

# THE ANCIENT GRAFFITI PROJECT SEARCH ENGINE: LESSON PLAN

Created by Jacqueline DiBiasie Sammons, Th

The lesson should cover 45 minutes of class time. This class should take place in a computer lab or other setting where each student will have access to a computer.

*Nota bene:* some of the graffiti in Herculaneum are sexually explicit. The translations on the AGP Search Engine use classroom-appropriate vocabulary when possible.

## PART 1: OBJECTIVES

1. Learners will explore different examples of graffiti in the Roman city of Herculaneum
2. Learners will explore the city through an interactive map of the site
3. Learners will practice recording ancient graffiti and deciphering documentation about this artifact type
4. Learners will glean information about Roman culture from primary texts
5. Learners will discover how technology and science can improve our understanding of the ancient world

## PART 2: IMPLEMENTATION

1. Launch (10 min.)
  - a. Teacher explains the purpose of the lesson. Teacher should provide a basic introduction to the city of Herculaneum and ancient graffiti.
2. Worksheet (30 min.)
  - a. Teacher guides students through the accompanying worksheet. Learners choose three buildings to investigate in Herculaneum using the Ancient Graffiti Project Search Engine ([www.ancientgraffiti.org](http://www.ancientgraffiti.org)). Learners start with understanding basics about the graffiti in their buildings including the number of graffiti found in them and the types of graffiti. Later, learners move to higher order learning. They analyze how the graffiti might inform archaeologists about life in a Roman city. They postulate about who wrote the graffiti and why they wrote them.
  - b. Teacher should move around the room to aid with questions.
3. Closing (5 min.)
  - a. Teacher should ask students to share answers for several questions on the worksheet. The teacher might start with the question "which graffito is the most interesting to you," as students may be eager to share a text that interested them.

## PART 3: ASSESSMENT

4. Teacher should collect worksheets to gauge learners' understanding of this archaeological material and its ability to inform Roman daily life.
5. A follow-up lesson could include having students make graffiti themselves either on a "wall" (poster board) or in small pieces of plaster made of Plaster of Paris. Students can practice creating Latin phrases and sentences and writing in Roman cursive style.

## PART 4: SUPPORTING MATERIALS

6. Ancient Graffiti Project Search Engine student worksheet, AGP\_Lesson PowerPoint, Zangemeister letter form sheet