

Death in Your Classroom: What the Romans Did and Believed,  
and How You Can Bring It to Class

What did the Romans believe about death and the afterlife? What were their funerary practices and beliefs? What evidence do we have for those practices and beliefs? How can you add this to your classroom? This session comes with an adaptable classroom unit available for upload or directly from the presenter.

Evidence for these beliefs and practices comes from a variety of sources, from archaeology (Pearce and Weekes, 2017), from inscriptions and epitaphs (Shore, 1997; Harvey, 2004), from objects (Koch and Wight, 1988) and from literature (Hope and Huskinson, 2011). An excellent compilation on which the presenter relied heavily includes earlier material from archaeology and literature (Toynbee, 1971.) From these sources, and more, the presenter synthesized a primer on Roman beliefs and practices which can be used as is (or adapted) as a lesson for your classroom, and a step-by-step guide to re-enacting a “typical” Roman funeral with your students. Please join me for information and a take-away of hands-on funerary fun for your classroom.

Bibliography

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Toynbee, J. (1971). *Death and Burial and Burial in the Roman World*. Johns Hopkins University Press.