



# Which one happened earlier?

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Work starts on  
the Pyramids  
of Giza in  
Ancient Egypt  
**(2,500 BCE)**

OR



Woolly  
Mammoths start  
to die out **(3750  
CE)**



Woolly Mammoths died 1250 years before the pyramids of Giza were built

**BCE = the bigger the number the earlier in time the event**

**3750 >  
2500**

**2500 is a larger number than 3750, therefore, the mammoths died out before the building of**



Thursday, 23 April 2020

## Learning Question:

How can I explore the life of a poor roman?

## Success Criteria:

- ✓ I can understand the structure of the Roman society.
- ✓ I can understand that poor Romans had lots of different roles within Roman society.
- ✓ I write an explanation text about the lives of poor Romans

## Vocabulary

- Society
- Civilisation
- Slave
- Citizen
- Gladiator

# Roman Society

The  
Emperor

Today we are going to  
be focusing on the  
poor romans

Patricians

rich romans

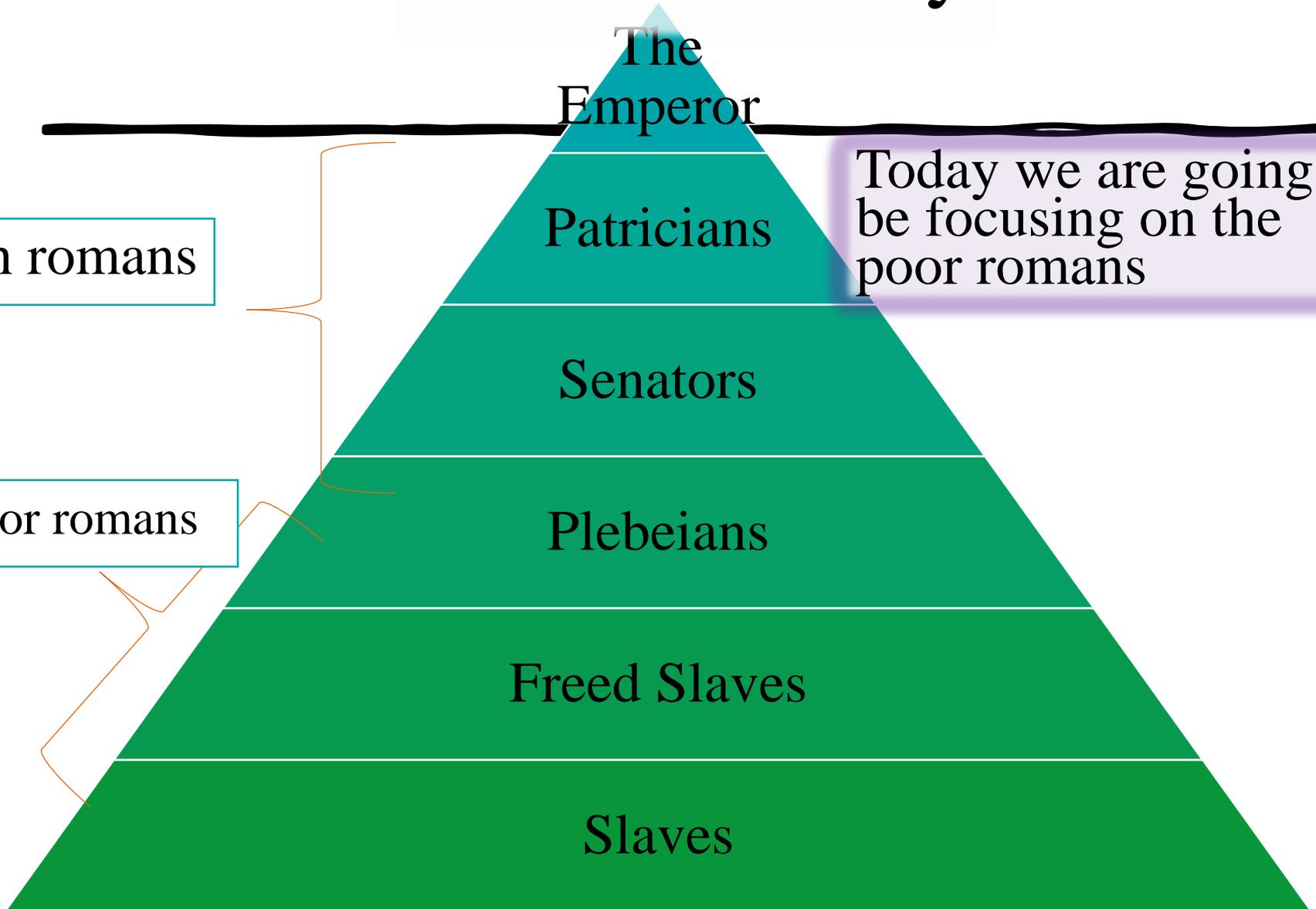
Senators

Poor romans

Plebeians

Freed Slaves

Slaves



# **Today we are going to be exploring the poor of Roman Society**

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**Your quality of  
life in ancient  
roman times  
depended  
greatly on what  
class you were  
born into**

**Two Romans  
living at the  
same time could  
have very  
different lives.**



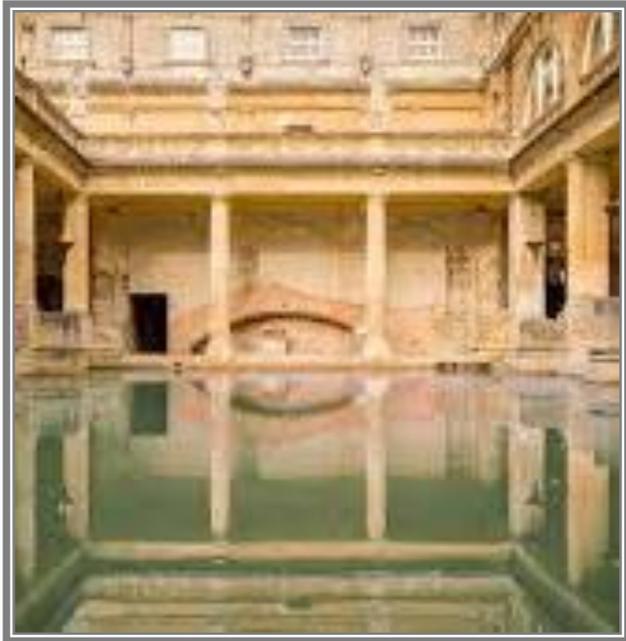
The number of the poor greatly outnumbered the rich and so they were often referred to as the Roman mob.

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- Poorer Romans could only dream of the life of a rich Roman.
- Instead, the poor had to live in hot conditions **in shabby, squalid** houses that would often collapse or burn down.



# Baths



- An integral part of daily life in ancient Rome, the baths gave citizens of all classes the chance to mingle, gossip and relax.
- Romans of all classes made a point of visiting the baths after work each day. There they would mix freely with their fellow citizens, exercising, washing and chatting. To citizens, the baths made them feel superior to the rest of the world – they made them feel Roman.



## Farmer

- Most of the Romans who lived in the countryside were farmers. The most common crop was wheat which was used to make bread.

# Soldier

- The Roman Army was large and needed soldiers. The army was a way for the poorer class to earn a regular wage and to gain some valuable land at the end of their service. It was a good way for the poor to move up in status.





## Craftsman

• From making dishes and pots to crafting fine jewelry and weapons for the army, craftsmen were important to the empire. Some craftsmen worked in individual shops and learned a specific craft, usually from their father. Others were slaves, who worked in large workshops that produced items in large quantities such as dishes or pots.

# Did they have a lot of slaves?

- A fairly large percentage of the people living in Rome and Italy were slaves. Historians aren't sure of an exact percentage but somewhere between 20% and 30% of the people were slaves. During the early parts of the Roman Empire, as many as one third of the people in Rome were slaves.
- So if you think of a class of 30 children, 10 of them would have been slaves in Ancient Roman times.

- Most slaves were people captured in times of war. As the Roman Empire expanded, they often captured slaves from new lands they conquered. Other slaves were bought from slave traders and pirates who captured people from foreign lands and brought them to Rome.

Children of slaves also became slaves.

Sometimes criminals were sold into slavery. A few people even sold themselves into slavery in order to pay their debts.

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- Slaves did all sorts of work throughout the empire. Some slaves worked hard labor in the Roman mines or on a farm. Other slaves worked skilled jobs such as teaching or business accounting. The type of work generally depended on the previous education and experience of the slave.

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- How a slave was treated depended upon the owner. Some slaves were likely beaten and worked to death, while others were treated almost like family. In general, slaves were considered valuable property and it made sense to treat them well. Sometimes, slaves were paid by their owners if they worked hard.

# Were slaves set free?

Yes, slaves were sometimes set free by their owner (called "manumission"). Sometimes slaves were able to purchase their own freedom. Freed slaves were called freedmen or freedwomen. Although they were free, they still had the status of a "freed slave." Freed slaves were considered Roman citizens but couldn't hold public office which means they could never enter the Senate (the Government) .

# Your Task

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Write an explanation text about the lives of poor Romans including the following sub-headings .

**Hard** – Introduction, Living conditions and the different job roles

**Harder** – Introduction, living conditions, What was the life as a farmer like? What was the life of a soldier like?

**Hardest** – Complete HARDER then write how did someone become a slave in Roman times what the life of a slave was like.

**Herculean** – Complete HARDEST then write how a slave was able to gain there freedom and what there life was like after slavery.

These tasks can be completed on paper. Alternatively, there will be a template available on Purple Mash.