

Latin – Primary Latin: Chapter 6 – At the theatre

Interactive Image

The theatre (based on the theatre at Pompeii).

Archaeology

The tunnels excavating the theatre at Herculaneum, and the theatre at Pompeii for comparison. Mystery object: papyrus scroll.

Stories

1. *A new statue*: Balbus donates a statue to the theatre, but who does it depict?
2. *Dama gets a scare*: Dama goes for a walk at night, but gets a scare in the theatre.
3. *A play*: Balbus and Livia go to see a comedy, but Balbus struggles to find the best place to sit.

Language development and sentence patterns

Sentences with nominates, accusatives, multiple adjectives and multiple verbs:

Balbus, parvus, cum magno servo in theatro stat.

The small Balbus stands in the theatre with a big slave.

Dama statuam magnam et fortem et formosam inspicit, et Balbum inspicit.

Dama looks at the big, strong, beautiful statue, and looks at Balbus.

Vocabulary for learning

<i>adest</i>	is there, is present	<i>spectat</i>	watches, is watching
<i>cum</i>	with	<i>statua</i>	statue
<i>fortis, fortem</i>	strong, brave	<i>theatrum</i>	theatre
<i>meus, mea</i>	my	<i>turba</i>	crowd
<i>ridet</i>	laughs, is laughing	<i>vir, virum</i>	man

Civilisation

The theatre: layout and function of the building, types of plays, the role of actors, the experience of spectators.

Fact file

Marcus Nonius Balbus, the great patron of Herculaneum. Looking at the historical record for the Balbus family, and what life would have been like for a man from an influential family.

Mythology

The story of the sacrifice of Iphigenia, depictions in ancient art, and the tragic play written about this story.

