

Past and present faces of time



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Worksheet **WINTER**

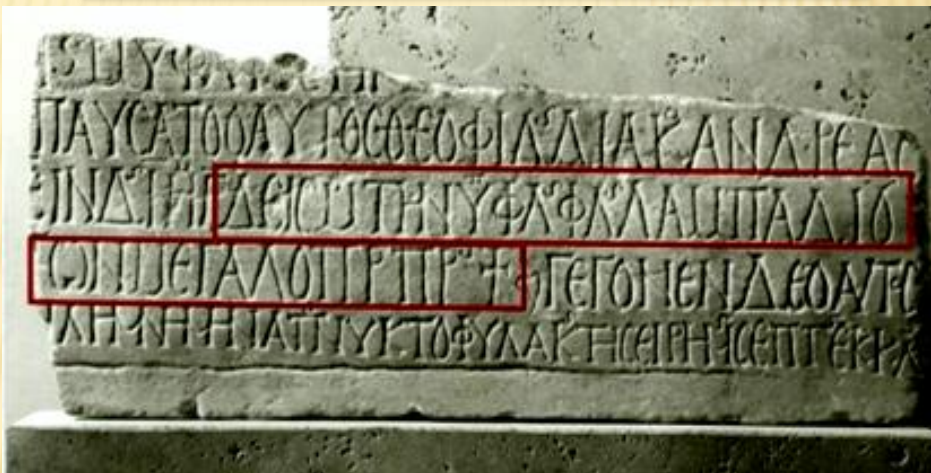


MUSEUM
OF BYZANTINE
CULTURE

Before beginning your tour in the Museum, read the information in the coloured boxes.

During the Byzantine period (330-1453 AD) there were many ways to number the years, and calculate the time between the events. At first (4th-6th cent. AD) the Byzantines used the old **consular dating**, keeping the dates according to the names of the two consuls who took office every year in Constantinople. Later on (6th - 7th cent.) they dated the years according to the **Year of the Accession** of the current Emperor in Constantinople. After the 8th century the Byzantines numbered the years starting from the **Year of the Creation of the World by God** (Anno Mundi), which allegedly took place **5508** years before Christ.

Go to room 1 *The Early Christian Church*



Find in the left part of the room the epitaph inscription of the **deacon Andreas** .

► What is it made of?

► Where were these inscriptions usually placed?

In the third and fourth verses it is written that Andreas died “two years after the consulate of the **Flavians Lambadios and Orestes**” .

► The consuls **Lambadios** and **Orestes** took office in the year 530 AD. When did Andreas actually die?

► What information do we get from an epitaph inscription like this?

The Early Byzantines numbered the days according to fixed days in the month, like the **calendae** (=1st day of the month), the **nonae** (8th day before the full moon) and the **ides** (the full moon day). In Late Roman Times the days could also be named either **after gods** (e.g. Saturn) or **after planets and stars** (e.g. Sun). That's where the English words **Saturday** and **Sunday** come from.

Go to the room 2 Early Byzantine City and Dwelling

Find in the right part of the room the coin of the Emperor Justinian 1st (527 to 565 AD)

- What is the coin made of ?

- In the reverse of the coin the value K (=20) is written. In the obverse a man is represented. Who could this man be?

Can you count in the Latin numerical system?

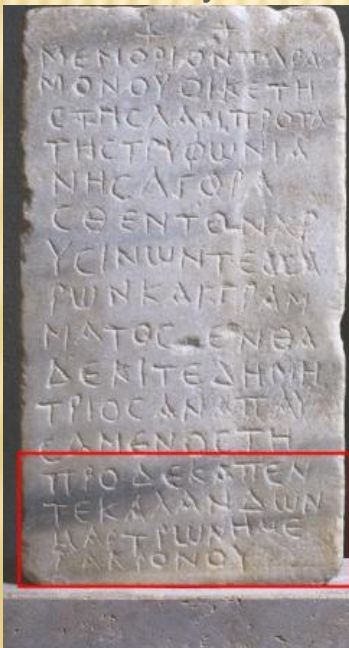
I ___ IV ___ ___ 7 ___ 10 XIII ___
 ___ 2 V ___ ___ 8 ___ 11 ___ 14
 ___ 3 VI ___ IX ___ ___ 12 XV ___

- On the reverse side of the coin it is written in Latin: ANNO XIII. What year (anno) is XIII?

- When was this coin minted?



Find the inscription of Paramonos and Demetrios. In the last four verses we can read that Demetrios died “15 days before the calendae of Mars on the day of Saturn”.



Go to the room 3

From the Elysian Fields to the Christian Paradise

- Can you find the exact day _____ and the date of Demetrios' death? _____

Do you know how the Winter months took their name?

Match each month to its origin?

Month	Original word
December	< februare = purify
January	< decem = ten
February	< Janus = Roman god

So, which one was the tenth month in the Roman calendar? _____
 Which was the month when the festival of god Janus was held? _____
 And, which month was devoted to the memory of the Dead? _____

What are the names of the Winter months in your own language? Do you notice any affinity with the month names in Latin?

- Names of the Winter months in _____ (language)
- _____

- Affinity: YES or NO ?

The years, the months and the days are called time units.

Which other time units, larger or smaller, do you know?

► Larger time units:

1. _____
2. _____

► Smaller time units:

1. _____
2. _____

Go to Room 11 *Discovering the past*

Observe the mosaic floor which is dated to the 5th cent.

► What is it made of? _____

► Find the personification of April.
Notice what he has on his head.

► Why, do you think, is April
represented this way?

► Find the personification of July.
Notice what he holds in his hand.

► Why, do you think, is July
represented this way?

► Notice the picture of February below.

► What does he wear and why? _____

► What does he hold in his hands? _____

Part of the
mosaic floor
in an early
Byzantine
building.
Thebes.
6th cent. AD

