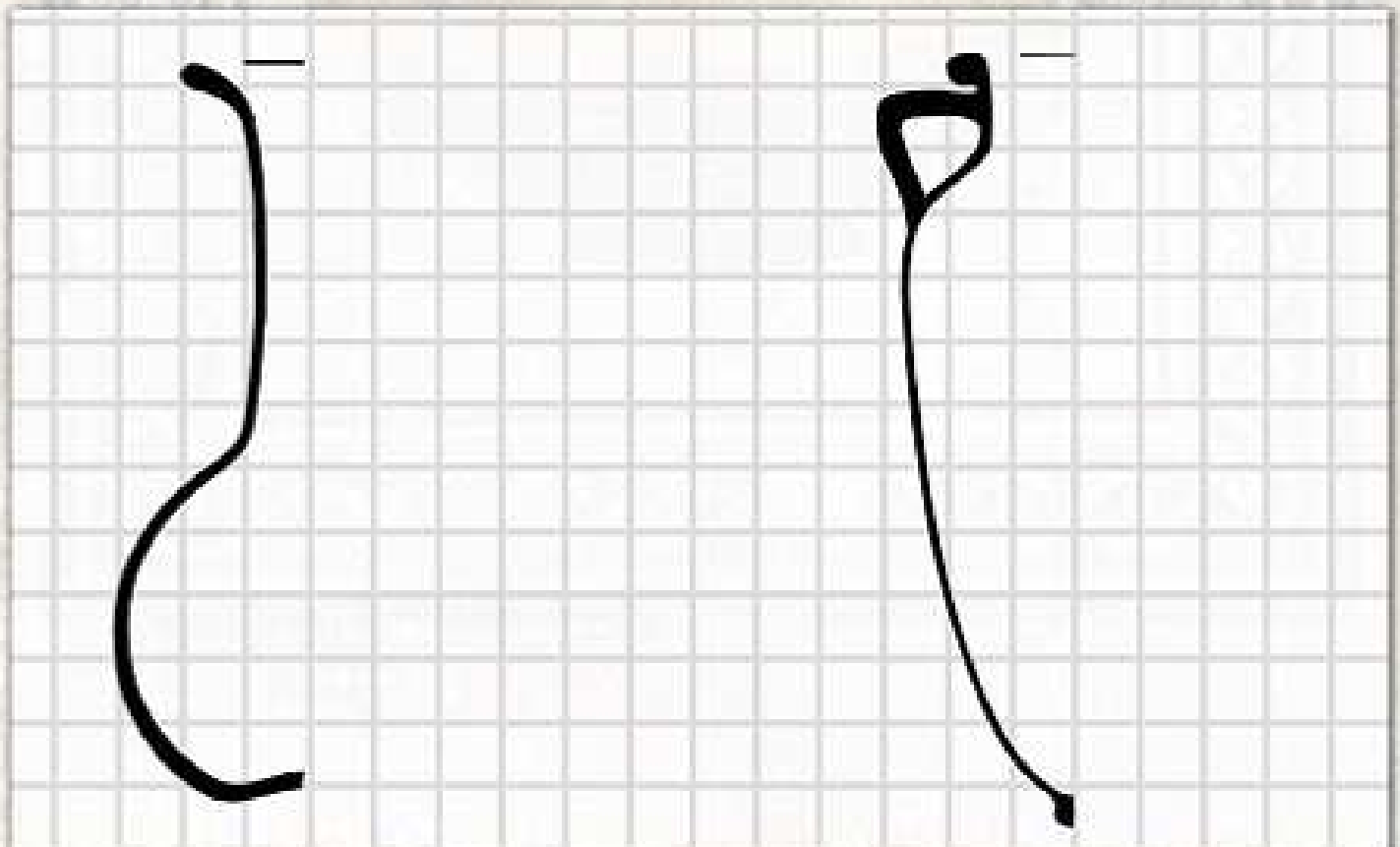
Roman Glass



The spread of glassblowing within the Roman Empire in circa 120 AD.

Glassblowing is a glass forming technique which was invented by the Phoenicians at approximately 50 BC somewhere along the Syro-Palestinian coast. Glassblowing was greatly encouraged under Roman rule. Glass was blown in many areas of the Roman world including Lebanon, Israel and Palestine as well as in the neighbouring province of Cyprus.

Using the grid provided, continue the missing half of the two glass vessels.



And after the Romans...

In the year 870 AD, both Malta and Sicily fell into the hands of the Arabs.

The Arabs ruled Malta for 260 years, having a great influence over our civilisation, the most important of which was that on our language.

The Arabs, however, also began fortifying the Maltese Islands. They reduced the size of Mdina and gave it its name, surrounded with strong walls and dug a deep moat around it. They also built a fortress in the Grand Harbour which was later replaced by Fort St. Angelo.

Due to the reduced size of the city, the Roman Domus ended up outside the walls of the small city. It was thus used as a Muslim cemetery in which were buried more than 245 Muslims.

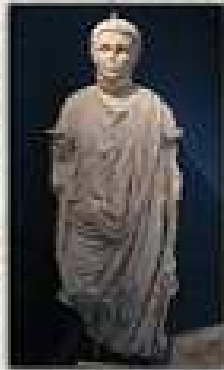
The museum at the Domus Romana features a model of a Muslim grave with a skeleton lying inside.

List 3 features of the way the skeleton is lying in the tomb which distinguishes it from tombs of other times:



- How's he lying (note the direction)
- Use the compass provided
- Mark the orientation on the tomb.

Worksheets for Young Children



Draw a missing head for the statues and colour them in.



The masks used in Roman theatre reflected the mood of the character. Label the masks below with the mood you think the mask is showing.



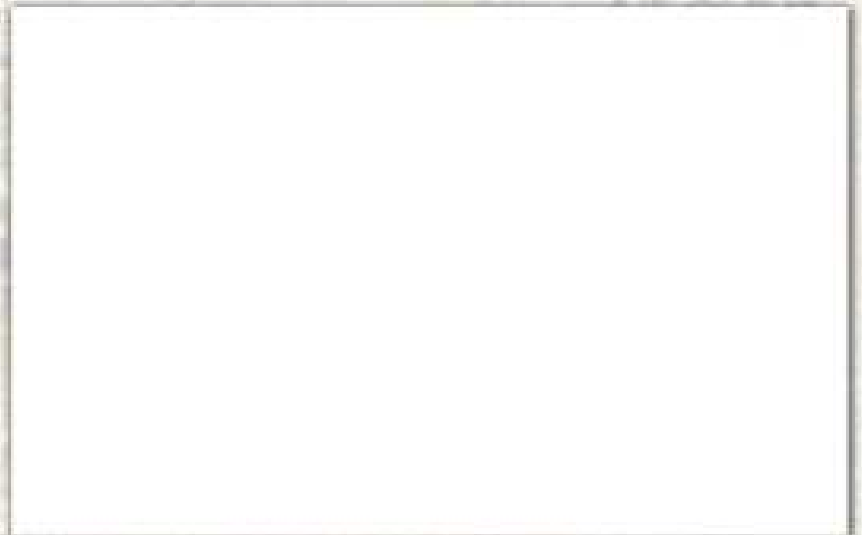
Mask 1: _____

Mask 2: _____

Mask 3: _____

Facial Expressions: Moods: Happy; Sad; Worried; Angry; Thoughtful; Surprised; Cruel; Shy; Cunning.

In the box to your right, draw a mask which shows how you are feeling today.



Worksheets for Young Children

Below is a picture of one of the mosaics found at the Roman Domus. The mosaic however has been patched throughout the ages by the people living in the domus and needs some re-decoration.

Use your imagination to re-decorate the mosaic and bring it back to its original splendour.

