

Roman Die

MU4098



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

1. Below is a fresco from the Osteria della Via di Mercurio in Pompeii. What is being depicted in this scene? What other scenes of leisure and daily life are depicted in this building?



Osteria della Via di Mercurio, Pompeii, *PompeiiPictures*

2. Despite a large number of dice having been found in both Pompeii and Herculaneum gambling with dice was illegal. Why was gambling prohibited and prostitution legalised?

3. Die such as MU4098 were commonly used to play games and to gamble in the *taberna*'s of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Describe a typical *taberna*. Reference specific archaeological evidence from either Pompeii or Herculaneum to illustrate your answer.

4. What other forms of leisure activities did the residents of Pompeii and Herculaneum indulge in? Support your answer with reference to archaeological and textual evidence.

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