



SO, UHM.... WHAT IS THAT?!

A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS



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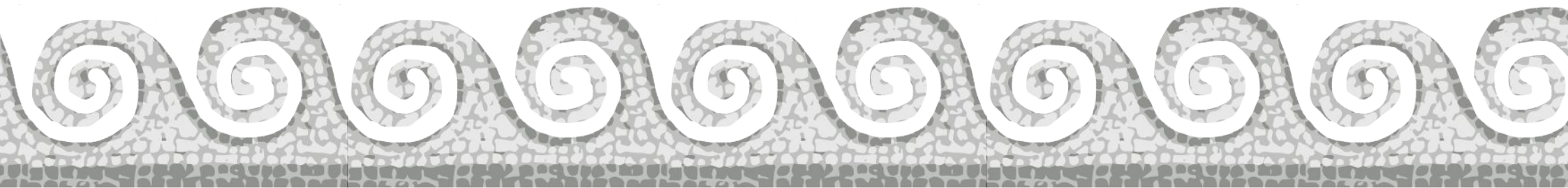


Ever wondered why objects are designed the way they are? Where do you think these designs are based on? This is something that archeologists are questioning all the time! In this game, we invite you to search for the objects that have the same function and be amazed.

There are 45 cotidian objects selected from Pfyn, Switzerland and Sant Boi de Llobregat, Spain. The objects are from the same Roman period for you to match with the modern version. Who would have thought these two tiny towns 2000km apart have so much in common!

On the next pages you can find cheat sheets and some more information about the object. Lets marvel at the objects and do some time traveling. Just imagine you would still pick your years with an iron thingie!

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1. TOILET



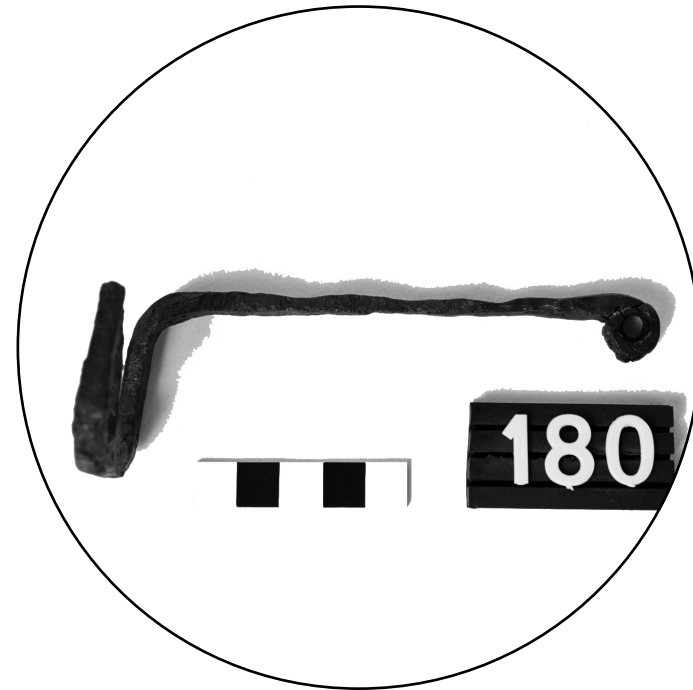
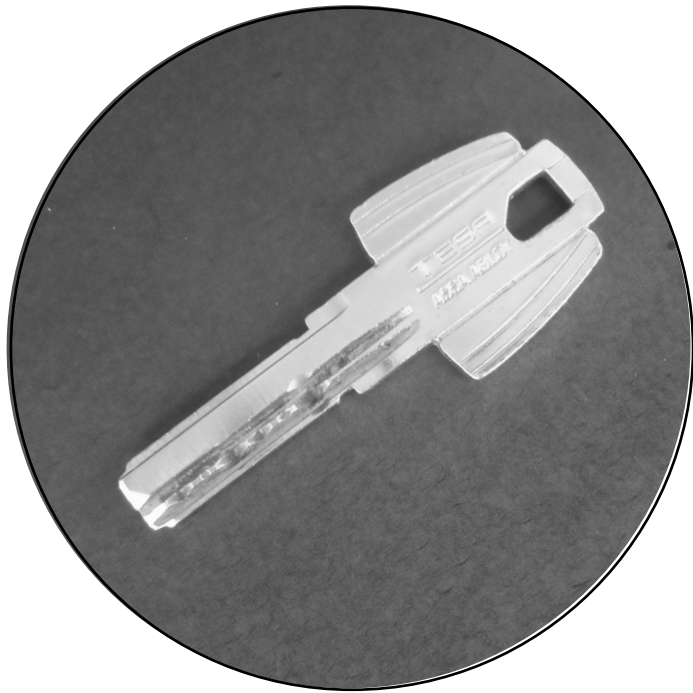
Letrina - Roman wc

In the roman age, people used to go to the public toilets. There were no bathrooms inside the houses, just in rich ones. They usually went to the roman baths, (Termas), in which there was a room with plenty of benches with holes to do your needs, next to each other.

Did you know that the rich classes before sitting down, they would force the slaves to heat the seat?

It was a moment to talk about politics, gladiators, the family... Can you imagine the situation now?

2. KEY



Clavis - Key

They started developing keys many ages ago, in the time of the Egyptians. But, the Romans were the ones that created the key as we know it nowadays. The first ones were too big and heavy, not very useful. The Romans created the first security locks and keys, with strange forms and some of them with a precious design.

Curious fact: The keepers of the keys of the Roman houses were the women, who took care of all the aspects of the house.

3. COIN



Moneta - Coin

In the beginning of their civilization, Romans didn't use coins to trade, they rather barter their needs. Sheep for pigs, eggs for vegetables... But in V bC romans began to trade with the Greeks and adopt the coin's system.

The coins, made of silver and gold, were often falsified. Or even filed to extract metal dust. That's why many of them had a circle around them, to avoid that people stole metal.

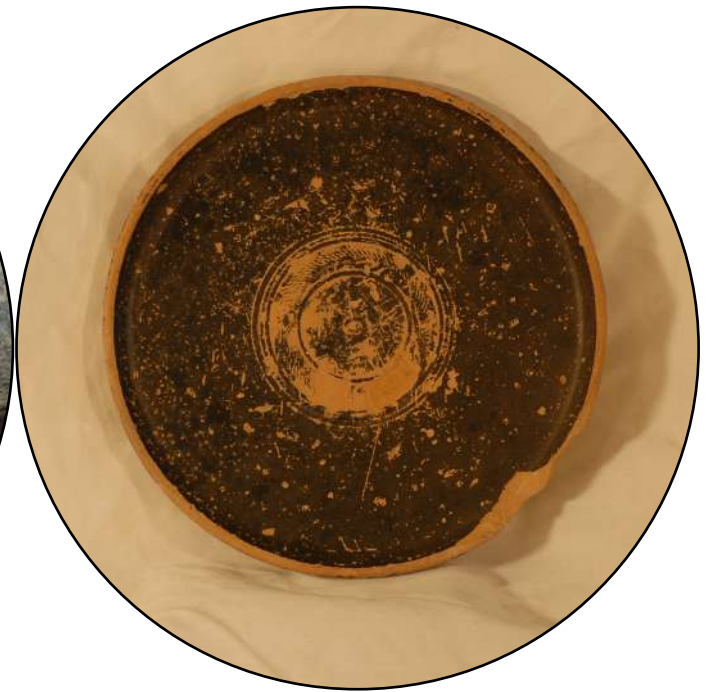
4. PEN



Stylus - Pen

In the roman age, just the richest families could afford education for their children. Most of the population didn't know how to read and write. The blackboard of the schools was a wood narrow box covered by bee wax. The pencil had two parts: the tip to write and the other side to erase like a rubber. The children use a pen and a blackboard that served forever! Can you imagine all your live, writing with the same set? Impossible to be more eco sustainable!!

5. DISH



Catillus- Dish

In the first roman ages, the most popular ceramic for dishes, plates, cups,... were in black colour - called campaniana. It was because they mimicked the silver, which turns black if is not polished with regularity. After, they prefer to do red ceramic - called terra sigillata - that imitates the glass tableware. They loved the cheap fakes... something pretty current, don't you think?

6. COLUMN



Columna- Column

Romans used the columns for many things: to construct the buildings, to tell stories like a comic book for the people who couldn't read or to show the limits of the cities and towns. The strangest use for columns in the roman Christian times, it was to live on the top of it! There were usually men who decided to devote all their life to pray, forgetting all about the life on the ground!

7. MAP



Tabula Peutingeriana - Map

The Tabula Peutingeriana is more than a map. We have to understand it as a network. The oldest preserved copy is from the 13th century, it is almost 7 meters long made of papyrus. We can see all the Roman roads of the 4th century AD Empire. And the cities we find on the roads. This fact makes this document a real treasure for archaeologists, since many archaeological sites have been identified thanks to this tabula. And as you can see... we found Pfn!

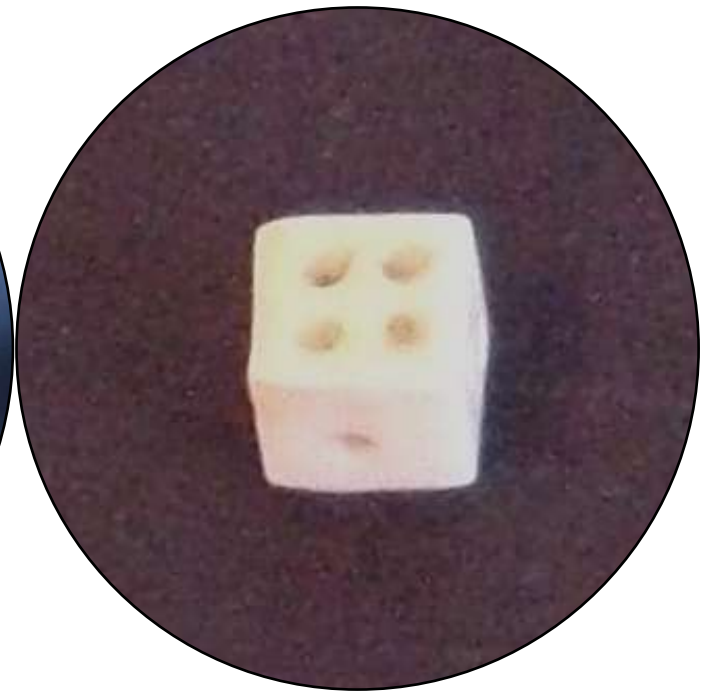
8. JEWEL



Ornamentum- Jewelry

The use of jewelry was very different between men and women. The men just used rings. Some of which were a personal seal, or a key... But the roman women - obviously the rich ones- used all the kinds of jewels you can imagine. They used so much that the law - lex oppia - tried to control them. That was something that women couldn't accept and they fight against this law until it was abolished.

9. DICE



Aleis- Dice

Games were highly important for the Romans, from the emperor to the slaves. They invent the lottery, and many games as the backgammon, and the precursor of parchis. They bet a lot, especially in the streets. Some people lose a lot of money... ended up having problems, and fights. For that reason, the authorities tried to forbid the game, but it was impossible to stop the people! Play with dice was one of the favourites, and the archaeologists have even fine tricked dices!

10. PERFUM



Unguentum- Perfume

Like in our civilization, in roman age, there were perfumes for men and women. Expensive or cheap. In simple bottles or in a fancy glass jar. Done with local plants or with exotic ingredients. But they used it more than only in daily life. It was very important for religious rituals, and for the ceremony of those who passed away. We know that very rare perfumes had existed, sold in specialized stores called: taberna unguentaria. This profession was passed for generations, each one keeping the family formula secret.

11. SPEAR

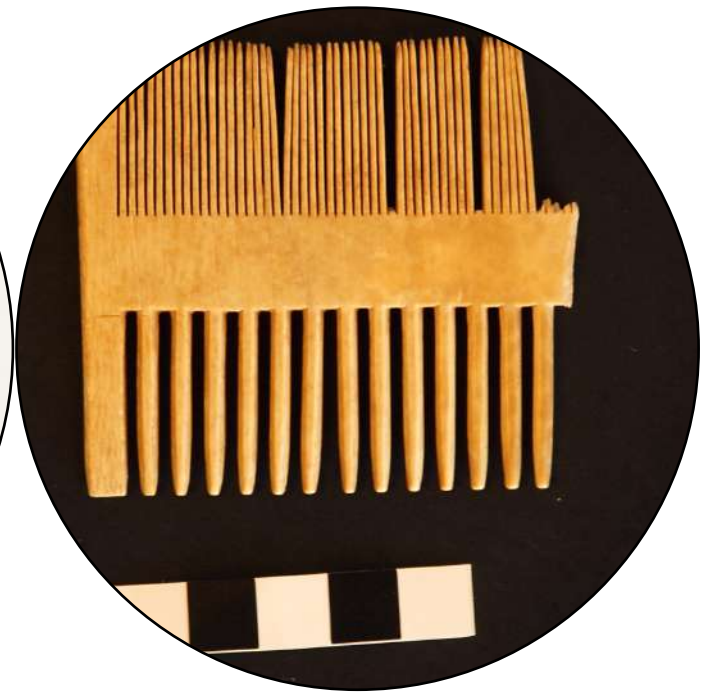


Pilum- Spear

The roman soldiers were the first professional army of the ancient world. Around the roman army there was almost a mobile city, giving all the services such as: food, games, animal care, medics, ... and a lot of blacksmiths to repair and construct weapons. The daily life of a soldier was really hard! They walked around 30 Km every day, carrying almost 30 Kg of clothes, food and their own armor.

After their exhausting day... they were forced to build the camp: Digging a large hole, about two meters deep around the camp, to avoid night attacks. They had to do it each and every day!

12. COMB



Rarum pectine denset - Comb

Roman combs were built mainly with animal bones, wood or metal. They were very similar to ours, even some had a separation in the very narrow barbs that were used to catch lice! Yes! The romans had lice, despite having public baths, recent archaeological research shows that the presence of lice and fleas were common in Roman cities.

13. MORTER



Morterarium - Mortar

One of the most important tools for the roman kitchens was the mortar. The classic sources explain us how the Romans knew where the kitchen was in a house ... they'd follow the noise of the mortars. They used it to mix different vegetables, condiments, to prepare a lot of different recipes. One of the most important meals was the breakfast: They mixed fresh cheese, garlic, parsley, olive oil and different condiments, they called moretum

14. DOLL



Pupa - Doll

The majority of toys in the Roman era were made by the children themselves. Most dolls were made of clothes or ceramics. Although some more sophisticated ones have also been found in ivory or metal, from wealthy families. This wrist fragment, is made of a ceramic block, but some have been found with joints in knees, shoulders, hips, like a roman Barbie!

15. ZIPPER



Fibula - Brooch

All Roman-era garments were tied with a brooch on the shoulder. Very different models have been found: from simple bronze wires to rich pieces of gold with embedded gemstones. For the Romans, any garment or clothing complement was an opportunity to demonstrate how strong their economic power was!

16. FRIDGE



Amphorae - Amphorae

The roman empire was a water empire. All the commerce, wars, travels, were done by water - rivers, lakes and the sea. The Romans were the first to have a global vision of trade and transported large quantities of products throughout its great empire. Especially wine and oil in these large ceramic containers called amphoras. These ceramics give us a lot of information. Thanks to the inscriptions we can know what products they made trade with, their origin and the names of the merchants. They transport so many amphoras, that in Rome there is a mountain - Monte testaccio - created by the remains of thousands and thousands of oil amphoras from Spain. The oil was used for many things: for food, medicine, perfumes... and to preserve food!

17. BELT



Balteus - Belt

Most of roman-era belts were built in materials such as leather or natural fibers such as hemp, so it is very difficult to find them. However, military belts are very common, since they are partially built with metal. For a Roman soldier the belt was a very important item, not only to hang up his weapons, but also to demonstrate his position in the army. One way to degrade a soldier or punish him, was to strip him of his belt.

18. TILE



Tegula - Roof tile

This Roman building element, apart from being used as tiles for different buildings, it was used for many more things, for example for the construction of sewers, water pipes, furnaces, tables for games, even to bury the poorest people. Many times, we can find stamps with the name of the builder. They were so common that often the dimensions of the houses were calculated by the number of tegulas.

19. SPOON



Ligula - Spoon

The upper classes of the Roman Empire had complex tableware with different types of spoons for very specific foods. The small pointed spoon or cochlear, which was used to empty and collect eggs, shellfish and snails; the ligula, something bigger, was used to serve soups and purées; and the trulla, a kind of bucket, with a capacity of one deciliter, whose function was to transfer liquids. The poorer classes would use mud, wood or bone spoons, or they would directly drink from the plates.

20. SHOES



Calceus - Shoes

As with clothes, each social group in the Roman era had its own footwear. In general, during the Roman Empire there were three types of footwear: Sandals, especially used by the less wealthy classes, or to be at home. The shoes, for the noblest classes and totally forbidden to the slaves and the boots. The humble people could also wear cork or wooden clogs, or made only with vegetable fibers. The legionaries used their famous caligae: sandals with nails in the sole that allowed them to have more grip on the battlefield. If a legionary stepped on you, he would cause you a lot of pain!

21. FAUCET



Canalis - Water Pipe

The Roman Empire was the first ancient state capable of developing hydraulic structures with efficiency and magnitude, which continues to surprise today's engineers. With structures such as aqueducts, tunnels, or water distribution channels ... capable of carrying water from Km away to cities. All Roman citizens have access to drinking water, or public sources, and the richer homes with running water. Like us with hot and cold-water taps. Some buildings even recycled the water!

22. COMIC



Vas - Corinthian glass

The Romans loved adventure stories, the myths and their heroes. Most people did not know how to read, so the stories were sung or explained in public places. They also used to draw these stories in public buildings, such as the Termas, or in the theaters. One of the main supports was without a doubt on the ceramics. Where the adventures and exploits of the main heroes were painted or engraved. Here, although it is very worn, we can see represented, the works of the hero Hercules and his famous twelve works.

23. COTTON STICK



??? - Earwax scraper

For the Roman Empire the health of the legionaries was really important. Roman doctors knew that with personal hygiene, the use of thermal therapies and good nutrition they managed to keep the army in top form for combat. That is why this object is a very common element in archaeological excavations, as it is part of the classic personal hygiene set - along with a tweezers and a needle. It was a multipurpose tool and never wasted. Both could be used to clean the earwax, to clean wounds, or as a medical instrument.

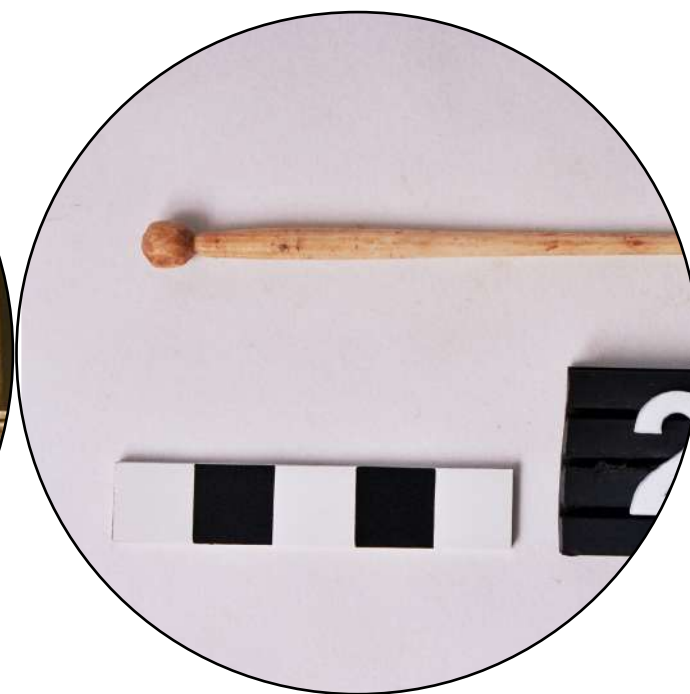
24. SEWING MACHINE



Acus sarcinatoria - Needle

As you can imagine the needles exist since the human started to sew skins to dress in the paleolithic 40,000 years ago. Roman needles have been found made of different materials: wood, bone, ivory, bronze, silver and gold. Although the most common was to make them from bones. They also knew the thimbles - small metal cups to protect the finger from possible punctures. The sewing set was kept in what we now call sewing kits - aciarium - which were normally turtle-shaped, which was the symbol of patience and tranquility, which is needed for sewing. It was very usual to give this turtle-sewing kit to newly married women, since sewing was considered a uniquely female occupation!

25. HAIRPIN



Acus crinalis - Hair needle

The care of Roman women's hair reached an incredible level of sophistication. Each social class had their own hairstyle. Only the richest women could wear the most luxurious hairstyles, which were made by specialized slaves called Ornatrix. Women who wore short hair was a sign of sloppiness or indecency! Many dyed their hair to cover the gray hair, with rather strange products, like leeches rotten in wine for the black dye. Some of these hairstyles needed hours to build and were endured with many needles and fixators. They also wore wigs - those with black hair came from India and the German slave blondes - because the products they used were so strong that even some of them went bald!

26. POT



Olla - Pot

We know a lot of shapes and varieties of pots in Roman times. Although the most common were those built of ceramics. It depends on what they wanted to cook they had one shape or another: with lid, with handles, with flat bottom, concave bottom ... there were even pots that have the bottom with concentric circles, like the current ones, to expand the heat better, thus saving a lot of firewood. They were also used for other things such as storing food. Even children used to take them to play with, the best-known game was "the pot boils" -olla fervit. They were also used to bury fantastic treasures!

27. OVEN TRAY



Cumana - Oven tray

The luxury Roman cuisine reached incredible levels of sophistication, with dishes cooked with extremely expensive and exotic products. They even developed containers with non-stick properties, to cook with products such as milk, eggs, or honey. The great cook Apicio, in his famous book *De re cocinaria* - the things in the kitchen - explains more than 37 dishes that are cooked with this type of container. It was also usual to cook fish or meat in other containers to finish adding sauces and finish cooking them later in the oven in a covered cumana. To serve the food later it was turned and served on the lid.

28. TWEEZER



Volsela - Tweezer

When the Romans bath they didn't use soap. They mixed different ingredients to make a cream - unguentum. There were many types of unguentum, used to cleanse and moisturize the skin at the same time. Normally they were made with olive oil in combination with aromatic herbs. Almost all of them had honey. Can you imagine what it would be like to take off this sticky cream in your legs or your hairy chest? To avoid this suffering, Romans used to tear dirt off the body with tweezers! That is why the tweezers are one of the objects that archaeologists find the most. Can you imagine the brutal legionaries, or the fearsome gladiators spent hours encasing themselves with tweezers?

29. CROSS



Antefigere - Antefixe

Romans were extremely superstitious. The existence of magicians, witches, fortune tellers, has been perfectly documented. There were really usual spells or amulets to combat bad luck. These pieces are part of this great magical world, placed on the roofs of roman houses. They were usually made of ceramics and painted in bright colors. They were placed in public buildings and also in houses. They had a double function: decorative and religious. Normally female protective figures were represented.

30. TAG



Scriptura - Inscription

Discovering an inscription in an archaeological dig is like finding a message locked in a bottle for hundreds of years, waiting to be opened! This inscription is engraved on a jar and is written as if it were the jar that speaks to us: *Germani sum, fur cave malum* = I am German, thief take care of my curse (if you steal me). These four words give us much more information than it seems. We know that a slave wrote it, because the Roman slaves only had one name and that it was coming from the old colony of Germania. It could be that he was a soldier of Germania captured in war and sold as a slave later in Sant Boi. Can you imagine that this Germanus, had known or lived in Ad Fines (Pfyf)?

31. FLUTE



Fistulae - Flute

The Romans loved parties, they had two holidays per week, one of work! The parades and festivals were spectacular with music and dancing without stopping. One of the most common instruments was the Pan flute. In honor of the Greek god Pan, the divinity of the shepherds, the forests, the fertility and more. It was the Roman legionaries who took this instrument to northern Europe. Can you imagine the songs they have performed with her?

Would you like to hear how it sounds? Listen to: *Symphonia Panica*

32. GAME PIECES



???? - Game pieces

Since we began to be sedentary, human beings started to collect curious objects, perhaps even before. What did they do with these objects made of: stones, pieces of pottery, bone or ivory? Well, many times they played with them! There were board game chips. The boards could be drawn, engraved on the floor, on ceramic plates. We know some games through ancient texts, even some have endured in time and we still play some of them, such as backgammon, three in a row, the game of the Goose, can you think of other? 2,000 years later and we can still play the same games!

33. TABLA CERATA



Tabla Cerata - Note book

Wood is a very difficult element to find in archaeological excavations, because it breaks down very quickly and is not preserved. But in swampy areas with very high humidity, like in Northern Europe, it is nicely preserved. This piece is what is remained of a roman notebook. These wooden boxes were covered with beeswax that served as a writing surface. In Roman times, not many people knew how to read and write, but despite this, a large amount of tabla cerata has been found, because in all neighborhoods and cities you could pay a scribe to read or write a letter.

34. DOOR HANDLE OR LOCK?



Pessuli - Lock

Most of the doors of the Roman houses were built of wood, although we know that the richest houses could cover the wood with polished bronze plates that could decorate with beautiful reliefs. Although inside the house, fabrics were also used as a door. The main door - janua - was dedicated to the god Janus, protector of the entrances, but in addition to the divine protection, the door was provided with the lock and at night bars were also placed. To complete the security they even hired porters and of course, guard dogs: Cave Canem!

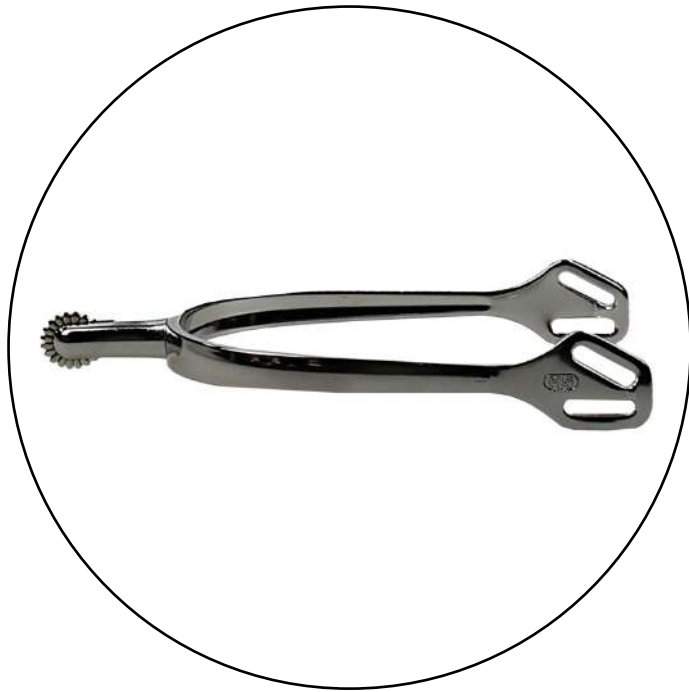
35. NET FLOTABLE



??? - Floating wood net

The fishing was fundamental for the Roman economy and for the feeding of the population. With a large number of coastal cities, or near rivers, the fishing business was undoubtedly highly important. The floatables were very similar to the current ones and were made in wood or cork. We also know that they were able to build fish farms in the luxurious coastal homes. Do you know someone who raises their own fish at home?

36. SPURS



Spura - Spur

When the Romans began to conquer the Mediterranean they didn't have a cavalry army at the height of their enemies. Their riders rode bareback, heartless and with an ineffective weaponry. But over time, from the knowledge and advances of other people, they copied and developed a technology that brought them great military victories. The spurs, which they copied from the people of Northern Europe, tied them to boots or sandals in order to better dominate the horses on the battlefield. Being part of the cavalry - Equites - was a great honor and was reserved for the most powerful families.

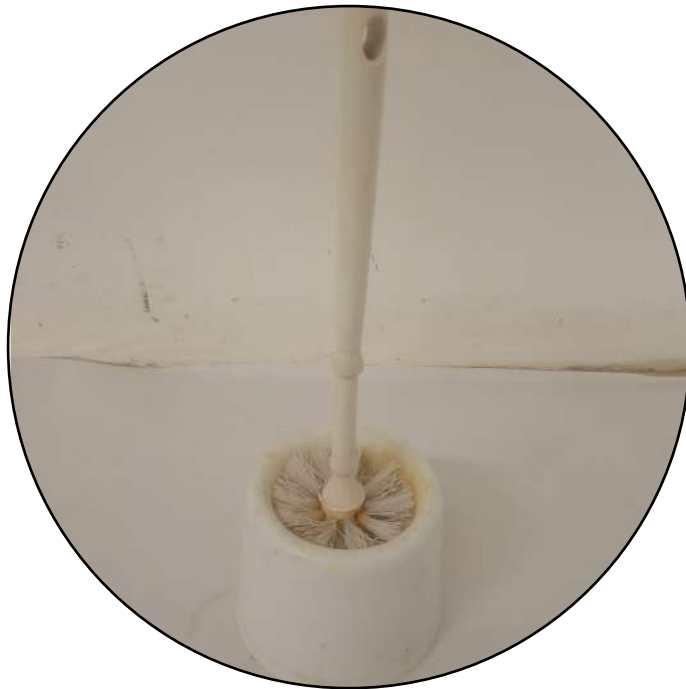
37. LAMP



Lucerne - Oil lamp

The most frequent way to illuminate in ancient Rome was with the oil lamps, although they also knew the candles, which they made with animal fat. The lamps could be built of metal, but the most common were made of ceramics. The fragility of the material has made these pieces a very common element in archaeological excavations. Many of them are made with molds and were decorated with scenes from everyday life, thus offering great information to historians.

38. BRUSH



???? - Cleaning brush

This wooden object is now incomplete and it is difficult to finish knowing its exact function. It seems that it could be the handle of a brush to clean after going to the bathroom. At the end of the handle we have to imagine a tied sea sponge, or a rag. After using it they cleaned it with water. A small amount of money used to be used for the purpose of maintenance and cleaning of the facilities, as well as to pay the salary of the fornicarium. Those responsible for driving dirty water and keeping the latrines clean.

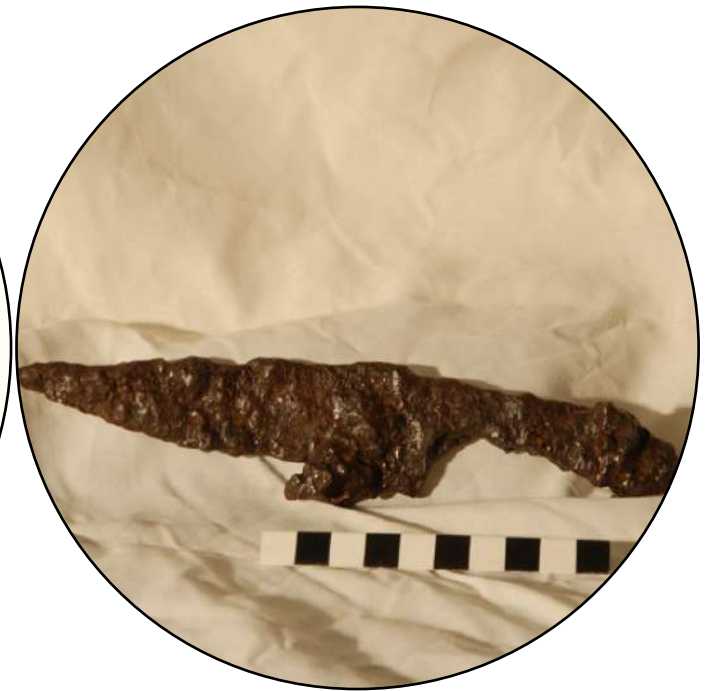
39. BARREL



Cupa - Wood barrel

The Romans used wooden barrels for commercial purposes provided they had access to wood and resin suitable for building them. This is the case in northern Europe, where numerous examples have been found. The Roman barrels had capacity for about 800 liters, this is equivalent to about 30 amphorae. In addition these could be carried by rolling, or in cars because they did not break like ceramic amphorae. Some of these barrels retain the marks of their winemakers, which were engraved with a red-hot iron. We know that most of these barrels were used for beer, because in northern Europe wine was not produced. This was a very expensive import product, only available to elites.

40. KNIFE



Culter - Knife

The knife is a tool as old as humanity itself. Stones have been found with a sharp edge over 2 million years old! Through the evolution of knives, we can know what technological level a civilization could have. In the Roman Empire, we can find from purely functional knives, to sophisticated military knives with rich decorations on handles, edges or covers. It was an object that marked many times the fate of Rome ... Ask to César!

41. SCULPTURE



Sculptura - Sculpture

This sculpture is not Roman, it was from Celtic culture. This piece allows us to talk about a fact not very common in archeology but we want to share with you. . . Sometimes archaeologists find ancient pieces, objects that are not from the era being studied, but that appear in the excavation, causing some problems in dating. But this fact is explained very easily, all in our houses, we have family memories: grandparents' vases, old family jewels... The Romans did the same!

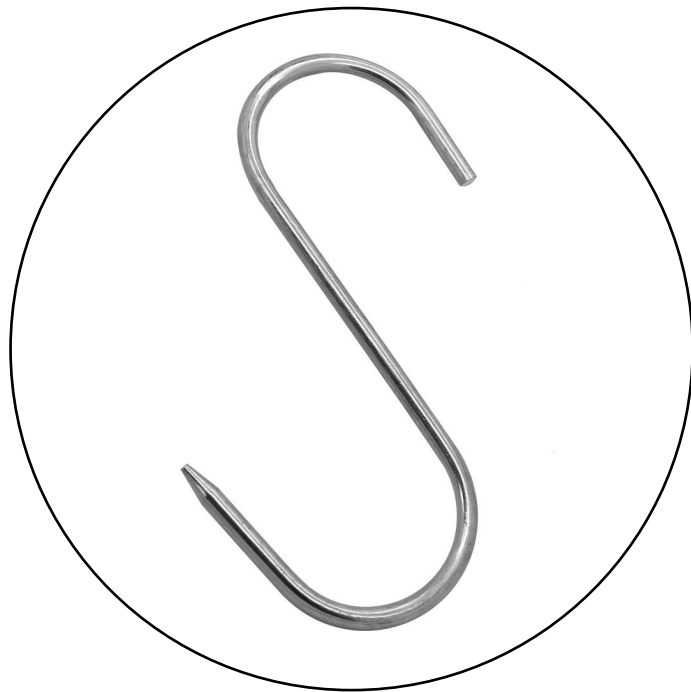
42. UNKNOWN OBJECT



??? - Unknow object

It is made of wood, shaped like a bovine, but what was it for? To wind threads? A piece of furniture? A toy? We don't know it! Yes, sometimes archaeologists don't know what we have found. This does not prevent these objects from being documented and published, because by sharing the studies and the new findings that can happen, we can answer what they were for. It's the job for future archaeologists ... maybe it's one of you who discovers it!

43. MEAT HOOK



??? - Meat hook

In Roman markets meat was sold without any refrigeration, they had it hanging on a hook like this. Meat in Roman times was an almost luxury product, only wealthy people could buy meat. Roman markets were large public buildings, with monumental entrances with one or more arcaded floors, with a large central courtyard and a fountain. They had running water to clean stores and even water clocks to announce market hours!

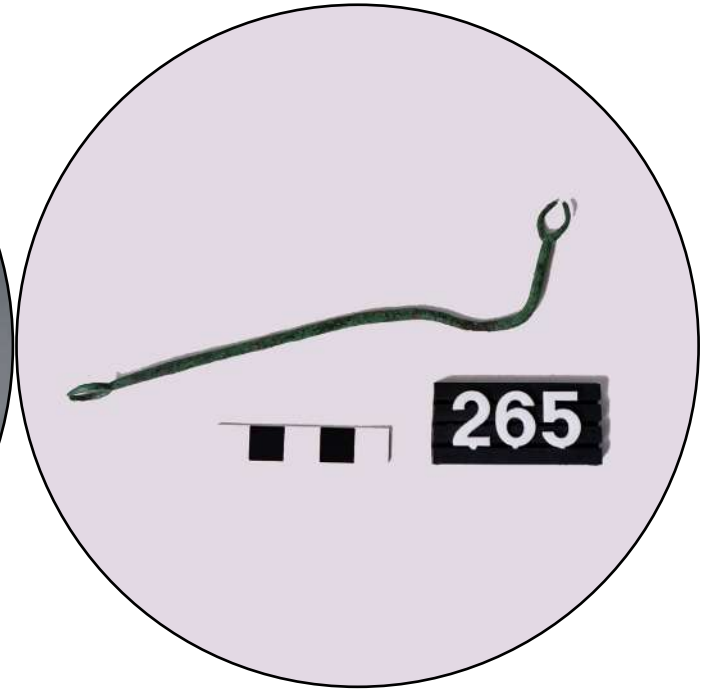
44. FOUNTAIN



Fons - Fontaine

Without water, there is no possibility of life. The Romans knew this so well that before they founded a city, they planned their water supply years in advance, their famous aqueducts. This source is part of a large infrastructure that ensured access to drinking water. Surely it would be in a street, because in many corners of Roman streets there were public fountains. Wealthy people had running water at home, hot and cold, just like us! The hydraulic technology developed by the Romans has not been surpassed until the 20th century, it was one of the pillars that allowed them to dominate their vast empire.

45. WINE GLASS



??? - Shuttle

This piece of iron was part of the lanificum, the utensils needed in order to weave wool. Spinning and weaving was one of the main works of women in ancient cultures and continues to be in many parts of the world. In the past, most people made cloth and clothes on looms at home. The clothes that a person wore in Roman times reflected their social class. The clothes of the slaves were completely different from the rich people, it was even regulated by law - Sumptuaria Leges. Can you imagine? Do you remember any movie from the Roman era? Everyone dressed in very white robes ... it is totally false. The Romans wore basic wool and linen for clothing and these are light beige!



WHAT IS THAT?! THE CARDS

A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTS

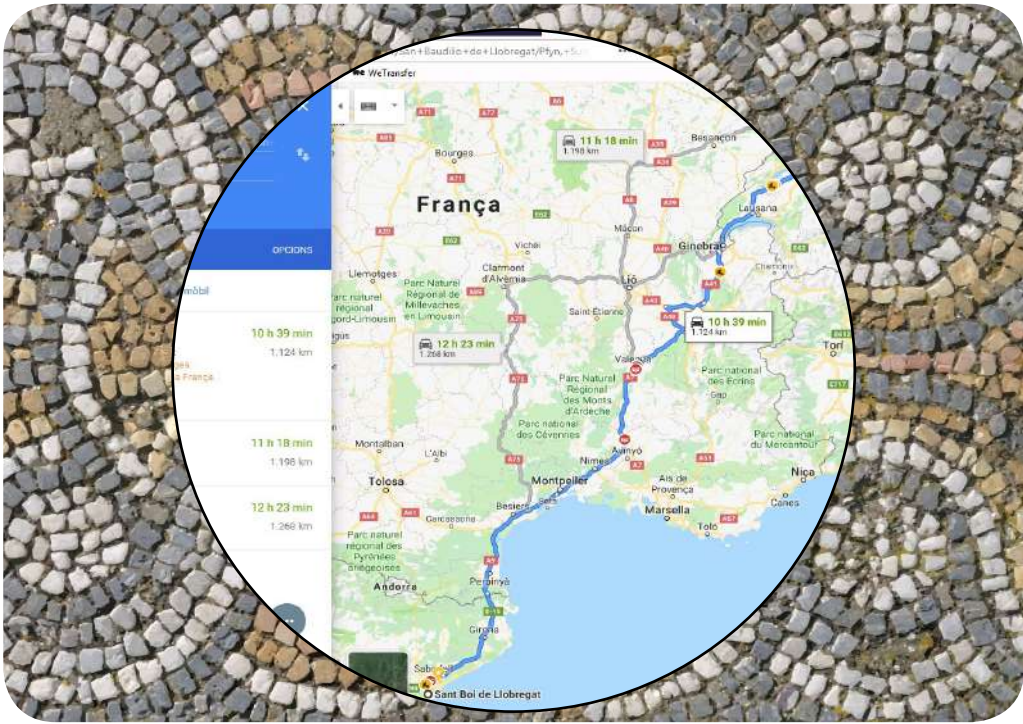
CUT & PLAY

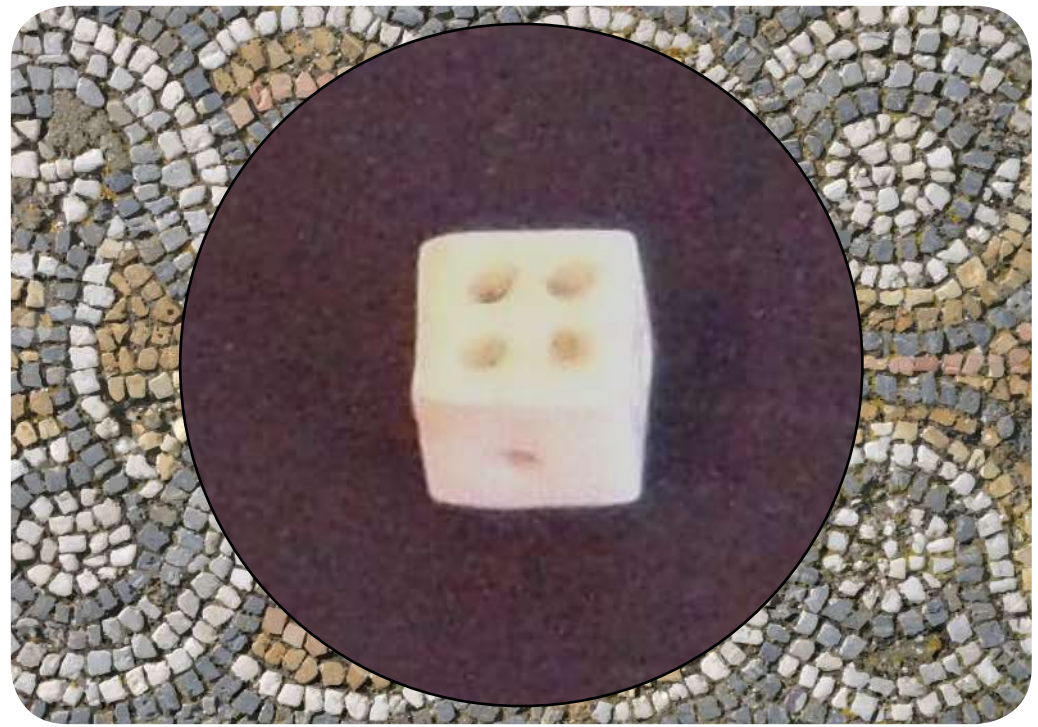
Cut, mix and play! What images belong together? Can you find the likeness between these figures?































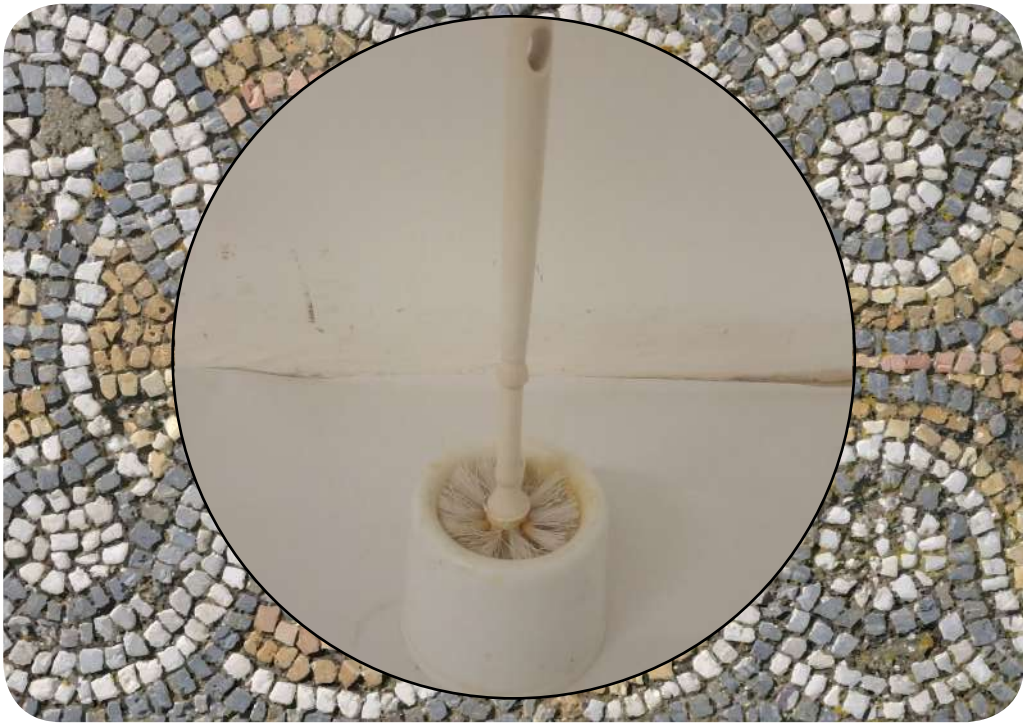






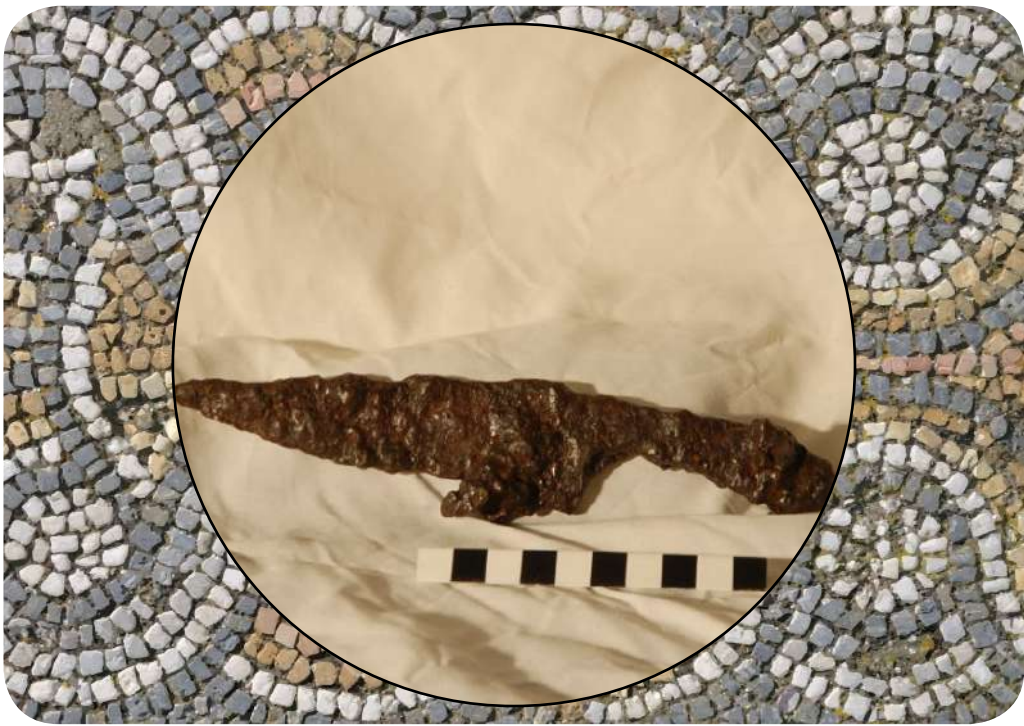


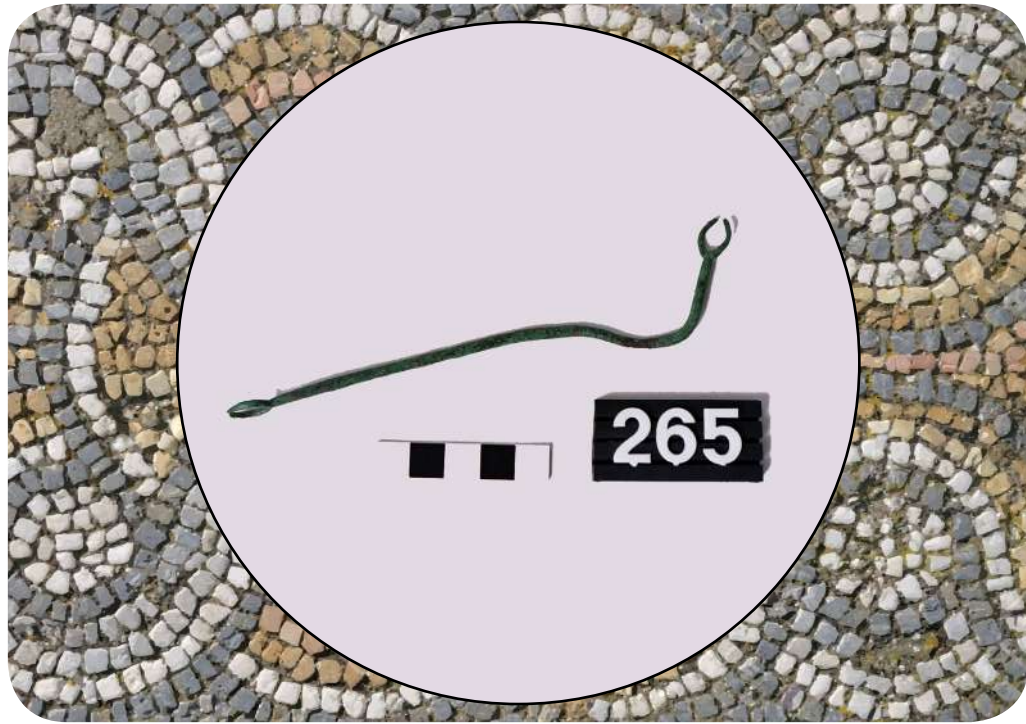
















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