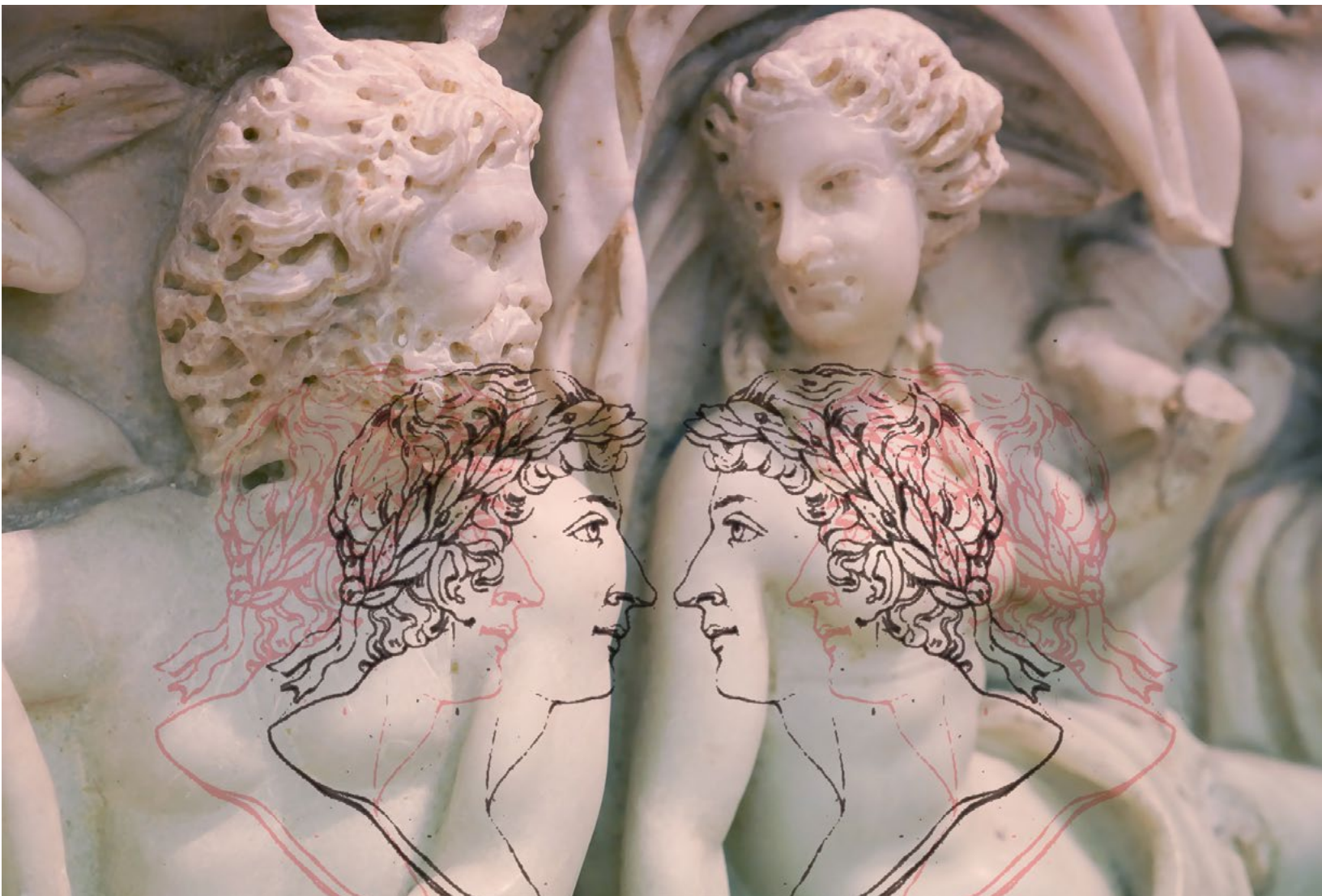
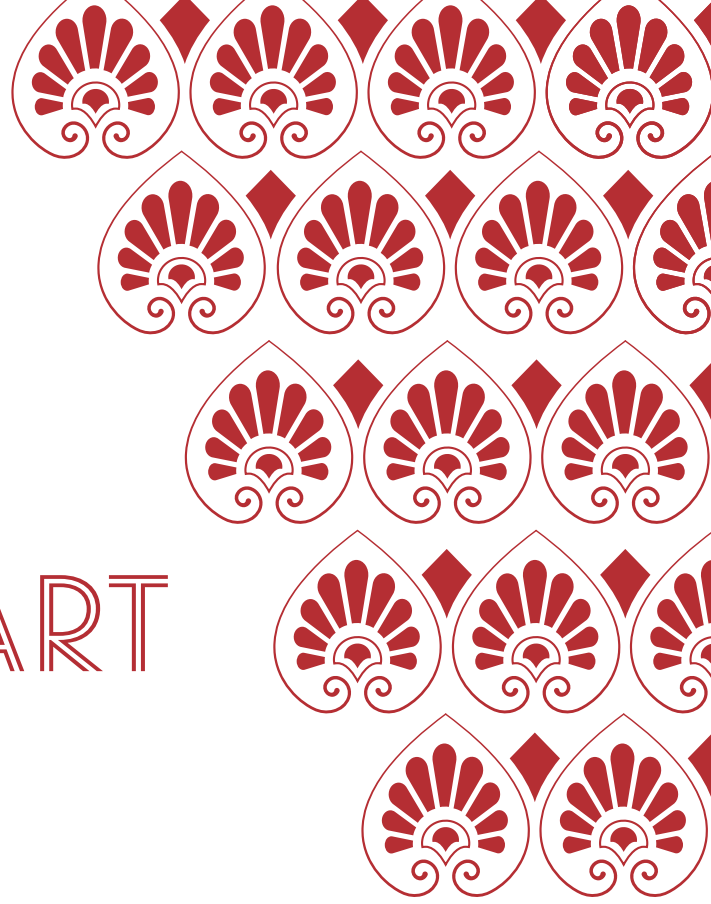




CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

OVID & THE ART OF LOVE

Student Handout



ASSIGNMENT

OVID AND THE ART OF LOVE

About Ovid: Publius Ovidius Naso, or “Ovid” as he is known to us today, was a famous Roman poet. He lived from 43 B.C. to 17 A.D., and witnessed the very beginning of the Roman Empire. Ovid was about sixteen years old when the first emperor Caesar Augustus came to power. Under Caesar Augustus, literature flourished and some of the most famous Roman writers (including Virgil, Horace, and Ovid) penned their masterpieces. Ovid wrote a long poem called *The Metamorphoses* which describes myths of transformation, and its publication secured his fame as a poet. He wrote several other works, including a dating manual called *Ars Amatoria*, or “The Art of Love.” Unfortunately, the emperor had passed several marriage laws and strict behavioral guidelines, and Ovid’s cheeky subject matter did not fit well with these Augustan era social reforms. Ovid was exiled to Tomis, a town on the Black Sea in modern-day Romania, where he remained for the rest of his life. Although he lived thousands of years ago, his playful humor and poetic talent make him relatable even today. “Let others praise ancient times; I am glad I was born in these,” Ovid once wrote; this quote reminds us that Ovid considered himself a modern man, and that even in antiquity there were those who sought fresh avenues in literature.



The Art of Love describes numerous places in Rome where people could expect to find a date. First, with a partner brainstorm places in your own town or city today where people hang out and strike up conversations.

1. List them here, in no particular order:

2. Next to each of the places listed, consider what the main function of that area is. Write its function next to the blanks above.

Commercial	Social	Athletic
Religious	Domestic	Entertainment
Political	Educational	Decorative

ROMAN SITES

Below is a list of various structures in Rome. First, match the site name and description with the proper photo on pages 6-8. Next, circle whichever of the following sites you think would have existed in the period of the first emperor, Caesar Augustus. Use the internet or a sourcebook to double check the dates when buildings were finished.

1. Colosseum (80.C.E.) _____

- Arena used for gladiator fights as well as executions and animal hunts
- Could hold 45,000 spectators

2. Circus Maximus (6th century B.C.E.) _____

- A track for chariot races, built between two hills
- Still used today for music concerts!

3. Pantheon (27 B.C.E.) _____

- A temple to all the gods that is almost perfectly preserved from ancient times
- Was created under the Republic but restored by the emperor Hadrian in 125 C.E.

4. Portico of Livia (7 B.C.E.) _____

- A portico is a shaded walkway with columns on each side to protect Romans from rain and the sun
- This portico was dedicated by the emperor Caesar Augustus to his wife Livia

5. Portico of Octavia (Restored ~33 B.C.E.) _____

- A rectangular portico dedicated by Caesar Augustus to his sister Octavia

6. Portico of Pompey (52 B.C.E.) _____

- A portico behind the theater of Pompey
- Once a beautiful promenade where people met

7. Temple of Palatine Apollo (28 B.C.E.) _____

- Temple to the god Apollo on the Palatine Hill
- Very special to Caesar Augustus, the first emperor, who is often depicted as the god

8. Temple of Isis (~43 B.C.E.) _____

- A now-destroyed temple to an Egyptian goddess
- The statue of Isis' foot has been found, and can be seen in Rome today on Via del Pie di Marmo, or "Street of the Marble Foot"

9. The Spanish Steps (1720s C.E.) _____

- A staircase designed to join the church of Trinità dei Monti with the Piazza di Spagna
- Named the Spanish steps due to its location near the Spanish embassy

10. Theater of Marcellus (13 B.C.E.) _____

- For a long time, the largest theater in Rome
- Held 15 to 20,500 spectators

11. Theater of Pompey (52 B.C.E.) _____

- Rome's first permanent theater
- The Curia within the theater is where Julius Caesar was killed

12. The Vatican (St. Peter's Basilica: 1615 C.E.) _____

- A major Catholic pilgrimage site to honor where the apostle Peter was buried
- Includes a museum full of artistic masterpieces, including the Sistine Chapel

13. Trevi Fountain (1762 C.E.) _____

- The best-known fountain in Rome
- A masterpiece of Baroque sculpture and design

14. Via Appia (312 B.C.E.) _____

- The most famous Roman road
- Ran from Rome to Capua, later to Brundisium

A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



Photo by [Carole Raddato](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

G.



H.



I.



The structure is gone, but was dedicated to:

J.



The structure is gone, but was dedicated to:

K.



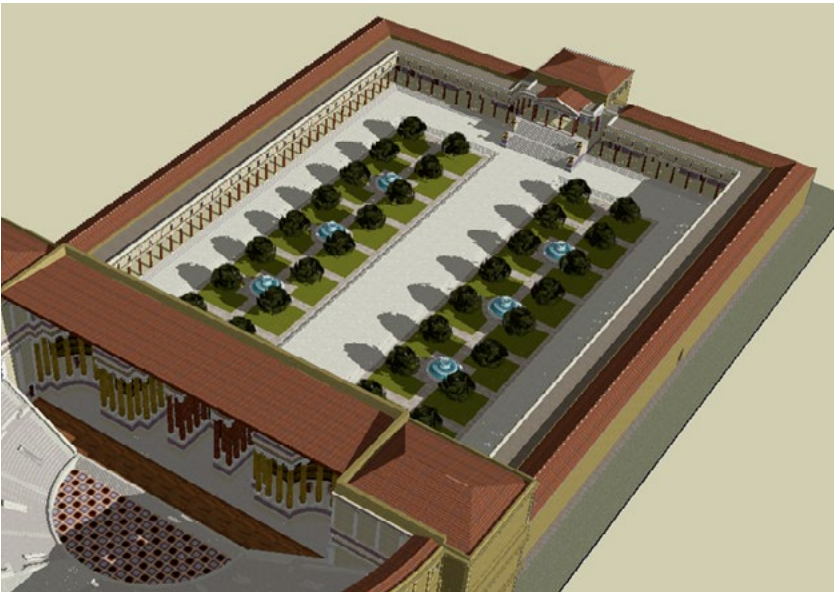
L.



M.



N.



A derivative work of
a 3D model by [Lasha
Tskhondia](#) - L.VII.C.
([CC BY-SA 3.0](#))

Guess what? All of the structures on this list from the Augustan period were mentioned in Ovid's dating manual. We're going to see just what Ovid says about several of them.

Try to guess the location described by the following quotes from The Art of Love:

Nec fuge linigeræ Memphitica templa iuvencae: I.77

Don't skip the Memphian temple of the linen-clad heifer: **Memphis was a city in Egypt*

My Guess: _____

Supporting Evidence: _____

Tu modo Pompeia lentus spatiare sub umbra. I.67

Stroll at your ease down Pompey's shady colonnade.

My Guess: _____

Supporting Evidence: _____

*Aut ubi muneribus nati sua munera mater
Addidit, externo marmore dives opus. I. 68-70*

or where Octavia added to her dead son Marcellus's gifts,
with those rich works of foreign marble.

My Guess (two locations for this quote): _____

Supporting Evidence: _____

*Tunc neque marmoreo pendebant vela theatro,
Nec fuerant liquido pulpita rubra croco; l. 103-104*

The theater had no marble seats or awnings then,
Nor was the stage red-dyed with sweet-smelling saffron.

My Guess: _____

Supporting Evidence: _____

*Cuius equi veniant, facito, studiose, requiras:
nec mora, quisquis erit, cui favet illa, fave.l. 145-146*

Ask with keen interest, "Whose team's that going by?"
And "Who are you backing?" Given a reply,
Add instantly, "So am I!"

My Guess: _____

Supporting Evidence: _____

OVID'S ASPIRATION OF FAME

Ovid may not have predicted that his poem would get him exiled, but he certainly was right about his future fame. He wrote in *The Art of Love* that if you want your crush to like you, you should read famous poetry-- and he didn't hesitate to add in:

"Who knows, one day my name may rank among theirs... Someone will say: 'Read that stylish poem... brilliant advice!'"

Let's figure out what that advice was, and whether you think it still holds truth today!



"Ovidiu in exil" 1915 — Painting by Ion Theodorescu-Sion

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