

Education in ancient Rome



Education

The education that the Ancient Roman children had was a strong education. This education was important to Roman families. Especially rich families would find tutors that could teach their children.

These tutors cost a lot of money and poor people or slaves could not afford to have this type of education.

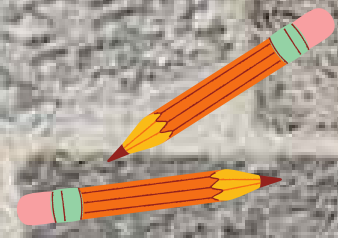
Children from poorer families most of the time had no education at all so they were usually meant to have jobs and had to find work.

Most of the time, the children were taught at home and most of them had never been inside of a school. If a family member was able to teach the child to read and write, that would be his or her job for a period of time.

Roman Schools

The Romans picked up ideas about education from the Greeks. They thought that the Greeks had a great educational system and they wanted to try this out for themselves.

A school in Rome was a very small school. These schools were only one room and they also only had one teacher. The teachers were not paid very good and they worked very long hours.



Learning

Learning would consist of the children learning to write and to read. They would have to learn to read and write because it was important for them to know how to do these things so that they could get into high paying jobs and into politics.

Other things that the teachers taught were Greek, literature and mathematics. The main subject in school was public speaking.

Most of the time, school started before the sunrise and the students used candles or oil lamps in order to see in their classes and then around noon, they took a break to eat lunch and then they went back to work.

Jobs

Children that were not able to get a tutor or have someone in their family teach them education, had to look for a job. They were taught how to run a farm and how to work a business.

Boys and Girls

The boys and girls were given a different kind of education and nothing was the same for them.

Boys were taught to read, write and were given physical training that would make them strong.

The boys were taught how to fight in case they ever had to go into the military.

Boys were also taught math, but it was usually simple math and they would learn to count, add and subtract numbers.

When the boys turned around 12 or 13, most of them went to grammar school. They would study things like Greek, Latin and literature and they learned to speak properly.

When boys turned 16, they went to another school where they learned to speak publicly and work towards being an Orator or a public speaker.

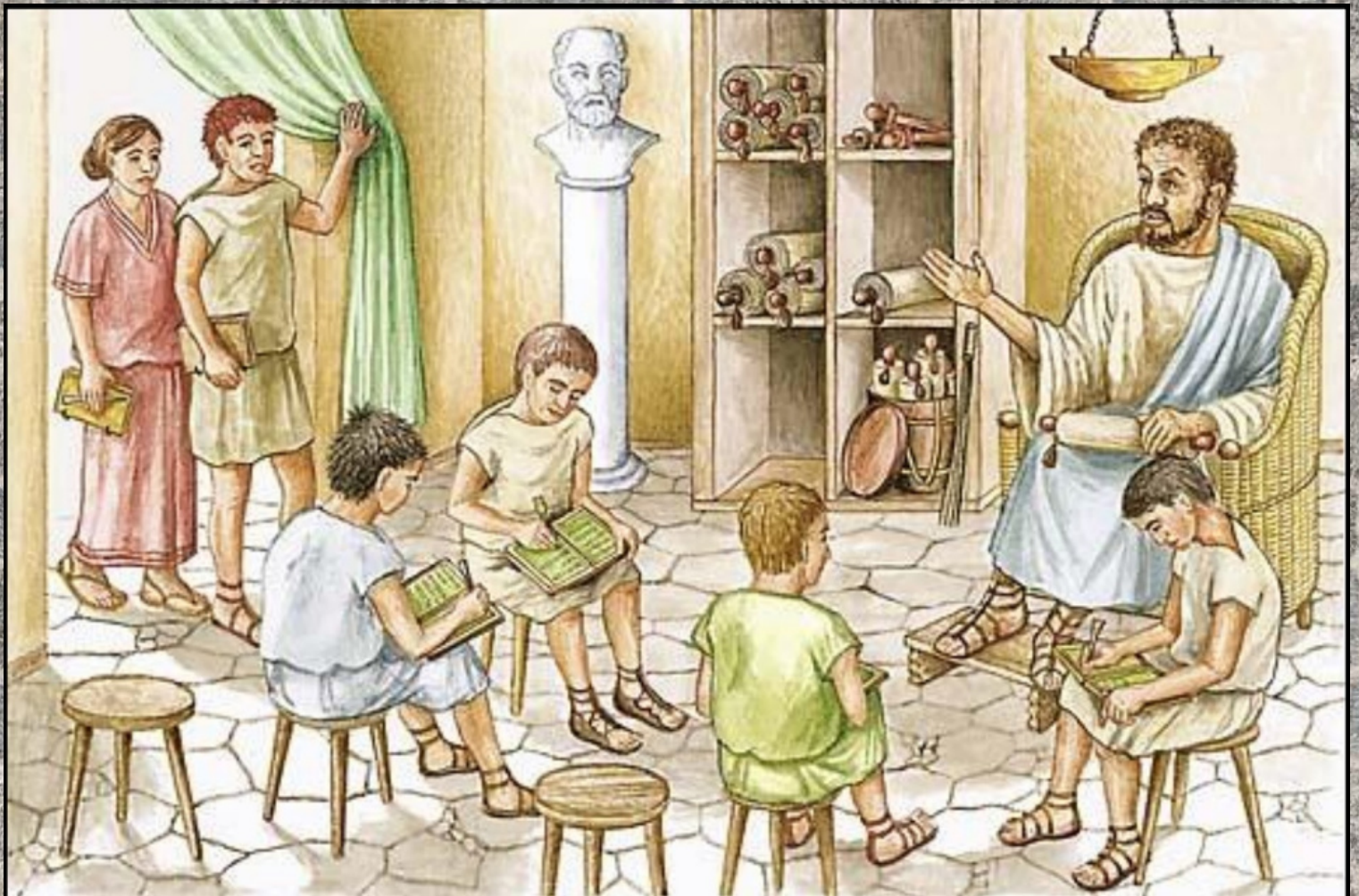
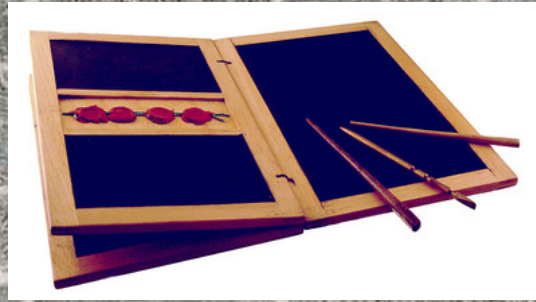
Girls were taught how to read and write and then they were also taught how to work inside of the home.

Girls were expected to get married and to be able to run their home and take care of the children.

Discipline

If a child did not listen or was not able to answer the question in school, the children would be beaten by the teacher with a cane.







No girls allowed
Rome was dominated by men, so most girls didn't go to school. Instead, they were taught at home. Luckily, that has changed today.

Personal slaves
The richest children had their own personal slaves. The slaves would escort them to school in the morning and be their assistants both in and out of school.

Most children finished school at 12 years old

No books
The boys would learn to read from papyrus scrolls. They would write on wax-coated wooden boards, or even on old pieces of pottery, using wooden sticks.

Greek teacher
The teachers were most often Greeks, because Romans had great respect for Greek literature and history. Some of those were slaves brought from Greece by Roman soldiers, while others were free men.

Boy reciting poetry

Papyrus scrolls

Nobody had desks, not even the teacher.

Small class
Each school would only have about 12 students. They were located in a private house or even behind a shop. The playground was probably not very big, either...



What did you learn?

- > What do you had to do in Ancient Rome to be a teacher?
- > Which were the three stages of education in Ancient Rome?
- > "Education is for everyone" - Also in Ancient Rome?
- > Name at least four subjects:

Fill in the gaps with the following words.

bad *teachers* *school* *repeat* *unpleasant*
lessons *copy* *education* *poorly*

To the fine way of life of the Romans belonged also _____. Because of that many children visited _____. These were _____ furnished. The children were taught by _____ or tutors which were usually Greek slaves. Often the _____ were very boring; the children had to _____ pages or _____ after the teacher. In case of _____ performance, the students were beaten.