

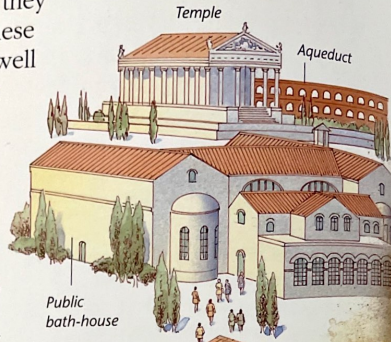
LIVING IN A TOWN

The Romans spread their way of life to all the areas they conquered, and built towns all over the empire. These towns had grand temples, bath-houses and arenas, as well as lots of shops and restaurants. The wealthiest Roman families owned elegant town houses, but most people lived in apartment blocks, which were called *insulae*.

HOME COMFORTS?

Apartment blocks could be up to seven floors high, and in poor areas of town they were often dark, crowded and dirty. Some of these buildings were so badly built that they collapsed without any warning, killing many of the people inside.

Most apartments had no running water or toilets, so many people used public lavatories. These were very sociable places where people sat side by side and chatted, but you had to pay to use them - poorer people simply used a bucket at home.



Insulae had wooden beams and floors, and they often caught fire.

This scene shows part of a busy Roman town.

