

Bronze Bust of Isis

MU4488



Student-led inquiry topics and useful resources to begin your research

1. What was the role of the goddess Isis?
2. How did an Egyptian goddess come to be worshipped in Pompeii and Herculaneum during the first century AD?
3. Below is the dedicatory inscription of Numerius Popidius Celsinus which was affixed to the boundary wall of the entrance of the Temple of Isis in Pompeii. What does this inscription tell us about the popularity of the cult of Isis at Pompeii? What other textual and/or archaeological evidence is there that demonstrates the popularity of this cult at Pompeii and Herculaneum?



Dedicatory inscription of N. Popidius Celsinus from the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

4. What other foreign gods and mystery cults were worshipped at Pompeii and Herculaneum? What does this say about the religious beliefs and practices of the inhabitants of the two towns?