



Professions for Women in the Roman World

Neratia is trying to decide what to do when she grows up. Women in the Roman Empire could work in many types of professions. Women could not hold political office or vote, but they could run businesses, act as educators, landlords, artisans, priestesses, waitresses, hairdressers, clothing makers, factory owners, cooks and more! Here Neratia meets several women from different cities across the Roman Empire to learn about their jobs!

Hello. I am **Julia Felix**.
I am businesswoman and
manager of a hotel with
baths in Pompeii. I use
my **TABULA RASA** to keep
track of clients and sales.



Hi, I am **Nigella**,
a famous dancer and musician.
I sing and dance at banquets
in beautiful Neapolis! My
favourite musical instrument
is the **TIBIAE**!



Salve! My name is **Asellina**.
I am a waitress from
Herculaneum working at
the tavern, "Ad Cucumas".
I use a vessel called a
LAGOENA to serve wine!





Greetings and blessings to you my friend!
I am **Neavoleia Tyche**, a priestess of the goddess Isis! While working in the temple in Beneventum, I use the **SISTRUM**, a sacred rattle to pray to the Egyptian gods.



Hello, I am **Eumachia**.
I work in a small textile shop in Abellinum, famous for making beautiful shalls.
I use an **OSCILLUM** to spin the wool into fibres.



Greetings, I am **Anthylla**! I was born in Athens and now I live in Capua. I work in a perfume shop. To sell my perfumes, I put the liquid in a container called an **UNGUENTARIUM**.

Salve! I am **Aulia**, a priestess of Mifitis. I teach the young girls wishing to join this cult in Aeclanum. I write hymns and prayers on **VOLUMINA**.



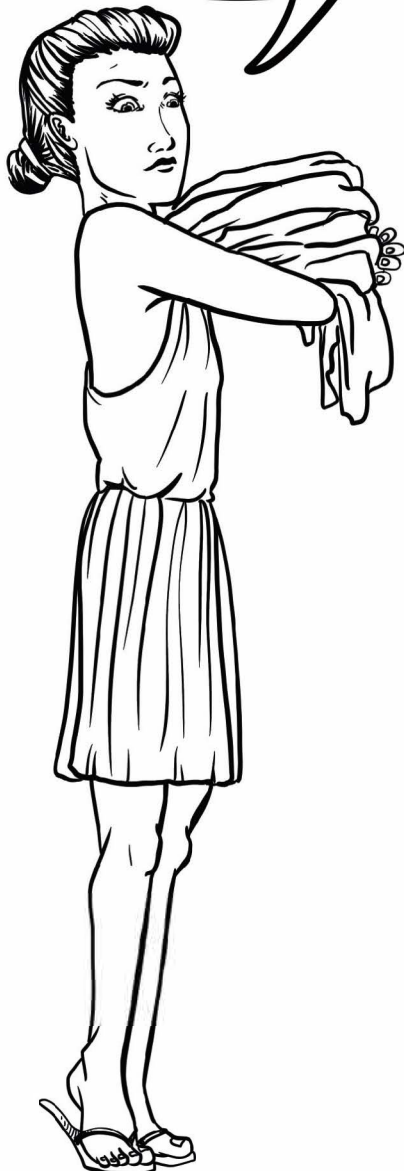
The hidden women of Roman cities: the enslaved

There were many enslaved people working behind the scenes everywhere in Roman society. They worked in many roles in private households, and imperial or public properties like temples and baths. As Neratia learns about her place in the world, she meets the enslaved women who work in her family's home. Let's meet them here!

Good day.
I am **Arethusa**, and I help the Neratii pater familias and family dress each day. I wash the dirty clothes, even undergarments called **SUBLIGACULA**!

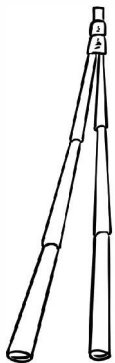
Hi! My name is **Melissa**.
I work on the Neratii vineyard crushing grapes for wine. That wine will be served in cup called a **CANTHARUS**.

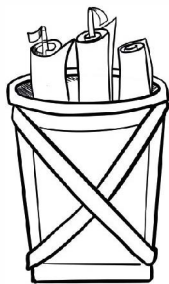
Greetings. I am **Prisca**, a cook working in the kitchens of the Neratii household. I use bronze frying pan called a **FRETALIA**.

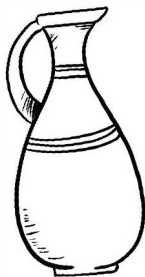


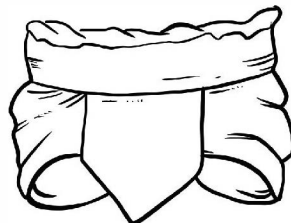
Match the objects with the professions!

Can you help Neratia match the objects with the women she has met?



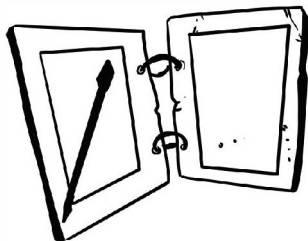




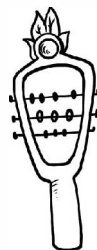


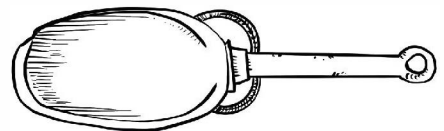














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