

The World of Languages and Languages of the World

Lovely Latin: Vindolanda

Let's look at the Vindolanda writing tablets

Objectives

- We can spot links between Latin and English.
- We can see that Latin has influenced the English language and other languages.
- We can see that our history, geography, language and culture has influence from Latin.



Let's Go!

- Name 3 things you can remember from the last unit about multilingualism.
- What languages do you think influenced English to make it what it is today?
- Do you already know any Latin?
- When and why did the Romans come to Britain?



ίπποπόταμος
WoLLoW the Hippo

The Romans

- Latin was brought to British shores when the Romans landed in 43 AD. Latin became the main language of the elite.
- Latin was brought here again by the Normans in 1066 (who also brought Norman French.)
- In the late medieval period, three languages were spoken in England: Middle English, Norman French and Latin.

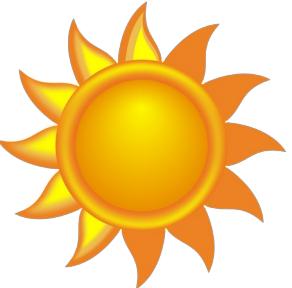


ιπποπόταμος
Follow the Hippo

You know more Latin than you think!

Can you match the word to the picture?

1. canis
2. mus
3. Cattus or feles
4. equus
5. domum or casa
6. schola
7. amica
8. liber
9. solis



How do these Latin words link to English? Do they link to words in other languages?

1. canis



2. mus



3. cattus or feline



4. equus



5. domum or casa



6. schola



7. amica



8. liber



9. solis



Roman Numerals

Rearrange these roman numerals into the correct order from 1 to 10. How high can you go?

iii

iv

ix

vii

vi

v

ii

viii

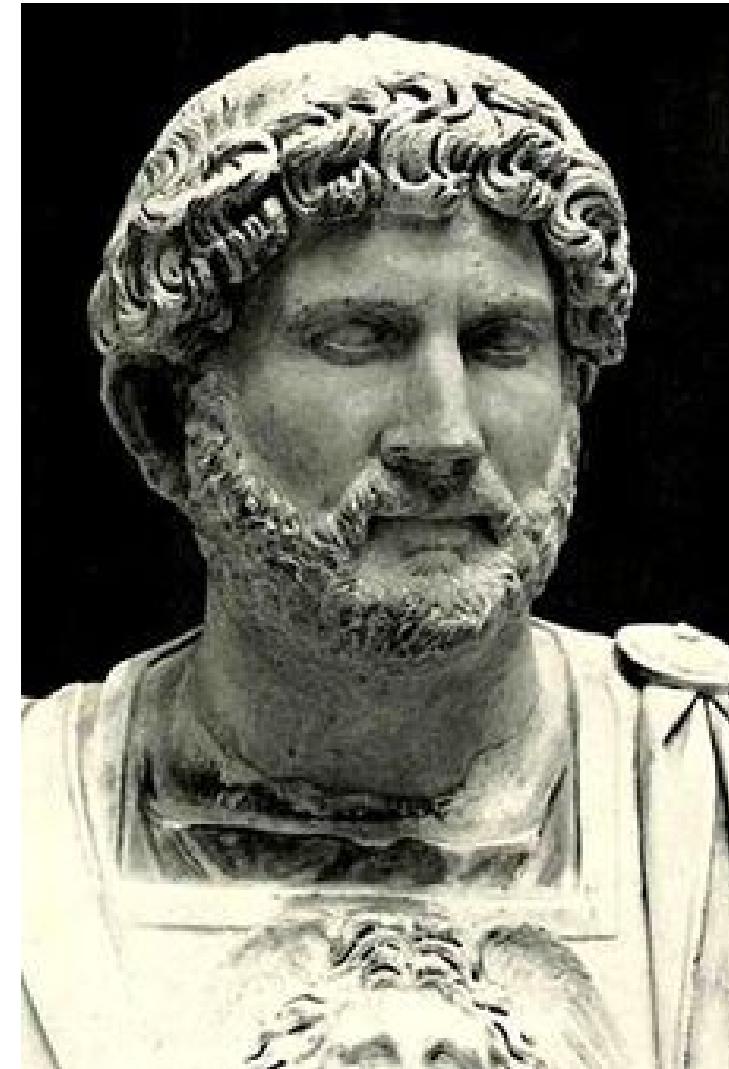
x

i



Hadrian

- Who was Hadrian?
- What did he do?



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Hadrian

- Hadrian was the Roman emperor from 117 to 138 AD (CE).
 - Hadrian liked to invest in developing stable defensive borders.
- Click to add text
- He loved building and rebuilt the Pantheon in Rome.
 - He encouraged military preparedness and discipline.
 - He reigned relatively peacefully.

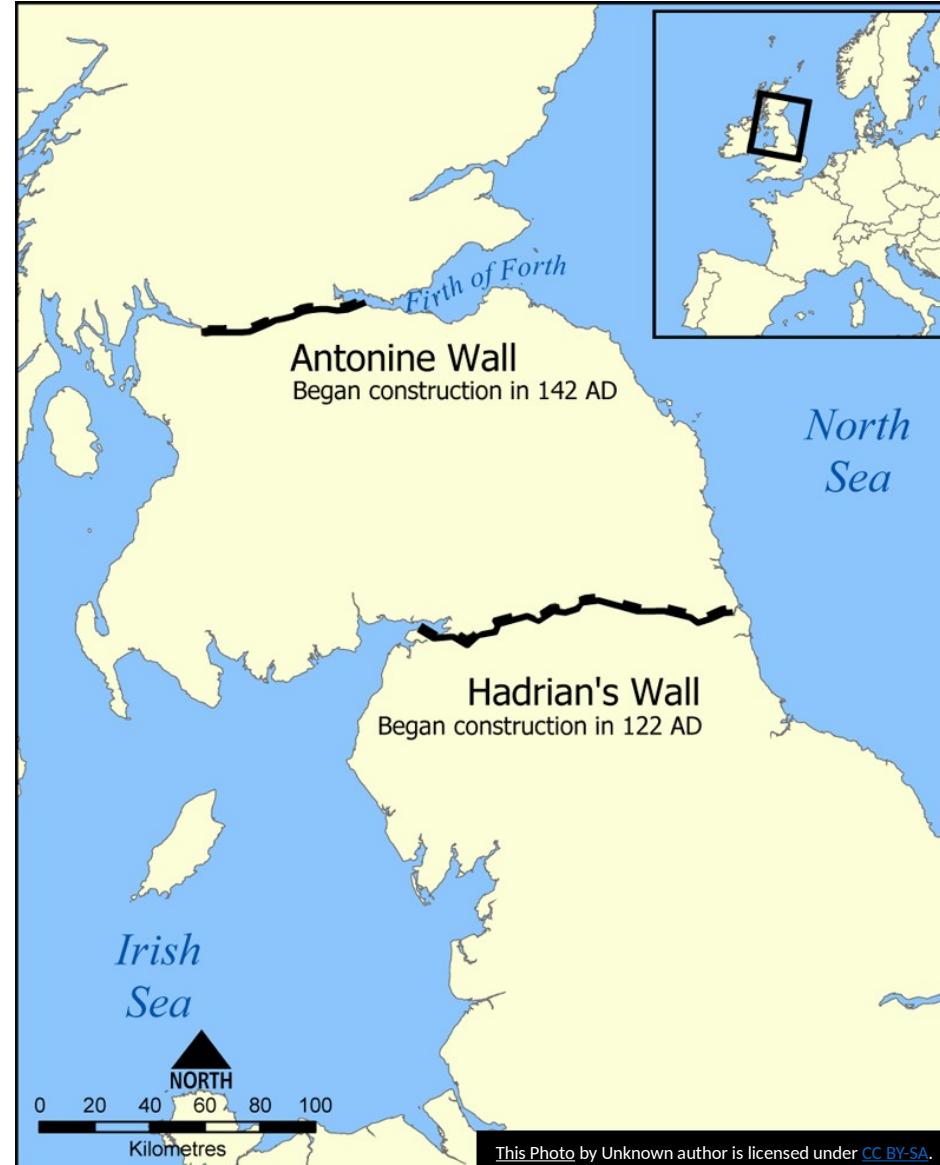


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Hadrian's Wall – a map

- Where is Hadrian's Wall?
- What do you think was the purpose of the wall?



Hadrian's Wall – a picture

It marked the northern limits of Roman Britannica.



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Vindolanda

Vindolanda was a Roman auxiliary fort just south of Hadrian's Wall in northern England.

Excavations of the site show it was under Roman occupation from roughly 85 AD to 370 AD.

It is famous for the Vindolanda tablets, a set of wooden leaf-tablets.



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The Vindolanda Writing Tablets

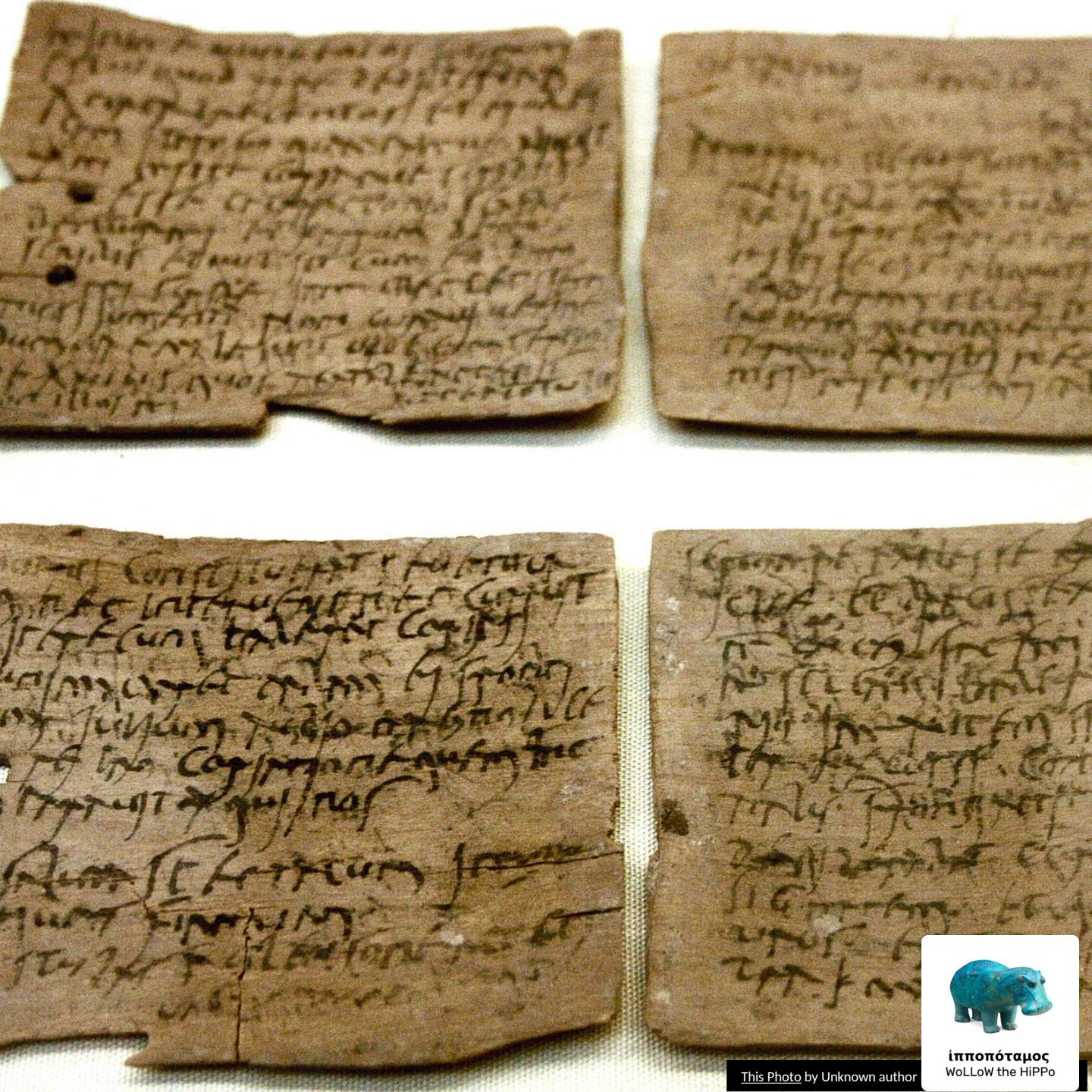
They are delicate, wafer-thin slivers of wood covered in spidery ink writing.

The tablets were found deeply buried in the early wooden forts.

At the time of their discovery, they were oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain.

Why did they write on wood?

What might soldiers have written about?

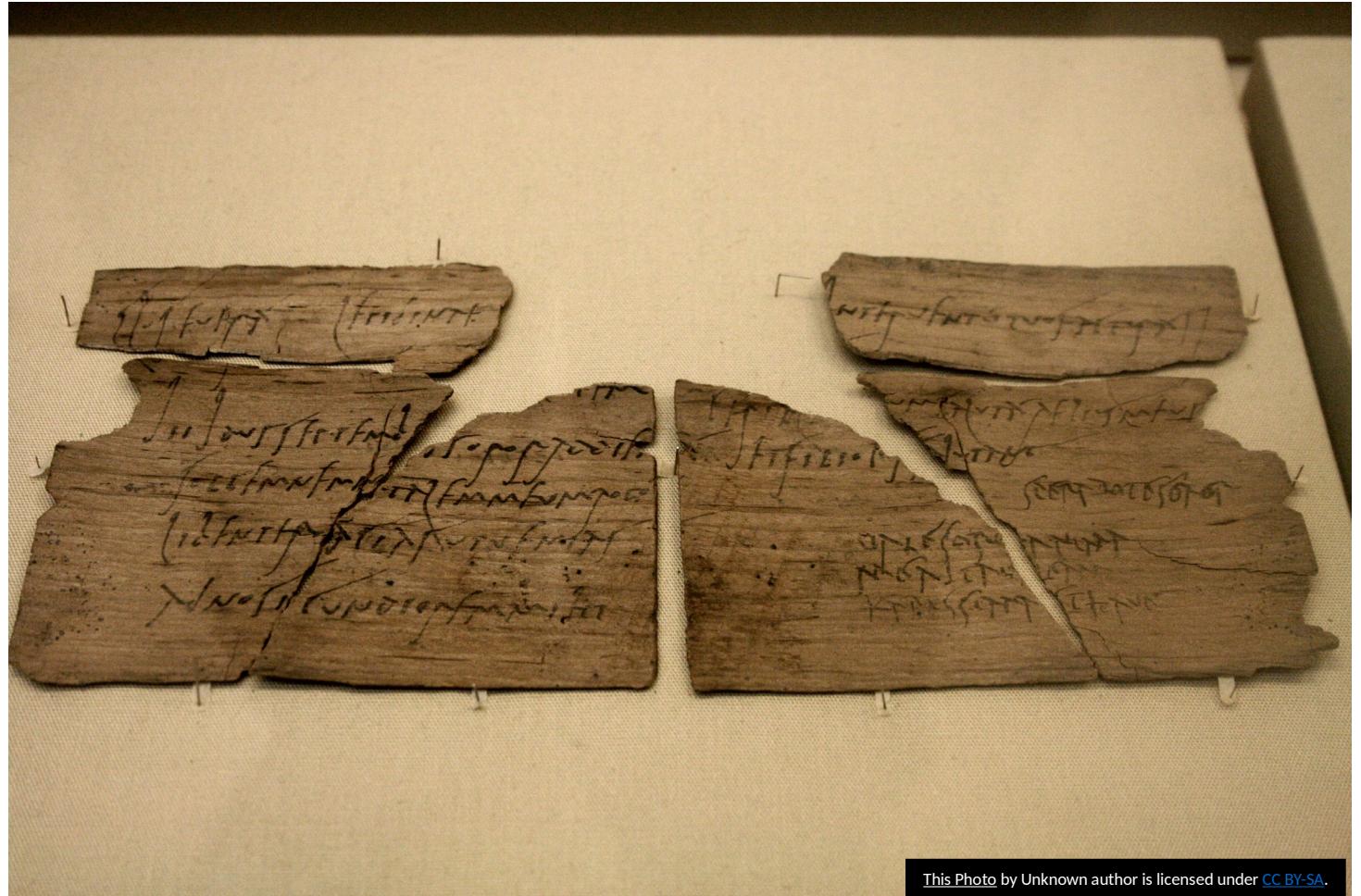


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A Vindolanda Letter

- Look carefully at the beautiful writing.
- This is tablet 291, found in 1985 and now housed at The British Museum.

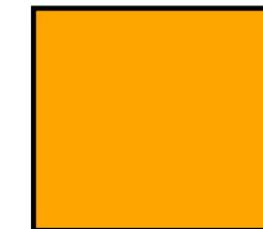


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So, you do know some Latin.

- I bet you know more than you think.
- Look at the links between Latin and English words.
- Think about Latin and the links to other languages you may have come across, like French, Spanish or Italian.
- Think about people's names and their origins.



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**These
facts
might
help you
unpick
the
meaning
of the
letter...**

Clue 1 : *salut* in French means "hi".

Clue 2 : *fils* in French means "son"

Clue 3: in American universities, a *sorority* is a group for female students.

Clue 4 : a *natal day* is a day on which a person was born.



An invitatio n to a party: c. 100 AD

Claudia Severae Lepidinae suae salute

iii Idus Septembres soror ad diem
sollemnem natalem meum rogo
libenter facias ut venias ad
nos iucundiores mihi diem interventu
tuo factura si

Ceriale tuum saluta Aelius meus et
filiolus salutant.



An invitation to a party: c. 100 AD

1. Claudia Severae Lepidinae suae salute

2. iii Idus Septembres

3. soror ad diem sollemnem natalem meum
rogo

4. libenter facias ut venias ad nos

iucundiorem mihi
diem

5. interventu tuo factura si

6. Cerialem tuum saluta Aelius meus
et filiolus salutant

1. What names can you spot?

2. What's the date?

3. How are the people related? What is the party for?

4. Which word means day?

5. Can you think of some English words from the words here?

6. What might salute, saluta and salutant mean?

Fils means "son" in French. So what might filiolus mean?

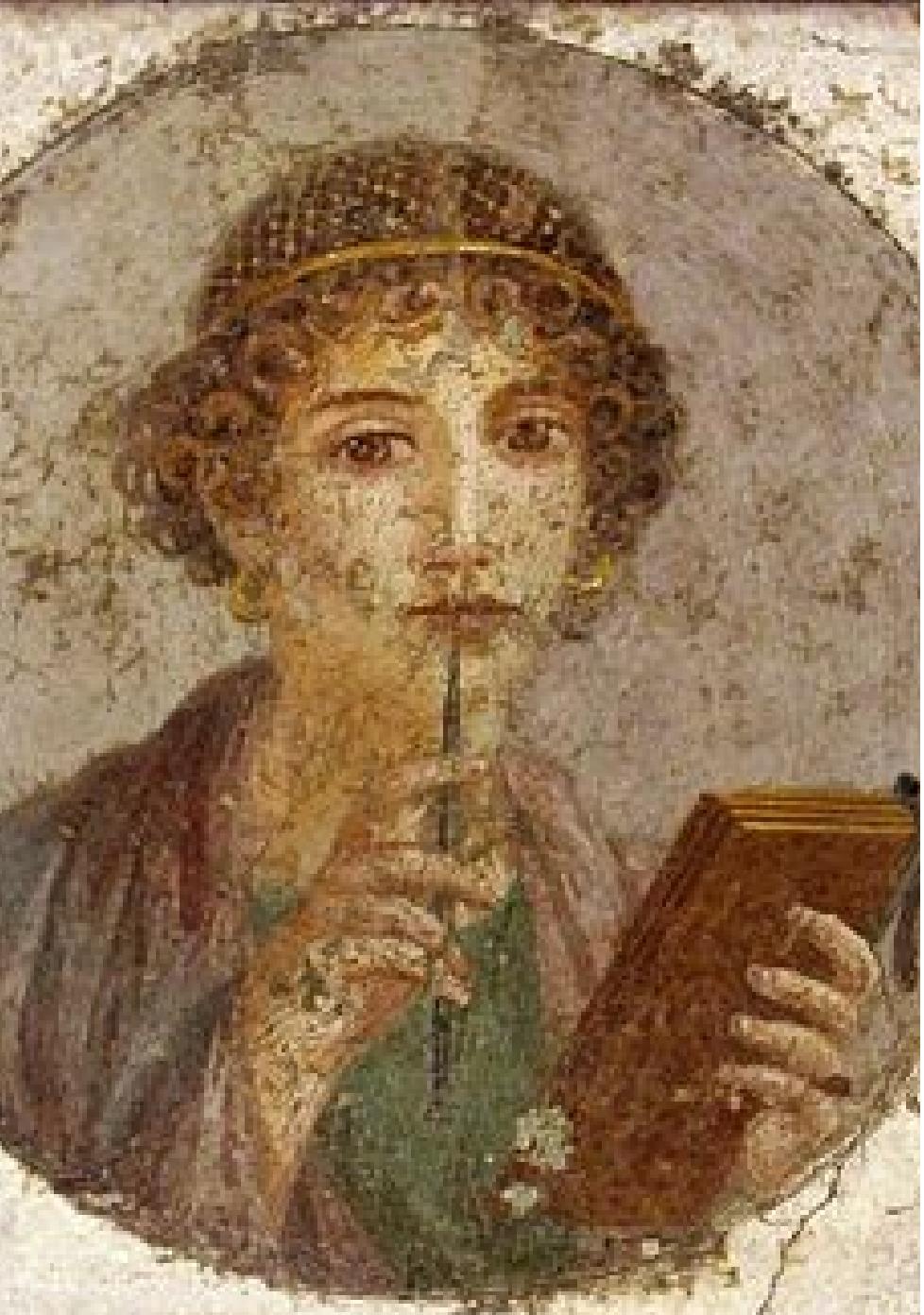


An invitation to a party: c. 100 AD

1. Claudia Severae Lepidinae suae salute
2. iii Idus Septembres
3. soror ad diem sollemnem natalem meum rogo
4. libenter facias ut venias ad nos
iucundiorem mihi diem
5. interventu tuo factura si
6. Cerialem tuum saluta Aelius meus
et filiolus salutant

1. Claudia Severa is the writer. Lepindina is the recipient.
2. What's the date? 3rd September
3. How are the people related? What is the party for? They are sisters and it's a birthday party.
4. Which word means day? Diem
5. Can you think of some English words from the words here?
6. What might salute, saluta and salutant mean? Greetings and farewell.
7. Fils means "son" in French. So what might filiolus mean?
Young son, little son.





A Translation

Claudia Severa to her Lepidina greetings.
On 3rd September, sister, for the day of the
celebration of my birthday, I give you a
warm invitation to make sure that you come
to us, to make the day more enjoyable for
me by your arrival, if you are present.

Give my greetings to your Cerialis. My
Aelius and my little son send him their
greetings.





A final quiz...

Terra means ‘land’ in Latin and *mare* means ‘sea’.

1. What do ‘Mediterranean’, ‘extra-terrestrial’ and ‘subterranean’ and ‘Tierra del Fuego’ mean?
2. What are ‘pommes de terre’ in French and why are they so called?
3. What’s a marine? What’s marine biology?
4. Why is the west of Brittany in France – and one of the areas of the Shipping Forecast - called Finisterre?



WoLLoW would like to know...

- 5 words in Latin
- 4 facts about Vindolanda
- 3 facts about Hadrian
- 2 Roman names
- 1 fact about the writing tablets



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