

Ancient Rome

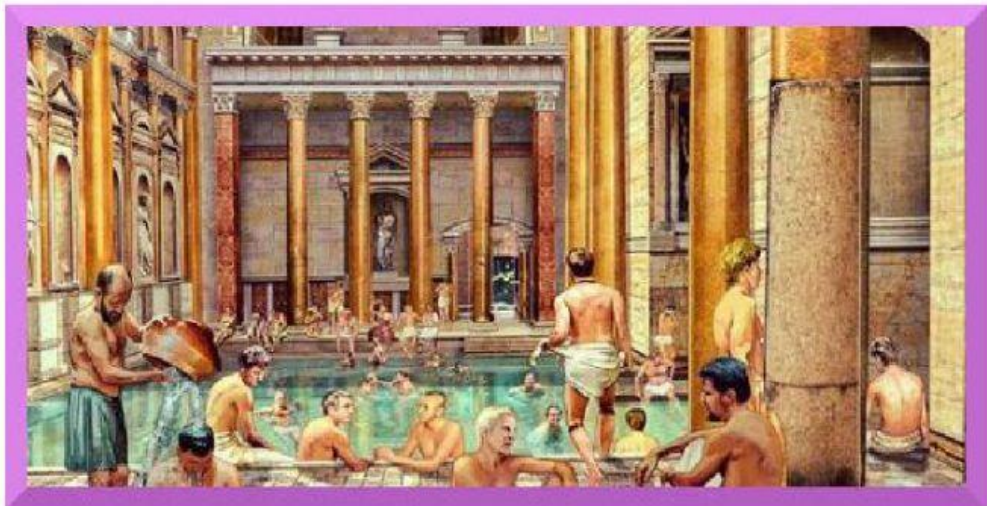
The Baths

Class IV

Name: _____ Sec: _____ Roll no: _____ Date: _____

The public bath in Rome is where people came to bathe, relax, and socialize. Most Romans did not have running water in their homes, and the public baths were the best way to get clean. Those living in the city usually went to the baths every day. Though it cost money to enter the baths, it did not cost very much, and politicians or emperors sometimes paid to allow the public to attend. Water was carried to the baths from lakes or rivers by aqueducts. There were also underground pipes and sewage systems. The floors of the baths were kept warm by a Roman system called a hypocaust that circulated hot air under the floors. A Roman bath could be very large and have many different rooms. The place where people changed out of their clothing was called the Apodyterium. The warm bath was in the main central hall and was called the Tepidarium. This was frequently a place for people to meet and talk. The Caldarium had a hot and steamy room with a very hot bath. The Frigidarium had a cold bath where people could relax and cool down at the end of a hot day. The baths also had a gymnasium where people could lift weights, throw the discus, or play various ball games. This was called the Palaestra. Really large baths might also have libraries, serve food, and provide space for reading. Some wealthy people had private baths inside their homes. Like we do today, they had to pay for the water that they used. However, as the baths were as much about a social life as they were about getting clean, even those with private

baths often visited the public baths.



Q. Write the correct answer in the Word Box

1. What did ancient Romans do in the public baths?

- A. bathe
- B. relax
- C. socialize
- D. all of the above

2. How did water get to the baths?

- A. bucket
- B. indoor plumbing
- C. aqueducts
- D. rain

3. A Roman system called _____ heated the floors of the baths.

- A. hypocaust
- B. aqueduct
- C. Palaestra
- D. Frigidarium

4. What kinds of rooms were in the baths?

- A. hot and steamy
- B. cold
- C. gymnasiums
- D. all of the above

5. Why did wealthy people with indoor plumbing attend the public baths?

- A. they were cheap
- B. to collect the entry fees
- C. to socialize
- D. to eat and read