

## Role-Playing Game: Plying a Trade in VRoma


**Description:** This immersive activity involves students in research, simulation, and presentation. Players adopt the personalities and occupations of people who once lived in Ancient Rome but are now only known through surviving inscriptions.

**Level:** An activity designed for advanced students in language/culture classes (high school senior & mid-college). Can be played by individuals or in pairs. Latin is not necessary.

**Learning Objectives:** players will demonstrate the ability to--

1. communicate and navigate in the *VRoma* online virtual environment
2. enter the lives of working-class Romans through artifacts and imaginative play
3. explore aspects of Roman culture and life in the context of the city of Rome

**Approximate time:** Role-playing with all eight characters will require at least three class sessions in *VRoma* plus a site-orientation. Before the activity begins, each student will need several visits to his/her location in *VRoma* to prepare for and practice the assigned tasks.

**Scenario:** The *praefectus annonae* invited eight working-class VRomans to take  **Coelia Mascellina** (you, the instructor), a young business owner from the province of Baetica (in Spain), on a tour of their working neighborhoods. He wants her to feel welcome so she will agree to supply olive oil for the troops. Each member of the group will strive to outdo the others with a presentation about their occupation and its location, and an invitation to join their community:



**Aurelia Nais**, a fish-seller with a shop in the Emporium district



**Cantinea Procla**, a priestess in the Temple of Isis in the Sanctuary of Isis



**Fuscus**, a charioteer of the Greens faction in the Circus Maximus



**Fundilius Doctus**, a mime actor in the Theater of Marcellus



**Claudia Olympias**, the owner of a silver shop on the Sacra Via Summa



**Callistus**, an imperial freedman in charge of the armory in the Ludus Magnus



**Mus**, the freedman secretary of the Praetorian Prefect in the Castra Praetoria



**Glyconis**, fun-loving wife who drinks and sings in the Thermopolium of Scintilla

**Materials:** Using the [contact form](#), instructors can apply for a teacher character in *VRoma* to administer the activity, then proceed to the **Ludi VRomani** game room off the **Officina** to access game instructions and materials. [Click here for Instructions for Teachers.](#)

Created by Barbara F. McManus, this activity meets the goals of Communication, Cultures, Connections, and Comparisons in [Standards for Classical Language Learning](#).