

Knowledge "Standards":
ELA #1 - Speak and write to transmit information....

Social Studies #2 - World History- using a variety intellectual skills to demonstrate an understanding of major ideas, eras, and themes...

CHALLENGE SCENARIO

A Roman "Dig"
Middle School
ELA/Soc. Studies

Skill/Disposition "Standard":

Problem Solving - constructing and employing problem solving strategies

The Setting:

You are a team of highly trained archaeologists. You've recently made an amazing discovery and have "uncovered" an ancient Roman town close to the city of Rome itself. Immediately upon discovering the site, you contacted your employer, the curators at the famous Delaware County Museum located in Delhi, NY., and told them the good news via a satellite link.

Since your employers had been looking to expand their museum in order to promote more tourism in Delhi, they were very excited about your find. Your sponsors requested that you make an excavation of the site and return home with artifacts and other knowledge about life in ancient Rome.

The Challenge:

Your challenge is to present your findings to a panel from the museum. Your job is to clearly describe the culture of the time period you have excavated. Your sponsors want to know how people of this time period lived, and how their lives were similar or different from ours. Your sponsors know that visitors to museums are most interested in the topics listed below. If your sponsors are going to be at all interested in what you have, you should address all of these topics in your presentation.

- **home life:** roles of family members, what homes looked like, contents of a home, marriage customs, religious beliefs;
- **the military:** how it was run, weapons used, who conquered whom;
- **technology:** what inventions of the time helped make life easier or more comfortable for the people;
- **the land itself:** what land forms affected them (helped them or hurt them);
- **rulers or government:** how the people interacted with the rulers or government, how much did it affect the people's every day lives;
- **entertainment:** what did these people do for enjoyment

As part of your presentation, please be sure to include:

- a "blueprint drawing of the town you've uncovered;
- at least two artifacts from each area of discovery;
- a 3-5 minute explanation of the findings from each of the areas. Please indicate what the artifacts are, what they were used for, and how people of today might see a connection to their own lives;
- a projection of funds needed to continue research for next year.

This presentation will determine whether grant money of \$1,000,000 will be given to you. This money will be used not only to continue your research in Italy, but to oversee the building of a new wing at the museum where your artifacts will be displayed.

This challenge was developed by Ro Pudney and was used with her 6th grade class at Delhi Academy, Delhi, NY.