

palisters

regular columns

papyrus

writing material  
prepared from thin  
strips of the papyrus  
plant

paterfamilias

male head of the  
family household,  
including slaves

patron

a wealthy and important  
citizen who looked after the  
interests of poorer clients in  
return for their support

peristyle

open courtyard  
surrounded by a  
portico

physical  
anthropologist

someone who studies  
human physical and  
biological variation

piety

a sense of duty to  
the gods, one's  
parents and country

portico

a colonnade around  
a central area

pugilistic pose

named after the pose of  
a boxer with extended  
spine and clenched fists

pumice

a light grey stone  
formed when gas  
escapes from a volcano  
through molten rock

putti

cupids

pyroclastic

made of fire and  
burning material

pyroclastic flows

hot flows of gases and  
solid fragments caused  
when the column of a  
volcano collapses

red slip pottery

pottery made by dipping partly  
dried objects into a water and  
clay mix called 'slip'; after firing  
the object would have a shiny  
red appearance

reliquary

a container in which  
relics are kept

rostrum

a platform or stage  
for public speaking

rue

a bitter tasting herb

sanitation

the drainage and  
disposal of sewerage

seismic

related to earthquakes  
or other vibrations of  
the earth

sesterces

the basic  
denomination of  
Roman currency

social mobility

movement between  
social classes

stoa

a continuous colonnade,  
closed by a wall behind it,  
invented for the transaction  
of business or walking

stratigraphy

the observation and  
recording of the  
sequence of layers  
within an excavation

Sulla

a Roman general who led  
his troops to victory over  
Marius in the civil war,  
becoming dictator of Rome

tabernae

shops

tablinum

a reception room

tinker

a mender of objects  
such as pots and  
pans

travertine

silver-grey limestone  
found in the hills  
near Pompeii

triclinium

a dining room

tufa

a hard rock formed  
from volcanic ash

---

utilitarian

useful

---

vestibulum

an area which led  
into an atrium

---