



Expanded Interiors

Bringing contemporary site-specific fine-art practice to Roman houses at Herculaneum and Pompeii



TEACHING RESOURCES



Activity sheets



ACTIVITY 1

1 Read background information 1 and discuss the ancient sites of Pompeii and Herculaneum with your class.

- Can you locate Pompeii and Herculaneum on a map?
- How were Pompeii and Herculaneum destroyed? When did it happen?
- When were Pompeii and Herculaneum rediscovered?
- What happened after their re-discovery?

Check the Expanded Interiors website for further info: www.expandedinteriors.co.uk.

2 Draw your own maps. Draw a map of Italy and locate Pompeii and Herculaneum on it. You can use free online maps such as Google Earth or download a free map of ancient Italy from the Ancient World Mapping Center website: <http://awmc.unc.edu/wordpress/>.

3 This activity can result in the creation of the first section of your exhibition. You will now know where Pompeii and Herculaneum were located and what is their history before and after the destruction by Mons Vesuvius in 79 AD.



ACTIVITY 2

1 Read background information **2** and discuss it with your class:

- How were walls and floors of Roman houses decorated? Is it the same today? What are the main differences?
- Lots of images were displayed on the walls and floors of Roman houses. What types of images were displayed? What do you think they were there for? Do people keep images in their own houses nowadays? What types of images do people have? Where are the images displayed and why?

Check the Expanded Interiors website for further info: www.expandedinteriors.co.uk.

2 Look at the frescoes from the House of the Cryptoporticus and the House of the Beautiful Courtyard and get inspired to produce your own artwork! Ask your pupil to think about how they would decorate a specific room in their house. You can use any techniques and materials you want, but here are some suggestions: coloured pencils, paintings, watercolours, paper collage from old magazines cuttings. You can also research online how to make frescoes and try to reproduce the roman fresco technique with your class

3 Look at the myths represented on the frescoes from the House of the Cryptoporticus. Go online and find the stories that refer to those myths. You can read them with your pupils and ask them if and how the stories are still relevant today. What types of people do we celebrate or commemorate in our society? Are there exemplary stories that people tell/are being told?

4 Ask your pupils to get inspired to produce their own artworks and create visual stories. They can refer to ancient as well as to modern heroes/popular characters. Feel free to choose any technique you like, but here are some suggestions: drawings, paintings, paper mosaics, collages of paper cuttings or even comic strips!

5 This activity can result in the creation of the second section of your exhibition. You will present the role of visual art and mythology into Roman domestic contexts, and how it can be still relevant today.



ACTIVITY 3

How are ancient objects relevant to us today? Objects are relevant to the way we live and use spaces today, as they are part of our daily life and surround us everywhere. The same happened in the past. So, how can looking at Roman and contemporary objects help our understanding of the way the Romans lived in the past and of how we live today?

1 Read background information 3 and discuss it with your class. These are a few ideas that you can explore with your pupils:

- Objects can bring memories and meanings to life. These memories and meanings can be multiple and conflicting. They can tell different stories or hold different meanings to different people.
- Objects communicate ideas, symbolize values, and convey emotions.
- Objects can be relevant to people at various times and in different ways through time. They can encapsulate values from a distant (or not so distant) past and can tell us things about the past.
- Objects can reflect changes through time: changes in technology, in values, in notions and beliefs, changes in people's lives. They can express ideas about innovation and tradition but also reflect continuity from the past.

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2 Ask pupils to bring objects from home that they particularly like or particularly dislike. Organize small groups of 3 to 4 pupils and ask each member of the group to discuss the objects they have brought:

- Why are the objects relevant to their lives? Why do they like/dislike them?
- What is the story beyond the objects?
- Are the objects relevant to somebody else in the group? Why?
- Have the objects different meanings to different people?
- How do the objects capture moments of your pupils' lives?
- Have the objects changed through time? How? How they reflect these changes?

3 Now bring to the table some images of Roman artefacts that were found in houses in Pompeii and Herculaneum and discuss about them with your pupils. You may want to share with them information about the story of the objects themselves, where they were found, what they were used for, what they can tell us about Roman culture and society.

4 Ask your pupils to get inspired by the discussion and by ancient Roman objects and produce their own objects from whatever material you find suitable to use in the class. It can be from recycled materials, air drying clay, cardboard, papier-mâché, and so on.

5

This activity can result in the creation of the **third section of your exhibition**: what types of stories do Roman and contemporary objects tell? How are objects relevant to us today? What did they mean to people in the past?



ACTIVITY 4

1 Read background information 3 and discuss it with your class. You can also check the Expanded Interiors website: www.expandedinteriors.co.uk.

Ask pupils to bring to school an object/poster/image representing someone. It can be the portrait of a family member, the picture of a pop star and so on.

- Where do you see sculptures/portraits today? Where are they displayed?
- What are they made of?
- Does size matter?
- Does location matter?
- How is sculpture relevant to our contemporary life?

2 If your local museum has a collection of Roman sculptures, why not paying it a visit? Where do you normally see sculptures from the Roman period? How do you think that seeing them in a museum, away from their original context, shapes the way we think about Roman sculpture?

- Where were Roman sculptures originally displayed?
- What types of sculptures were displayed?
- Were they unique objects/multiple replicas?
- Did size matter? Did materiality matter?
- Can statues tell us a story?

3 Ask your pupils to get inspired! Make your own sculpture out of the images you have brought in. Get inspired by the visual imagery from the past and by the way roman sculptures can still be relevant today. Sculptures can be made with whatever material you choose: get creative and use recycled materials, fabric or metal scraps, papier-mâché, air drying clay and so on.

5 This activity can result in the creation of the fourth section of your exhibition: how is identity expressed by portraits? How are portraits and sculptures relevant to us today? What did they mean to people in the past?
