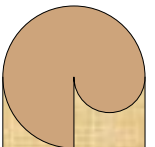


MARCUS,
The Paterfamilias



If you were the head of
the family (*paterfamilias*)
living at Oplontis, what
would your life be like?

Turn over to learn and
explore!



Who Are You?

If you were an elite Roman man, a *paterfamilias*, . . .

You ruled over both your business and your family. You managed property, bought and sold slaves, arranged your children's marriages, and performed household religious rituals.

You were probably the patron for a number of clients. You offered loans and advice to your clients. In exchange, they supported you in business and elections.

After all that hard work (the Latin word is *negotium*) it was time for a vacation. Why not travel to your villa in the seaside resort of Oplontis to enjoy a little pleasure (*otium*)?

Look at the photograph of Villa A today.

Can you imagine strolling around the courtyards?



How would you use these?



Explore the exhibition to find these objects and learn more about them.

Things to See and Do

Find someone with the Freedman scroll . . .

Compare and contrast your life as the *Paterfamilias* with the life of the Freedman. What is the same? What is different?

Business Dinners

Even though you were technically on vacation while you were at Oplontis, you still met up with clients and friends during dinner.



Go around the corner to visit a recreated dining room from a nearby villa, The Villa of the Mysteries.

- What do these elaborate wall paintings mean?
- Does the wall painting (*fresco*) look the same or different from the other frescoes you've seen today?