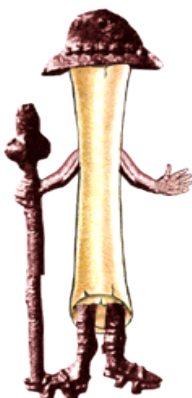


Seeking a Home in Augustus's Rome



Activity: an online exploration of the virtual city of Augustan Rome in c. 14 CE

Goal: to follow the icon scroll *Tristia Tresunus* as he seeks a home in Rome for his poem (*Tristia* 3.1) and his exiled author Ovid.

Objectives: this activity will enable you to

- navigate, converse and take notes in the *VRoma* learning environment (see the [Quick Start Guide](#))
- experience the dynamic interaction between Roman literature and Rome's monuments
- use virtual space and *VRoma* educational resources to learn about the city and how it forms and validates Roman identity
- gain insight into and appreciation for Ovid's poetry

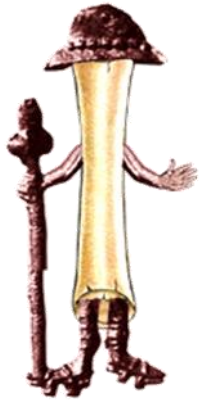
Level: it can be played by those with little or no Latin* who have some familiarity with Roman history and culture in the Augustan age. Intermediate-level Latin learners may engage with the annotated Latin text of the complete poem (*Tristia* 3.1) in the **Library of the Atrium Libertatis** at the end of the itinerary.

Duration: it can be divided into segments to fit the time available. Before the start of the journey, sessions will need to be scheduled for players to practice navigation, communication and note-taking in *VRoma*. Time required for the activity is variable, depending on the length of class period, team size and instructor's expectations.

This activity meets the following [National Latin Core Standards](#):
Communications, Connections, Culture

Exploration designed by Barbara F. McManus, revised by Ann R. Raia

* Non-Latinists can find Ovid's complete poem in English @ [Tristia 3.1 \(A. S. Kline\)](#)



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Consult the [Quick Start Guide](#) on the *VRoma* home page to learn to navigate, communicate, and record in the *VRoma* learning environment. Print a copy to refer to as you travel

Request a *VRoma* character on the [Contact page](#) to log on the Moo

Choose your team (Navigator, Co-pilot, Scribe) or travel solo

Instructions: go to **Prima Porta VRomana**, where **Tristia Tresunus** waits:

- Click on his icon to read about **TT** and his mission. Note what you find most interesting in his self-description. How does Ovid present **TT** at once as a scroll, a literary work, and a traveler on his first trip to Rome?
- Click on the itinerary map to preview **TT's** intended route
- Click on **TT's** hand and teleport to the first stop in his virtual journey

TT will make **Ten Stops:** at each, "look around" at the place descriptions, images, and links. After making notes, click on the **TT** icon at the bottom of the page. He will provide you at each stop with an updated map, explain the importance of the stop, and give you directions to the next stop. The Chat log will capture your Moo conversation and movement but you must record and save or email your Notebook entries before logging off or they will be lost.

Stop 1: You appear in the **Forum of Julius Caesar**. After reading about the site, click on **TT-first stop** and read his words. Click on the map to see where you are. Click on *view room in web frame* to see the exit for the **Argiletum**, reading about it before turning onto the **Sacra Via Infima**.

Stop 2: Explore the **Sacra Via Infima**, then click on **TT-second stop**, reading the text, checking the map, and viewing the room in the web frame to find the exit and directions to the next stop; read about each place you pass: the **Temple of Caesar**, the **Arch of Augustus**, the **Temple of Vesta**.

Stop 3: To arrive at the **Temple of Vesta**, you had to "walk" through the Temple of Caesar and the Arch of Augustus – why do you think **TT** doesn't mention them? Click on **TT-third stop** to see why it is important and check the map, then take the **Regia** exit.

Stop 4: You arrive at the ancient **Regia** where you learn its history, then click on **TT-fourth stop**. There **TT** offers his hand to teleport you to the next stop and gives you directions if you prefer to “walk.”

Stop 5: You find yourself at the **Temple of Jupiter Stator**. Can you explain what the Sacra Via, Temple of Vesta, Regia, and Temple of Jupiter Stator have in common? To follow **TT** to the 6th stop, you take the exit for the **Area Palatina**, read about it and then exit to the **Ramp to the Domus Augusti**.

Stop 6: At the **Ramp to Domus Augusti**, **TT** is stopped. Read about his encounter, then click on his icon to see what he hopes for, why he is fearful, and who he seeks to please. To proceed to the 7th stop, you exit at the **Temple of Palatine Apollo**, climb the **Scalae Templi**, and exit through the **Pronaos** to the **Cella**, learning about each of the places as you go.

Stop 7: You are in the presence of Apollo in the **Cella**. What do stops 6-7 have in common? In what way are they different from previous stops? Check the map to get a clearer picture of the route you are taking. To arrive at the 8th stop, you retrace your steps to the **Temple of Palatine Apollo**; after reading about it, go to the **Porticus** and the **Bibliotheca Colonnade** to the **Palatine Library**.

Stop 8: You explore the **Palatine Library** and discover why **TT** has stopped here and why he leaves. **TT** offers his hand to teleport you to the next stop and gives directions for those who prefer to “walk.”

Stop 9: You enter the **Peristyle of the Portico of Octavia**. After reading about it you can answer what Stops 8 and 9 have in common with Stop 7. Why doesn't **TT** choose this as his home? Checking the map, you can see why **TT** offers his hand to teleport you to the 10th stop.

Stop 10: At the **Atrium Libertatis** you learn the historic importance of this building. What is your reaction to the poem's ending? Here **TT** relates the end of his mission and offers to teleport you back to the origin of your journey, the **Prima Porta VRomana**. If you are a Latinist, you will want to exit from the Atrium to the **Library** instead, where now at last Ovid's poem has found a home. Here, hyperlinked vocabulary and commentary aids will help you enjoy the *Tristia* 3.1 complete in its original Latin.

As you leave the journey, reflect on what you have learned from the trip. What is the effect of reading the poem as you “walk” the virtual city?