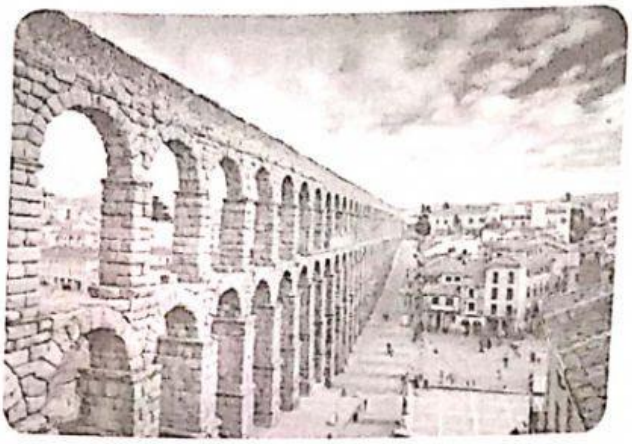
Water supply in Ancient Rome

In about 75 CE, a Roman historian called Pliny the Elder wrote a book called *Natural Histories*. In one part of the book he wrote about an aqueduct built by the Emperor Claudius.



The aqueduct produced by the costly works begun by the Emperor Caligula and completed by Claudius is better than all earlier aqueducts. The waters in this aqueduct are carried a distance of 40 miles. They are carried at such a high level that even the hills on which Rome is built are supplied with water. There is plenty of water for public baths, ponds, canals, private mansions, public gardens and country estates close to the city. The achievement of supplying all this water is added to the distance the water travels before entering the city. Also impressive is the height of the arches, the tunnelling of mountains and the levelling of routes across deep valleys. When everything is looked at, this must rate as the most remarkable achievement anywhere in the world.

Based on Pliny the Elder's *Natural Histories*

1 How far was the source of the water from the city of Rome?

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2 What was the water used for when it reached the city?

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3 Which parts of the aqueduct did Pliny think were particularly impressive?

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