

BARCINO

ROMAN BARCELONA

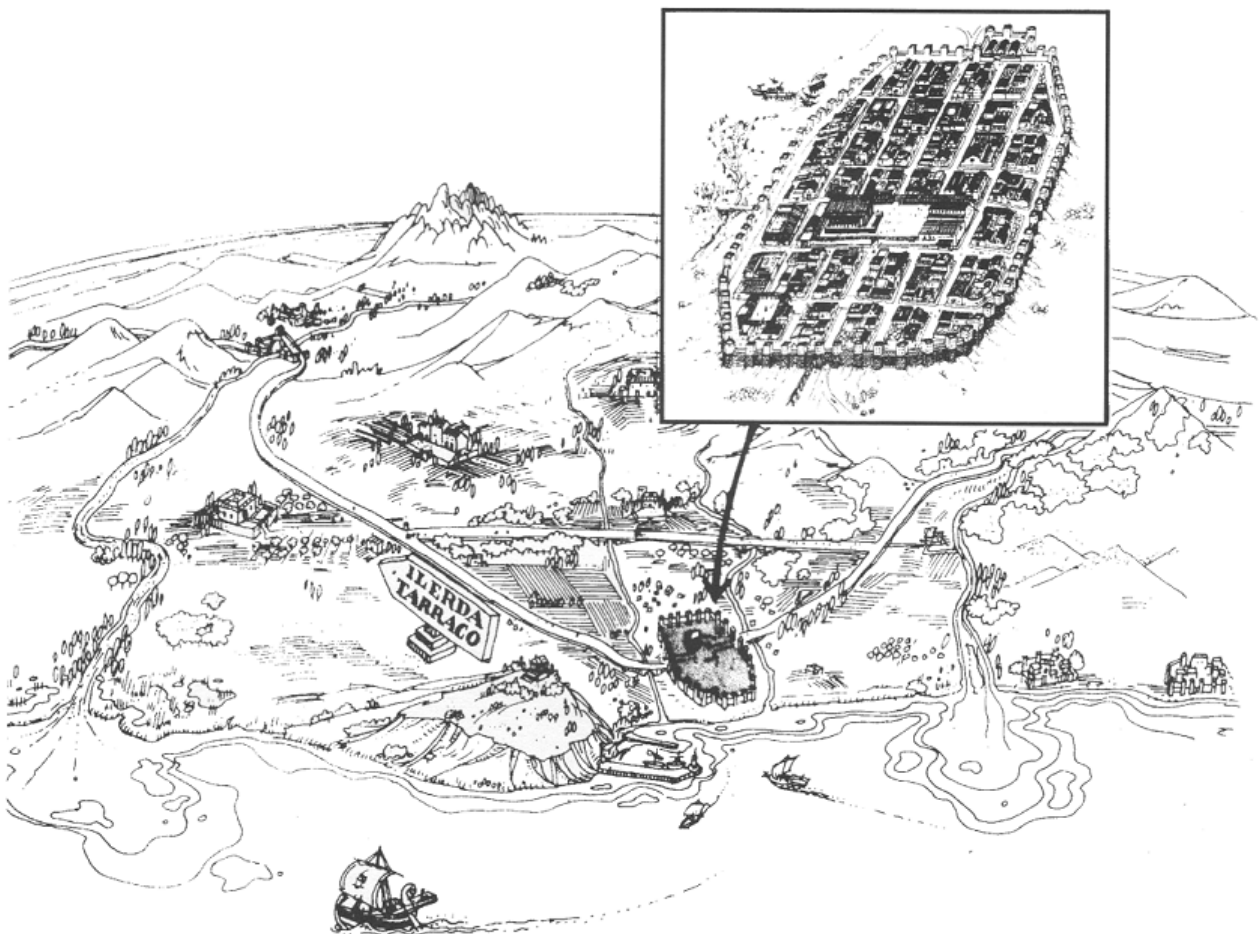
Student Activity Book



Primer / Segon

Camp d'Aprenentatge de Barcelona
Name: _____

ESO



DRAWING OF BARCINO AND ITS SURROUNDINGS
Source: Museu d'Història de la Ciutat

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[1]

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

On the Italian Peninsula the territory of *Laci*, situated on the southern margin of the river Tiber, was occupied from the second millennium BC by Latins, a group of towns of shepherds and farmers. Some of the towns grouped themselves on the bank of the *Tiber*, in a zone occupied by the *Illa Tiberina*, an island as well as an access that permitted crossing the river. This converted the zone into a place for both commercial and pedestrian crossing. To protect themselves from enemies, the people installed themselves on seven hills.

In the 7th century BC, the populations of the seven hills united themselves within the same wall and from there Rome was created.

The city grew and developed, making itself stronger each time it acquired more territory. By the time of the Republic, around the year 270 BC, Rome dominated all of the Italian peninsula and continued with its expansion. This empire which from the 1st century BC was governed by emperors grew and absorbed cities and territories that nowadays would comprise more than forty countries.



This expansion arrived to the Iberian Peninsula as you can see on the map.



The Roman cities in Catalonia, excluding Tarraco, were small but shared the territory in an equal manner.

Through measuring the remains of the city walls, the approximate expanse of the cities have been calculated. They have been established in three groups:

- **Large cities:** Tarraco (Tarragona). Between 70 and 80 Hectare
- **Medium cities:** Emporiae (Empúries). Around 20 Hectare
- **Small cities:** Barcino (Barcelona) and Dertosa (Tortosa), between 10 and 15 Hectare and Baetulo (Badalona); Iluro (Mataró), Gerunda (Girona) and Ilerda (Lleida), less than 10 Hectare.



Mark on the map of Catalonia the location of the principle Roman cities and near them, information over the year that they were founded. Create different symbols to indicate size and remember to make a legend that explains the symbols.



On the plane that nowadays forms Barcelona, surrounded by a mountain band and limited by the sea and two rivers, sedentary towns established themselves—the Iberian tribes of Laietanis—that elevated the population onto hills. The most important hill was the population of Montjuïc. The navigators that arrived there to sell their goods named it **Bàrkeno**. Bàrkeno (barr-ke-n-o) means in Iberian “the place of the terrace”: 'Barr' "plain", 'barrke' "plains or terraces". Nowadays when we refer to the 'pla de Barcelona' (Plan of Barcelona) we refer to all of this territory of the hills that occupy the city.

Much later, the Romans arrived and Iberian Bàrkeno transformed to Roman Barcino. It was the 1st century BC, in the year 10, under the government of Augustus in Rome, the colony of IULIA AUGUSTA FAVENTIA PATERNA BARCINO was founded.

The city was born around Mons Taber. The first city walls that were constructed were not very strong. More than a defensive structure, the walls served to identify the urban nucleus with all of the classic elements of a typical city of Roman colonialism: a forum or public plaza with the Temple of Augustus presiding on the perpendicular crossroad of the two main streets—the cardo and the decumanus that cut the city down the middle. On each of the four extremes of the two streets opened to a door in the city wall.

The 10 hectare that Barcino occupied was divided in streets that formed quadrants: the decumani (longitudinal roads) and the cardi (transverse roads). It was a small city occupied by 2,000 inhabitants. The water arrived to the city through two aqueducts that came from Collserola or the river Besòs.

From its foundation, the city achieved a prevalent role as a colony between the populations of the Laietani Coast. The ideal placement of Barcelona, near the coast and between two rivers facilitated the communications, along with the network of roads constructed by the Romans (the Via Augusta is found within path that Rome communicated with Tarraco) favored the prosperity of the city. The principle roads of the city were the Via Augusta, the Via Morisca and the Via Francisca.

In the fourth century AD, the city walls were amplified and fortified: today we can still see remains of this wall (that were not destroyed but rather profited from other constructions); it extended around a perimeter of 1,270m and was formed by walls 9m high and 3.5m wide, a series of 76 square towers (the majority), rounded ones (with which it formed the extreme NW door of the decumanus maximus) and polygonal towers.

Nowadays we can see perfectly numerous stretches of this wall, like the remains of the principle temple of Barcino, the Temple of Augustus, and the archeological ruins of a garum and salting factory, a laundry mat and cleaners, and a shop situated under the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat.

Outside of the city and on the two sides of the road were the tombs and mausoleums, like for example the conserved necropolis in the la plaça Vila de Madrid.

The Romans that arrived to the Iberian Peninsula in the 3rd century BC—218 BC landing at Empúries—incorporated all of the conquered territories militarily into their empire. There, territories little by little adopted the Roman way of life: the language (Latin), the laws, the idea of the city as the center of the political and administrative organization, the religion...that is to say, Roman culture. Rome was an urban civilization that founded numerous cities throughout their territories.

In the year 133 BC, it is known that the Romans had the domini of the plane, situated between the rivers Llobregat (Rubricatus) and Besòs (Baetulo), stretch from Collserola to the sea. This plane was inhabited by the Laitani Iberians, people that lived situated on the hills or small elevations.

The different drawings that display the city helped to discover its history and are testimony of the diverse stages of its growth. It is possible to read the development of the city of Barcelona through observing maps of different ages.

Present day Barcelona is the result of an accumulation of actions and lives that have taken place and have contributed to forging the form and style of Barcelona. It has been and is a process of complex force that is not over. The city is still constructing, is still destroying, is still reinventing.



In reality Barcino had a long and full name. Specifically it was called **Colònia Iulia Faventia Augusta Paterna Barcino**. Match each word with its meaning:

COLONIA	Allusion to the Faventi origin of the city, a sign of auspiciousness during its foundation.
IULIA	In honor of Octavius Ceasar Augustus when his family became imperial coinciding with the founding of Barcino.
FAVENTIA	The military settlements constructed by the veterans of war. It commemorates the founding of the city in the year 10 BC.
AUGUSTA	Latinization of the Iberian name of the city, Barkeno.
PATERNA	In honor of the daughter of Augustus, Julia.
BARCINO	It indicates that it was founded by Romans, naming the fathers of the empire.

2.1 The Roman City Walls

Strictly speaking, the urban nucleus was delineated with a city wall 9m high and a perimeter of approximately 1,270m. The wall had 74 towers and four doors that opened in the center of each side of the city: present day Plaça Nova, Plaça de l'Angel, Carrer de Regomir and a point situated between Carrer de Call and Ferran. Of these four doors, only two partially have been discovered: la decumana in plaça Nova and the southwest door on carrer del Regomir.

Two streets linked the four doors and constituted the most important roads: the *decamanus maximus*, that traversed the city from the side of the mountain to the sea and that has lasted as present day carrer del Bisbe, de la ciutat and del Regomir; and the *cardo maximus*, perpendicular to carrer del Bisbe and conserved below and Carrer de la Llibreteria and Carrer del Call.

By the 4th century, a new city wall was constructed, attached to the external half of the previous wall and reinforced with defense towers. The doors provided three openings, a central path dedicated to transit and two lateral ones for pedestrians that arrived to the city by different roads.

By the streets, that were paved with compact earth, a network of sewers flowed that deposited beyond the walls. A street named *intervalum* circumnavigated the wall by the interior and separated the houses.



Porta de la muralla romana de Barcelona



Take a photograph of the walls of Plaça Nova where you can clearly see the different periods of the wall's construction.

2.2 Roman Urbanism

Barcino is a clear demonstration of Roman urbanism. The Roman world was a very militarized and ordered civilization, following the foundation models that they imposed on their colonial expansion. Because of this, when they founded a city, to trace the streets they utilized as a pattern the castrum, a Roman military encampment. Making everything equal and structured, they saved many problems and the cities were easy to defend. Therefore, the Roman cities were usually a square plan and the streets oriented following a quadrant. Barcelona, however, presented a small modification that had angles cut for the purpose of adapting itself to the tower relay.

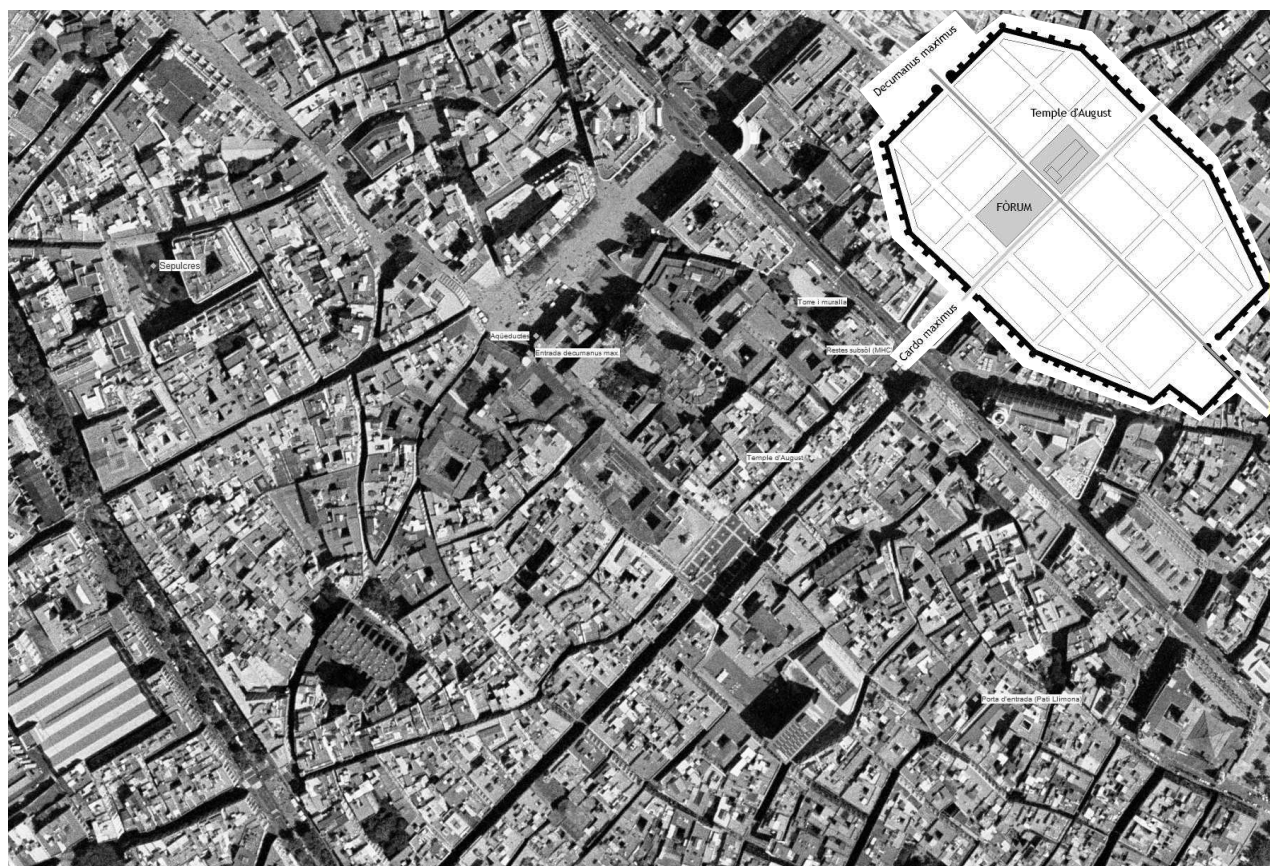
There were two principle streets named: *Cardo maximus* and *Decumanus maximus*. These streets crossed in the center of the city or forum. The forum is the heart of the city and the urban, political, commercial and in many cases religious center, in this way becoming a meeting place and passage for the inhabitants. Normally, in the forum there is the temple, the basilica and the curia.

The Romans, thanks to the knowledge of materials like concrete and fired brick, could utilize the arc, the vault and the cupola for their constructions.

The first group of Romans installed themselves in Barcelona on parceled lands that they partitioned between the retired Roman soldiers coming from the Cantabrian Wars and their families.



With the help of the diagram on the right, trace over the orthophotograph the outline of the Roman city, the cardo, decumanus, and the forum.



8 City wall and defense tower:

We can see a fragment of the wall and two towers used previously (14th c.) in the construction of the Casa March.

> C/ Correu Vell



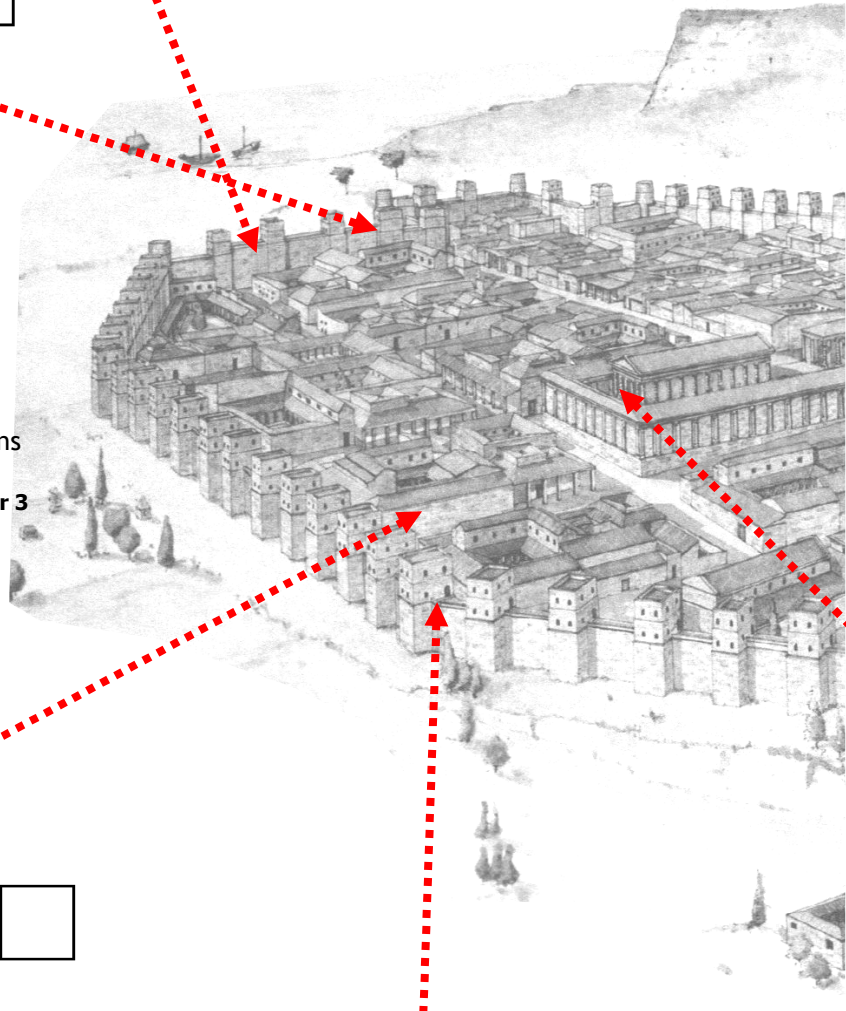
Number the visited locations in the guide.



7 City wall and entrance door:

We can see the path for pedestrians on the interior of the building of Pati Llimona. These remains correspond to the first wall of Barcino (1st c.).

> C/ Regomir 3



6 Workshops and factories:

Entering through the cardo maximus we find the zone where a laundry mat (*fullonica*) and dry cleaner (*tinctoria*), a factory for garum (a type of fish sauce) and a shop. Nowadays, we can visit the remains below the Museu d'Història de la Ciutat.

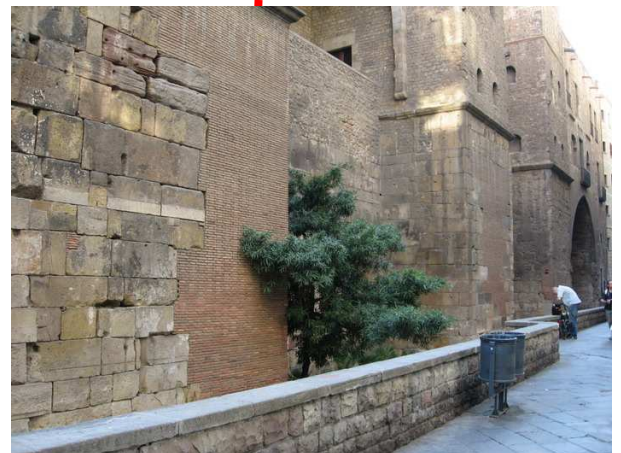
> Plaça del Rei (Museu d'Història de la Ciutat)



5 Section of the city wall and defense towers: Corresponding to the second city wall of Barcino (4th c.).

Above, the chapel of Santa Àgata and the Palau Reial Major were constructed ten centuries later.

> Plaça Ramon Berenguer



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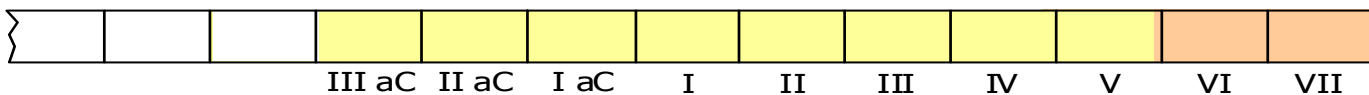


Color the historical period corresponding to BÀRCINO:

Línia del temps...

Edat Antiga

Edat Mitjana



III aC

II aC

I aC

I

II

III

IV

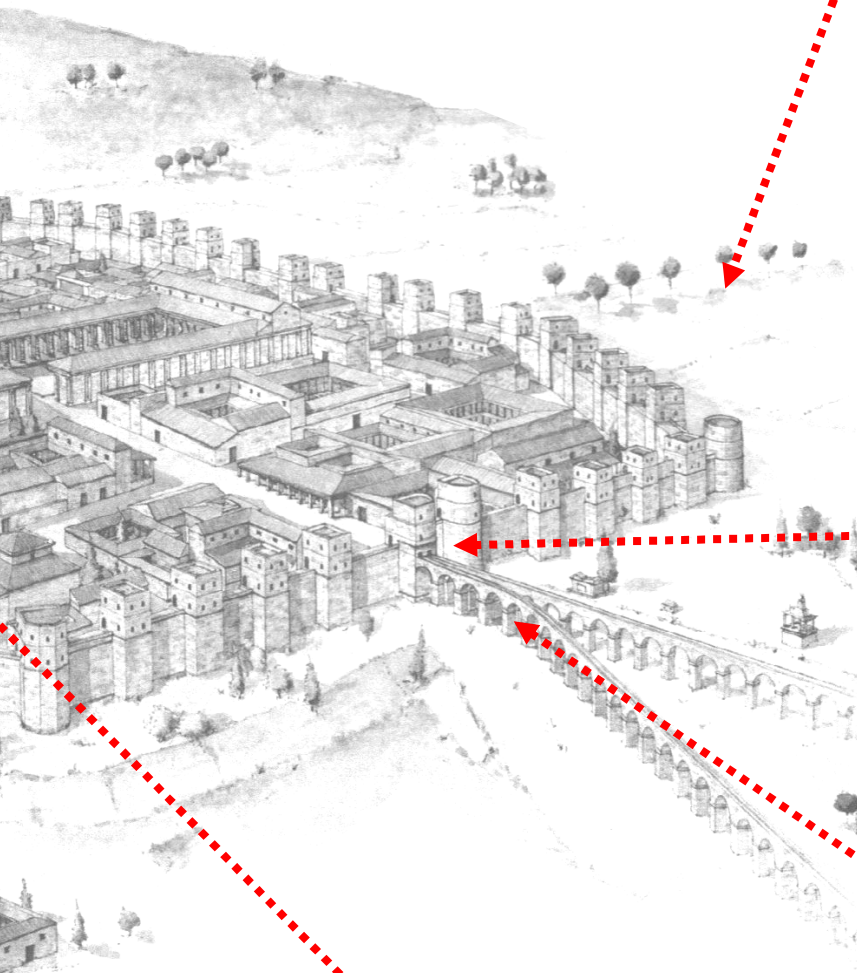
V

VI

VII

BARCELINO

Do this activity book in the same order that they were made during



1 Roman necropolis: the cemetery had to be situated outside the city walls; the majority of tombs are of the type named "*cupae*".
> Plaça Vila de Madrid.



2 Door Decumanus Maximus: It was the principle access into Barcino from the north. We can see two semicircular towers and a small door to the right where pedestrians entered.

> Plaça Nova.



3 Aqueducts: two aqueducts carried water to the city; one from Collserola and the other from the River Besòs. We can see them partially re-constructed.

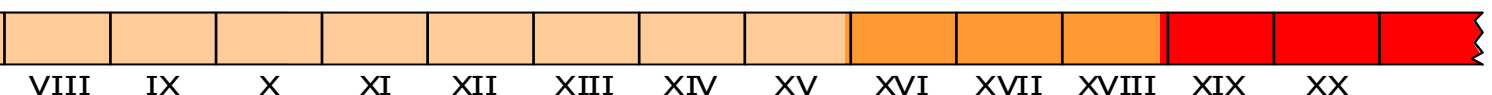
> Plaça Nova.

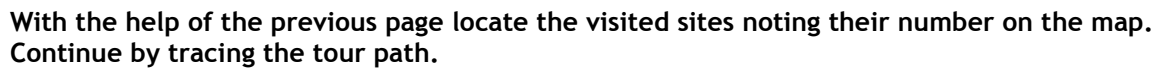
Temple of Augustus: It was the principle building of the forum (public square). Four columns are conserved, corresponding to the back right.
> Carrer Paradís (Centre Excursionista de Catalunya)



Edat Moderna

Edat Contemp





The tower on the left of the this door can be seen as testimony of the two aqueducts. On the left integrated with the group of circular towers, the remains of an arcade coming from Besòs can be observed, having been restored in 1958. To the right of the same circular tower, beneath the chapel the rest of the second aqueduct, that carried water from Collserola, can be appreciated.

The water transported by the aqueducts were stored in a large water tank (the *castellum aquae*), from there the water was distributed to three smaller tanks and from there through pipelines of lead or clay, arriving at public fountains or baths. It should be noted that the level of hygiene that was practiced during the Roman ages was not returned to until the 14th century.

2.4 The necropolis

As it was customary in the Roman cities, the access roads were flanked by burial areas that we can still see in Plaça de la Vila de Madrid that conserves 85 funerary elements, mostly from the 2nd and 3rd century AD. The major part of the sepulchers that are seen pertained to the humble social classes: *cupae*, *ares*, *esteles*, coverings of *tegulae*, pieces of amphora or graves.



Take a photograph of the cemetery where different sepulchers are seen.

2.5 Baths

Barcelona also had several baths at the forum. They were constructed by the family Minici Natal in the year 125 AD on their own land. A marble tombstone in the Museu Arqueològic de Montjuïc explains the history. These baths were located beneath present day Plaça de Sant Miquel, just in front of the offices of the town hall (ajuntament).

It is not possible to see them today because, after having excavated them, they were again buried. However, it is possible to see a representation of them inside the Museu d'Història de la ciutat.

2.6 The inhabitants of Barcino

In its first moments, the colony of Barcino was populated by discharged legionaries from the Cantabrian Wars, freedman (former slaves) hailing from the province of Narbonense and colonists from the Italian Peninsula. Merchants, civil servants, soldiers, artisans, workers, and a good number of slaves completed the group of the colony.

The inhabitants were divided into three categories: citizens (by birth or election), residents and strangers. Only the first two, provided that they had five years of residency, could exercise public roles. There were eight social classes: senators, cavaliers, soldiers, magistrates, city workers, citizens, freedman (freed former slaves) and slaves.

2.7 Roman House (Domus)

From land parcels demarcated by the streets, rose up the domus, the private house. The domus responded to the typical model of Roman cities. It consisted of a single floor or two maximum. It had a rectangular plan and was isolated from the exterior by uniform walls, with little windows. Light entered through the center, the atrium, or the peristyle. The primitive Italian house was divided into these parts:

The principle entrance usually consisted of a vestibule (vestibulum) in the form of a small space sheltered behind a door which to the corridor the name fauces.

The atrium was the main meeting chamber. It was the center of the primitive house and of family life. It was a large space covered by a ceiling with a large opening (compluvium) in the center that gave light and ventilation and where rain water fell to the impluvium, a rectangular base that collected the water and from there passed to a subterranean cistern.

The tablinum was situated in the back of the atrium, separated by a curtain or a wood grill. It was the office of the patriarch, where he received visits and guarded the family archive.

The cubicula were the bedrooms and were situated on the sides of the atrium or at the back of the domus, next too the peristyle.

The room that flanked the entrance could open to the exterior. In this case the owner of the house could rent it as a **shop** (*tabernae*).

The **peristyle** (peristylum) was a garden surrounded by an arcade supported by columns. Around it was distributed the cubicula and other rooms.

The **triclinium**, the dining room, was introduced with the Greek custom of eating while reclining. It was possible to have more than one. For example one for summer given in the peristyle and another for winter more protected from the cold.

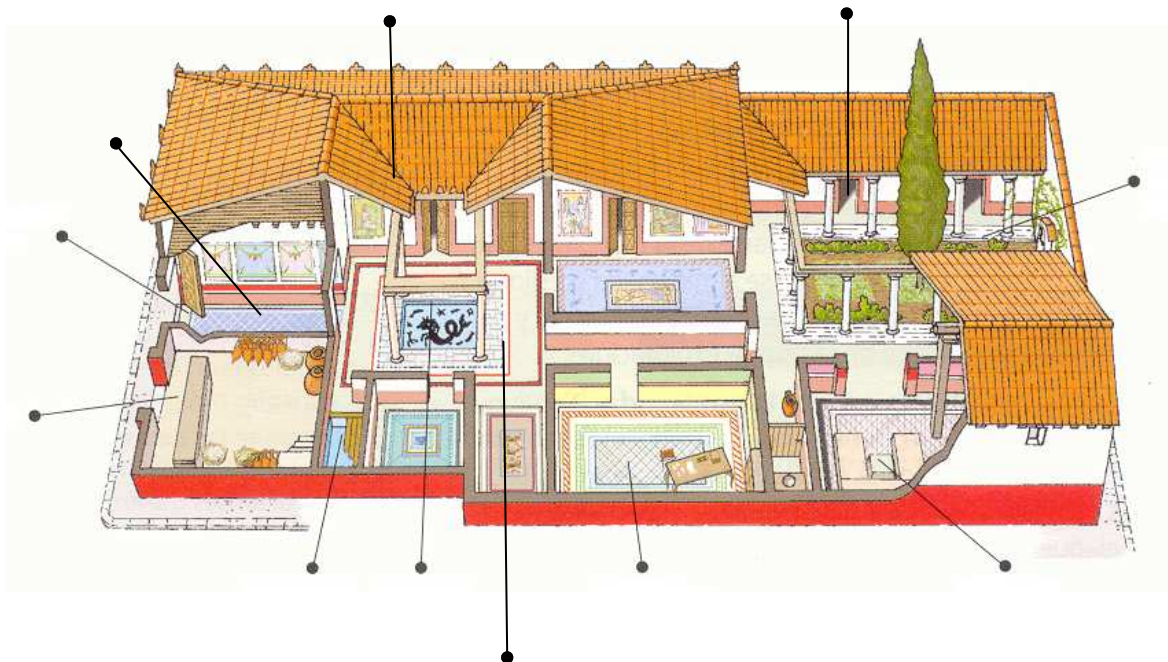
Next to the atrium was the **cistern** that was a space generally to guard rain water.

In some domus, at the back of the building, there usually was a stable with a pile where the carriages and amphorae were guarded and a room for the foreman of the slaves (the vilicus) and the slaves' rooms. As it would appear, this type of housing was used by owners of a certain importance that resided in the city and had lands a short distance away. When the owners did not have slaves, these additions did not exist.



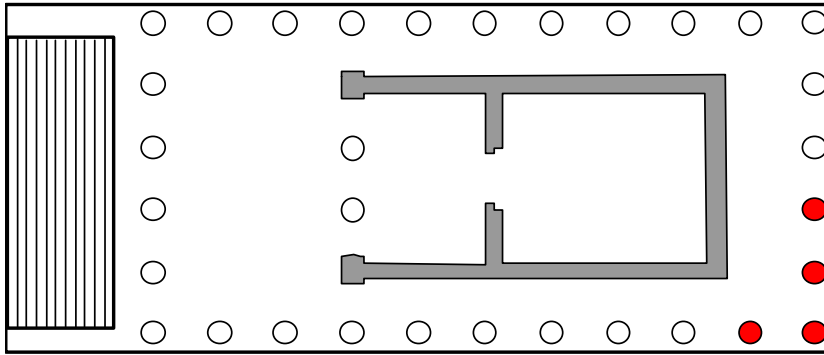
Place the names of the different parts of the Roman domus that are highlighted and bolded on the previous page:

FAUCES—COMPLUVIUM—CUBICULA—PERISTYLUM—TRICLINUM—TABLINUM—ATRIUM—
IMPLUVIUM—CISTERNA—TABERNAE—VESTIBULUM



2.8 The Roman Temple of Augustus

At the forum of Barcino there was the confluence of the *Decumanus Maximus* with the *Cardo Maximus* and included a larger space situated approximately between the streets de la Llibreteria, de la Pietat, de Sant Domènec del Call and de la Frèneria, including the Palau de la Generalitat. A large temple was raised, constructed in the last quarter of the 1st century BC and probably dedicated to the imperial cult. It was a temple of a rectangular plan, hexastyle (6 columns in the façade) and peripteros (surrounded by columns all along its perimeters). Today four columns are preserved, a part of the *podium* and the architrave of the east angle (carrer Paradís).



Plan of the temple of Barcelona.
Conserved columns are colored darkly.



You can learn more things about the Temple of Barcelona and view a 3D reproduction at this website:

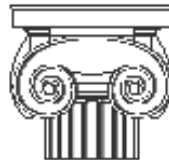
<http://www.edu365.cat/eso/muds/socials/temple/index.htm>



Look at the three types of classical order capitals and mark which corresponds to the Temple of Augustus.



DORIC



IONIC



CORINTHIAN



Read the information plaques and answer:

- In what century was the construction of the temple?
- To whom is it dedicated?
- Which parts of the temple are conserved?
- Take two photographs of the temple.



On the door of the Centre Excursionista de Catalunya, on carrer Paradís num. 10, there is a stone from a mill that indicates the highest point of the Roman city. Note the name of this small peak and its height.

Mons

Height:

- Why do you think the temple was situated at this point and not another?

2.9 El dia a dia

The Fish Factory (Garum Factory)

Garum was a sauce made with from a fish base; the Romans usually would have the sauce with everything they ate. It was a condiment almost like ketchup or mayonnaise, but much stronger. Apicius, a Roman author from the 1st century and who wrote one of the best books about the cuisine of the time, recommended Garum very highly.

Garum was a juice that was obtained from the pressing of the fish with salt, fish entrails, and the remains of any marine animal. They left this combination to marinate in the sun for several weeks. In the garum mixture they would also add aromatic herbs to make it more flavorful. At the end of the production, it was stored in amphorae that was exported throughout the empire.

It is not difficult to imagine the smell that the garum factories would have made, with thousands of liters of fish in different stages of maceration and concentrating in the sun. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that at the table it was served with a lot of moderation. As such it was used like vinegar. Since the Romans did not salt their meals, garum was a way of bringing salt that was as necessary for flavor as much as an important mineral for us.

Fullonica or ancient laundry mat

“It is well known the use of ashes for laundry, as it acted like a whitening agent in the same manner as lime that furthermore, splashed and mixed with urine, constituted an efficient detergent. Lime and urine was utilized also in dyers as a mordant to bind the colors to the textiles.

In the *fullonicae* of Pompeii and Herculaneum, amphorae with urine have been found and classical texts have made reference to the custom of placing amphorae in the streets by the entrance of a laundry mate to collect urine from passersby.”

BELTRAN de HEREDIA, J.,
“Fullonica i tintoria: teles, tints i bugades a l’antiga colònia romana” a De Barcino a Barcinona (segles I-VII).

Dyers

“The dying of cloth, belts or pieces of used clothes is given the term *tinctoriae*. The Romans differentiated between establishments for dyeing and retaining used clothes to give them a new color (*offectoriae*) and those that only dyed new cloth (*infectoriae*).

In some large cities, like Pompeii, it is possible to identify the type of establishment thanks to epigraphs that have been conserved on the façades of the workshops. In more modest facilities, like the one in Barcino, most likely new clothes were treated as much as used clothing.”

Resum adaptat pel CdA de BCN de
BELTRAN de HEREDIA, J.,
De Barcino a Barcinona (segles I-VII).

Wine Factory

“In the Roman world, grapes were consumed as food but principally they were destined for wine production. In Barcino, next to the garum factory, is located a production center for wine. The wine-producing facility of Barcino occupies a surface of 600 square meters, where in different chambers are situated deposits of decantation, transport and fermentation of must, two presses, and a storage space where the shop is located.

A facility like the one in Barcino could house in its store close to 10,000 liters of wine.”

Resum adaptat pel CdA de BCN de
BELTRAN de HEREDIA, J.,
De Barcino a Barcinona (segles I-VII).

- 1 Observe the map of the peninsula and most of all, of Catalunya and make some conclusions about the distribution of Roman cities throughout the territory.
- 2 Contribute arguments that explain if Roman society and its way of life was very organized.
- 3 Look for information over three important aspects of the city of Barcino from which remains have been found:
 - Fullonica and Tintoria
 - Fish factory (Garum factory)
 - Wine factory
- 4 Names. Look for information and explain who each person was:
 - Lucius Minicius Natalis (Luci Minici Natal)
 - Octavius Augustus (Octavi August)
 - Antoni Cellers i Azcona
- 5 Write a small paragraph as a conclusion over the characteristics of Barcino: location, urbanism, relevant places, inhabitants...

