

















In this topic you will learn about Greek and Roman practices and beliefs surrounding the death and burial process including the preparation, funeral procession, and burial of the body. Remembrance of the dead was also an important part of the family life and you will study some of the festivals of remembrance that the Greeks and Romans held.

| Ancient Rome: Death and Burial |                  |   | Burial of the Body |                       |   |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1                              | Death and Burial | Like the Greeks, death was an important issue to the Romans. It was incredibly important that the dead were treated with respect and that everybody, no matter their social status or wealth, received a proper burial.   | 17                 | Outside of City       | The final resting place of the body was always outside the city to remove the chance of religious pollution. It also limited the spread of disease.    |
| 2                              | The Wealthy      | As in many aspects of Roman life, status and wealth were important, the same was true for death. The wealthy invested heavily in the funerals of their dead. With is in mind, most of our evidence comes from the rich.   | 18                 | Tombs and Wealth      | A family's wealth determined the size of their tomb. A wealthy person could expect to be buried in the family tomb or an individual monument. The wealthy built their tombs along the roads that ran into a town, ensuring they would be remembered.           |
| 3                              | The Poor         | The poor of Rome could not afford to invest as much as the wealthy in funerals, but did need to still make sure they provided one so loved ones were not forgotten.   | 19                 | Sarcophagi            | The super-rich would also place their dead in elaborately carved sarcophagi. These would contain relief sculpture of mythological battles and heroes.    |
| 4                              | Funeral Clubs    | Funeral clubs were one way the less wealthy could provide for loved ones in their death. Those that could afford it, paid a monthly fee to be part of a club who met regularly for meals and to socialise. Upon the death of one of its members, the club would pay for the funeral and provide mourners. | 20                 | Busts of the Deceased | Once the dead were buried, they were not to be forgotten so busts of the dead were made and placed in the house. The Romans believed they turned into Manes (meaning the 'spirits of the dead'). The Romans expected gifts and food to be left for the Manes.  |

## Preparation of the Body

|    |                    |   |
|----|--------------------|---|
| 5  | Greek Influence    | Roman burial practice was very much based on Ancient Greek influences.   |
| 6  | The Last Breath    | One thing that differed to the Greeks was that, if possible, just before the moment of death a relative would try to capture the last breath of the person with a kiss.    |
| 7  | Dead Person's Name | After the person has died, it was important that those present at home call out the deceased's name. If the person died unaccompanied it had to be done ceremonially afterwards.    |
| 8  | Body Washed        | The body would be washed, perfumed, and wrapped in a long white shroud.    |
| 9  | Payment for Charon | When this process was complete a coin would be placed on the deceased's mouth. This was payment for Charon, the boatman who ferried the dead from the land of the living to the underworld.                                    |
| 10 | Atrium             | After the body was prepared, and similarly to the Greeks, the body was laid out, but this time in an Atrium (the main room of the house) for eight days. This would give friends and family the chance to pay their respects.  |
| 11 | Pollution          | As a death automatically polluted the house, a bowl of water was placed outside for people to wash themselves as they left.    |
| 12 | Lament             | Throughout the period of mourning, women of the house would lament the deceased by screaming the name of the deceased, and beating their own chests.   |

## Funeral Procession

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 13 | Funeral          | The funeral would take place eight days after the death, and the body would be carried to outside the city, similar to the Greeks.    |
| 14 | Participants     | The procession included women, children and men from the family, and any slaves the family owned. It would also include musicians, particularly a flute or horn player.   |
| 15 | Funerary Masks   | Members of the family wore funerary masks of family ancestors. A funerary mask was made by placing wax on the deceased's face to create a mould. When it was taken off, it was stored in the family shrine. They were worn to symbolise acceptance of the deceased into the afterlife.  |
| 16 | Wealthy Funerals | If the family were small, but wealthy, they could pay for professional mourners to attend to increase the size of the congregation.   |

## Ancient Roman Festivals: Parentalia

|    |                            |  |
|----|----------------------------|--|
| 21 | The Festival of Parentalia | The Parentalia took place over nine days between the 13 and 21 February.   |
| 22 |                            | During this time, people were not permitted to marry, temples were closed and no official business was allowed to take place.  |
| 23 |                            | The first day was the only state aspect to it: there was a blood sacrifice carried out by a Vestal Virgin.   |
| 24 |                            | The rest of the festival was a domestic one, one that centred on the family rather than the state.   |
| 25 |                            | Families were expected to pay respects at the tombs or graves of their loved ones by decorating their graves with garlands, scattering food, a few grains of salt, and bread soaked in wine. |
| 26 |                            | On the ninth day, the family would meet and share a meal in the home.  |

## Ancient Roman Festivals: Lemuria

|    |                         |   |
|----|-------------------------|---|
| 27 | The Festival of Lemuria | The Lemuria was held over three days in May: the 9th, the 11th, and the 13th.   |
| 28 |                         | During this time, people were not permitted to marry, temples were closed and no official business was allowed to take place.   |
| 29 |                         | Unlike the Parentalia which focused on honouring the family's deceased, the Lemuria was held to ward off evil spirits.  |
| 30 |                         | The ritual that took place which included, washing, taking black beans, throwing them, chanting sayings ("With these beans I throw I redeem myself and my family.") This has to be said nine times, bronze symbols are sounded, and then a final cry is said nine further times, "Ancestral spirits, depart." |