

Instructions for Educators & Chaperones

The Getty Villa

Living Spaces in an Ancient Roman Villa

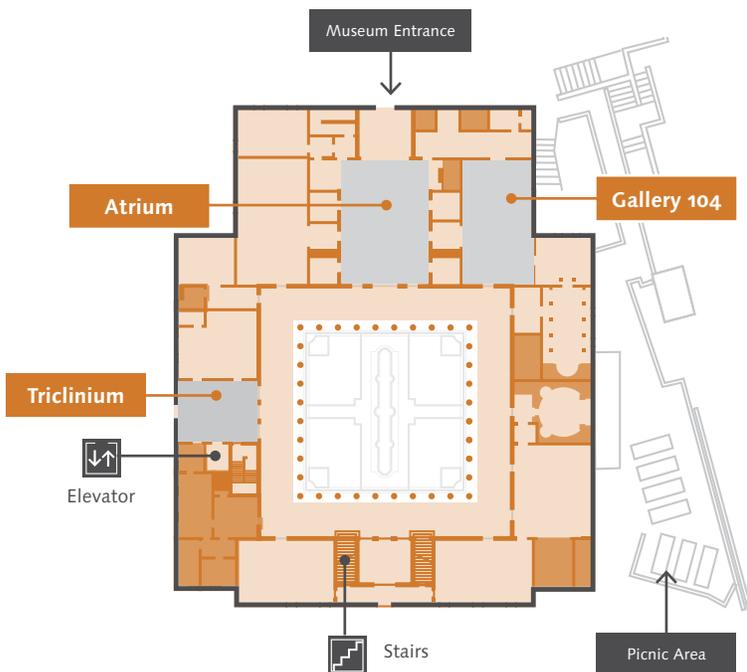
This instruction sheet will help you guide your students at the Getty Villa as they work on the worksheet attached on the following pages.

GOALS> TIPS>

- To teach students the vocabulary used to name spaces in an ancient villa.
- To give students a sense of how ancient spaces were used and what artwork was displayed within them.
- Briefly look over the activity before beginning and think about where you will need to take the students.
- Ask the students questions and be an active leader!
- Be flexible! If one gallery is occupied, work on another part of the activity first and then return when the gallery is free.
- These activities DO NOT have to be completed in any particular order.

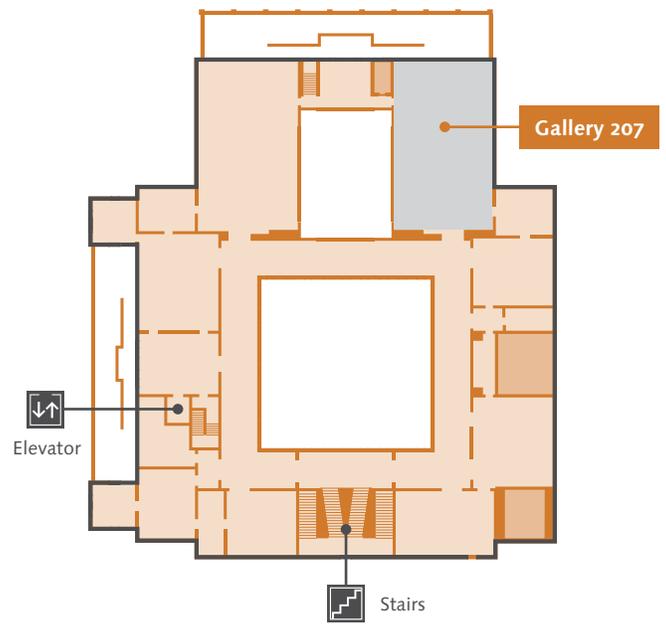
ATRIUM

This is the first room as you enter the Museum. After completing the first activity, go to the adjacent **Gods and Goddesses gallery (Gallery 104)**, where you will find the sculpture *Venus Genetrix* for the second activity.



TRICLINIUM

This is located between the Inner and Outer Peristyle Gardens. After completing the first activity, go back into the Museum to the **Women and Children in Antiquity gallery (Gallery 207)**, where you will find *Wall Fragment with a Woman on a Balcony* for the second activity.



Living Spaces in an Ancient Roman Villa

Your Name _____

EXPLORE the spaces listed below at the Getty Villa,
and learn about the uses of living spaces in antiquity.

The Getty Villa is a replica of a Roman villa from the 1st century A.D. In ancient times, villas were large country homes where wealthy Romans spent their summers. As in modern homes, spaces were designed at a villa to serve different purposes: the *culina* (kitchen) was for cooking and the *hortus* (garden) was a place to relax during the day as well as grow herbs.

I. **FIND** the **Atrium**.

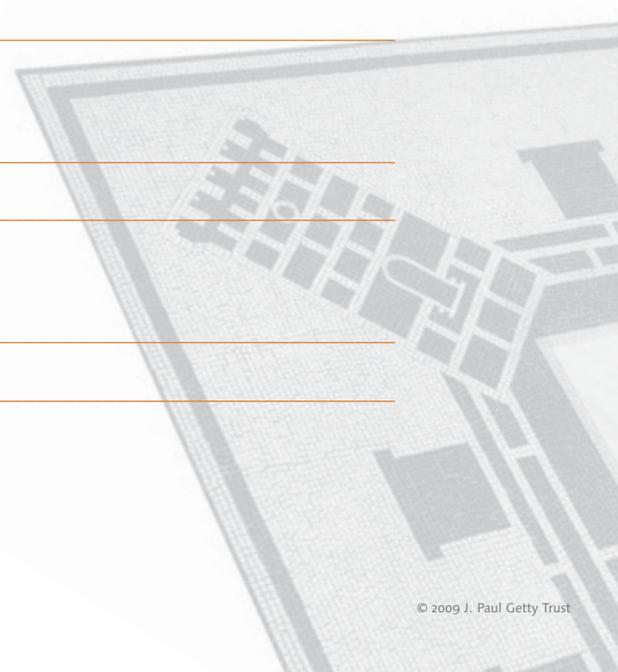
The atrium was the central hall of a Roman villa. It usually had an opening in the roof (*compluvium*) to guide rainwater, and a pool in the center of the floor (*impluvium*) to collect it. Because the atrium served as the main entrance to the villa, it was designed to impress visitors and would be decorated with beautiful statues and mosaic floors. The statues might represent ancestors or gods and goddesses, who were thought to protect the villa.

EXPLORE the **Atrium** in the Getty Villa. Make sure to look up!

Choose your favorite detail in the Atrium and describe it below.

Do you think this detail has a function? If so, what does it do?

Why do you think this detail is in the Atrium?



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II. **GO TO** the **Gods and Goddesses gallery (Gallery 104)** nearby.
FIND the marble sculpture *Venus Genetrix*.

What is the date of this object?

Do you think this object could have been used to decorate an atrium? Why or why not?

This is Venus, the goddess of love. Why do you think a Roman would have used such a sculpture to decorate an atrium?



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III. **FOLLOW** your teacher or chaperone to the *triclinium*.

EXPLORE the space, **READ** about its history below, and **ANSWER** the questions.

The *triclinium* was the dining room of a Roman home. *Triclinium* comes from two Greek words: *tri* meaning "three" and *kline*, which is a one-armed couch. Romans ate their meals reclining on these couches. Despite the prefix, large *triclinia* often had more than three couches, and might hold up to 20 guests. Some households also had a smaller *triclinium* for private parties and a breezy one for summer dining, like the *triclinium* at the Getty Villa. *Triclinia* were often decorated elaborately with complex wall and ceiling paintings, to spark conversation.

Where would you eat in this room?

What types of decorations are on the walls, floor, and ceiling?

On the walls: _____

On the floor: _____

On the ceiling: _____

Why do you think the ancient Romans wanted art on the ceilings of their dining spaces?

IV. **GO TO** the **Women and Children in Antiquity** gallery (Gallery 207). **FIND** the *Wall Fragment with a Woman on a Balcony*. **LOOK** closely and answer the questions below.

What is the date of this object? _____

What is the woman in this fresco doing?

What architectural clues can you find that might help you guess where she is standing?

Do you think this fresco could have been found in a *triclinium*? Why or why not?
