

Abstract Title: Fountains in Ancient Rome
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Introduction:

Water is an important aspect in life. It has many meanings which include In this project we wanted to discover the fountains that are scattered throughout the city of Rome and how they might have affected daily life in Rome. We asked a couple of questions to help us with our research. How did the fountains and their locations affect daily life? What purpose did the fountains serve? The second question was purposely more open ended as we found fountains that had multiple purposes.

Research Objectives:

We decided to choose this topic because we wanted to find out the importance of water fountains in ancient Rome. We wanted to see if the water held any significant power for emperors or if it was used to honor deities. Our other goal was to find out how the ordinary citizens interacted with the fountains and if they held any special connection. We were also interested to see if there were any hotspots with the fountains. We also wanted to see if the fountains had any relation with the aqueducts.

Method: We decided to limit our search to just the city of Rome so we wouldn't get overwhelmed. To start this project out, we looked at the aqueducts in the city of Rome. We wanted to see where the aqueducts started and ended and if they had any major sections that forked off in a different direction. We hoped that this would lead to fountains scattered throughout Rome. To an extent we were right to start this way. We discovered that the Aqua Virgo fed into the Campus Martius which was a major cultural center. When we were able to find a fountain, we cross referenced that with google maps. We were also able to have access to a couple of books that allowed us to find different fountains. The first book we used was Terminal Display Fountains ("Mostre") and the Aqueducts of Ancient Rome by Peter J. Aicher. The most helpful book we found was "The Aqueducts, Fountains and Springs of Ancient Rome by Russell S. Forbes.

Results: After looking through the resources we found several fountains that are still intact. They were located towards the center of Rome on the corners of streets. We also found a few nymphaeum that could have had some type of water source that flowed through them. We also found in our research that there were multiple aqueducts that started on either the edge of the city or from a historically important water source. Aqueducts such as Aqua Appia and Aqua Marcia either started from the Tiber River, or from streams that led from the river. On the other hand, other Aqueducts originated from Baths of previous rulers. Water sources such as the Bath of Titus and the Baths of Trajan were the origin of Aqua Claudia. The Baths of Diocletian and the Baths of Decius were also the origin or ending for Aqua Appia and Aqua Marcia. These baths were important because they were the first "imperial" baths used by the people of Rome for public bathing.

Conclusion: In Conclusion, we found through our research, that water was very important to the Romans. We found that fountains and baths were not only used for architectural purposes, but also as functional purposes, as some were the essential to the Roman population for everyday use. Fountains and bathing houses were used everyday by the people of Rome, as they found it crucial to stay clean. These fountains were not only the location of personal hygiene, but also a place of socialization. With our research, we were able to connect the fountains and baths to Aqueducts, which were used to carry water throughout the city of Rome, making it very accessible to all people. The Aqueducts would either begin or end at the site of a fountain or bath. With Aqueducts also stemming from the Tiber River, it showed just how important the use of water was to Romans, while also keeping an important architectural standard in not only design, but in architectural integrity, which allows us to see and study these structures today.

With this map below, it shows multiple Aqueducts, historical baths, and fountains that were within the city walls of Rome of 250 AD. This is significant because this map, created with ArcGIS, is showing the different mappings of these historically significant sites, along with how they integrated the River of Tiber into their water Sources.

Key:

Pre 250 BC- 150 BC: Red
149 BC- 50 BC: Green
49 BC- 100 AD: Purple
101 AD- 250 AD: Yellow
Post 250 AD- Orange

