

Roman Writing Matching activity

This activity is designed to explore the wide range of objects that Romans wrote on and the aspects of Roman life they provide evidence for.

Grey cards are modern objects with writing on. White cards are ancient ones. Cards are arranged with their match on the printed sheet. Cut them out and ask the class to match pairs with similar functions and meanings.

Look at the pairs you have made and ask:

- Are these good comparisons?
- How are they similar?
- How are they different?
- Do they use the same materials and technologies?
- Do they show the same ideas or beliefs?
- Can you think of more up-to-date modern equivalents?
- By focusing on objects, what kind of modern writing do we leave out (the internet). Do you think much similarly ephemeral and informal Roman writing survives?
- Who do you think is doing the reading and writing? Are they rich or poor, male or female, slave or free?

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Man writes "An instalment from London" on a bomb during WWII



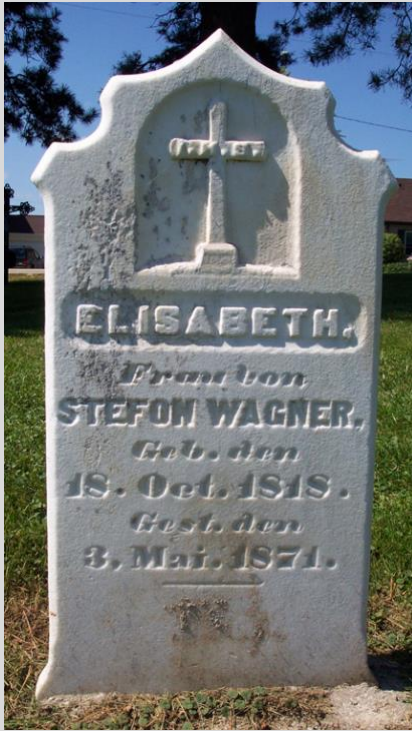
Roman Lead object. Inscription reads: "Rufus, Commander"



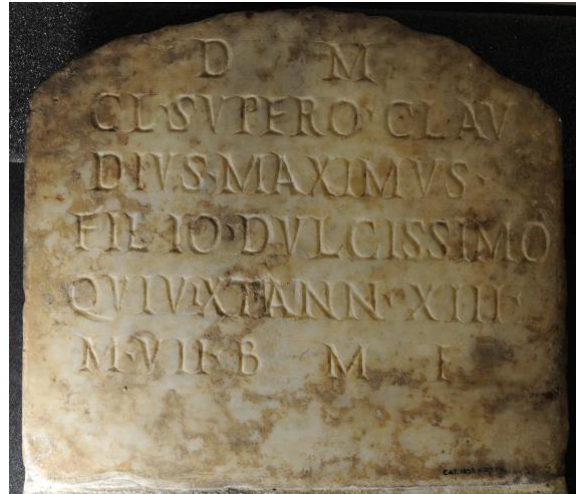
Modern rubber stamp



Roman bronze object with raised writing. Gives the name "Gaius Terentius Maximus"



Modern headstone



Roman stone slab. Reads:

“To the departed spirits.
To Claudius Superus. Claudius Maximus
set this up for his sweetest son who lived 13
years, 7 months, well-deserving.”



Modern bricks



Roman clay object. Reads:

‘In the consulship of Apronianus and
Paetinus. Of Marcus Vinicius Herculanus’.



Modern steelyard balance weighing scale.



Roman bronze object, marked with numbers.



Autographed Bass Guitar



Roman Pan Pipes marked with the names "Satavacus" and "Bellicia"



Glass bottle with company name on it



Roman bottles marked "of Frontinus"



Modern personalised mug



Roman cup decorated with the word "Felix" which is a name that also translates to "Lucky"