

Name _____

Class _____

Target Lesson: Finding the Best Evidence with “Fast Food in Ancient Rome”

PART 1: Warm-Up: Picture Study

Directions: Look at the pictures and answer the questions.

Pompeii was an ancient city located in Italy.



["Theatres of Pompeii"](#) by ElfQrin is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Mount Vesuvius is a volcano that erupted and buried Pompeii in 79 CE.



["Vesuvius from plane"](#) by I, Pastorius is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

A thermopolium was a type of shop in Pompeii that sold both cold and hot food.



["Thermopolium I.9.4. in Pompeii, 2016"](#) by Sarahhoa is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

Today you're going to learn about a thermopolium, a special place where ancient Romans ate.

- What do you notice about Pompeii?
- What do you wonder?

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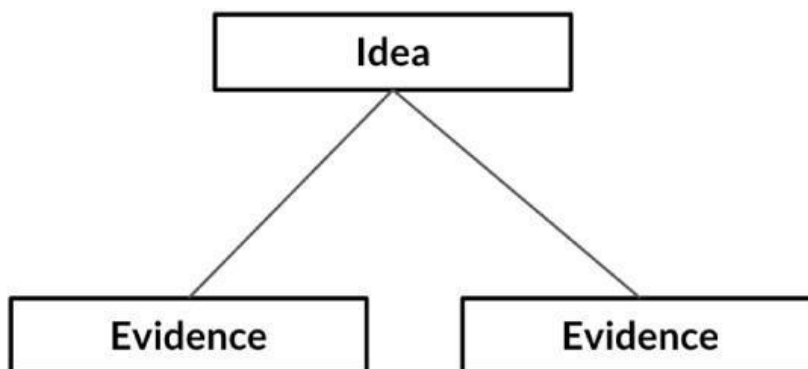
PART 2: Video Introducing the Target Skill

Directions: Watch the video and then answer the question.

1. How do you identify the best evidence?

PART 3: Review the Target Skill - Finding the Best Evidence

Today we will practice identifying the best evidence to support ideas.



Ask yourself: "Which piece of evidence BEST supports the idea?"

PART 4: Reading and Answering Questions

Directions: Read the text and answer the questions.

Fast Food in Ancient Rome

by Tracy Vonder Brink

[1] “Would you like that for here or to go?” is not what you might imagine hearing 2,000 years ago. But ancient Romans enjoyed fast food as much as we do today. While they didn’t have drive-throughs, Romans on-the-go could grab a quick bite from a thermopolium, a sort of snack bar or lunch counter.

[2] A thermopolium was a small room or food stall that opened to the street on one side. Customers ordered at a long counter made of stone. The shop’s owner put clay jars of food into round holes on top of the counter. Some of the food was hot and ready-to-go, or it could be warmed up on a stove in the back. Other pots held cold food that could be taken home and cooked. Some of these restaurants had tables in the back for dine-in, but many were carry-out only.

[3] The sides of the counters and the walls were brightly painted. Some paintings were for decoration. Others showed what was on the menu. Some of the paintings might have been a sort of brand¹ name, like we recognize McDonald’s golden arches today.

[4] What could a hungry Roman in a hurry expect to carry out? Meats, cheeses, lentils, olives, vegetables, and eggs were all on the menu. For extra flavor, the customer could add garum, a fish sauce ancient Romans put on everything — kind of like how we use ketchup. Hot drinks were also for sale.

Paragraph 2

1. Which detail from the text shows how a thermopolium allowed ancient Roman customers to pick up food quickly?

- A. “ancient Romans enjoyed fast food as much as we do today.” (Paragraph 1)
- B. “Customers ordered at a long counter made of stone.” (Paragraph 2)
- C. “Some of the food was hot and ready-to-go” (Paragraph 2)
- D. “Some of these restaurants had tables in the back for dine-in” (Paragraph 2)

Paragraph 4

2. An ancient Roman thermopolium used paint...

- A. to print receipts for customers.
- B. to demonstrate what kind of food they sold.

¹ **Brand** (noun): a kind of product made by one particular company

[5] We know about these food stands because the Romans wrote about them, and also because we can see some of them today. In 79 CE, a volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted² near the city of Pompeii in Italy. Volcanic stone and ash poured down — between 19 and 23 feet (6 to 7 m) of it. The layers buried Pompeii and everything in it, locking the city away like a time capsule.³

[6] Archeologists are scientists who use what people left behind to learn who they were and how they lived. Archeologists have made many discoveries in Pompeii. Including finding more than 80 fast food restaurants!

[7] At one food stand in Pompeii, scientists found a clay jar full of over 6lbs (3kg) of coins. It might have been used as sort of a cash register for payments. Or the shop owner could have put it there for safekeeping when the volcano erupted, planning to come back for it later.

[8] In 2020, archeologists uncovered a food counter that had bits of duck bones, fish bones, snail shells, and other animal bones left in serving jars. The food matched some of the menu painted on the sides of the counter. They also found a painting of people waiting in line for food. It might have been like an advertisement⁴ for the shop.

[9] We might think of fast food as a modern⁵ invention, but archeology shows that people have enjoyed quick meals out for a long time. Even if they didn't have French fries.

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² to burst suddenly; explode

³ a container for papers or objects to be buried or saved for discovery and study in the future

⁴ **Advertisement** (*noun*): a notice that tells people about items for sale, services, or things that are happening

⁵ **Modern** (*adjective*): present; current

Paragraph 4

3. Which detail from the text best supports your answer to question 2?

- A. "The sides of the counters and the walls were brightly painted." (Paragraph 3)
- B. "Some paintings...showed what was on the menu." (Paragraph 3)
- C. "What could a hungry Roman in a hurry expect to carry out?" (Paragraph 3)
- D. "For extra flavor, the customer could add garum, a fish sauce" (Paragraph 4)

Paragraph 5

4. Which piece of evidence illustrates how the Mount Vesuvius eruption preserved many thermopolium artifacts?

- A. "We know about these food stands because the Romans wrote about them" (Paragraph 5)
- B. "In 79 CE, a volcano called Mount Vesuvius erupted" (Paragraph 5)
- C. " Volcanic stone and ash poured down — between 19 and 23 feet (6 to 7 m) of it." (Paragraph 5)
- D. "The layers buried Pompeii and everything in it, locking the city away" (Paragraph 5)

Paragraph 9

5. Which detail from the text shows how archeologists discovered what was eaten at a thermopolium?

- A. "At one food stand in Pompeii, scientists found a clay jar full of over 6lbs (3kg) of coins." (Paragraph 7)
- B. "archeologists uncovered a food counter that had bits of duck bones, fish bones, snail shells, and other animal bones left in serving jars." (Paragraph 8)
- C. "They also found a painting of people waiting in line for food." (Paragraph 8)
- D. "We might think of fast food as a modern invention, but archeology shows that people have enjoyed quick meals out for a long time." (Paragraph 9)

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PART 5: Assessment

Directions: Answer the questions.

1. According to the article, how were ancient food stands similar to today's fast food restaurants?

- _____
- A. "The shop's owner put clay jars of food into round holes on top of the counter." (Paragraph 2)
 - B. "Some of the paintings might have been a sort of brand name, like we recognize McDonald's golden arches today." (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "Meats, cheeses, lentils, olives, vegetables, and eggs were all on the menu." (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "We know about these food stands because the Romans wrote about them, and also because we can see some of them today." (Paragraph 5)

2. What did archeologists discover in Pompeii about the way people in ancient Rome ate? Explain your answer using at least two pieces of evidence from the text.
