Married Roman women

We get some of our wedding traditions from the Romans. When she gets engaged, a Roman ***puella*** wears an ***anulum*** on the third finger of her left hand. When she gets married, she is dressed in white, wears a ***velum*** and is accompanied by a bridesmaid.

Roman ***puella*** normally get married when they are about XIV years old. The ***pater*** chooses a ***maritum*** and arranges the ***nuptias***. It is more important to marry the right ***familia*** than to marry because you love someone. The ***pater*** controls all the members of his family and decides which man is rich and strong enough to marry his ***filias***.

This is the way things were done at the start in Rome, during the ***Republicam***. But once ***Roma*** has emperors, ***puellae*** have more control over their marriage and can also control their own ***pecuniam***. They can even get divorced.

The most important task for a married woman is raising ***pueros et puellas*** and managing the ***domum***. In poor families, women have to do all the work themselves; in richer families, women have ***servos*** and ***ancillas*** to help.

Even though a ***puella*** does not have a lot of control over who she marries, some couples do marry for love. Roman women can also host parties and can influence their ***maritos*** in the decision they make for their families.

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**Answer these questions:**

1. What do you think an *anulus* is?

A frog a ring a bracelet

1. What do you think a *velum* is?

A veil a skirt a dress

1. How old are Roman girls when they get married?

4 years old 14 years old 24 years old

1. Did Roman girls always have the same control over their marriage in the Roman period?

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1. Name two tasks Roman women were responsible for:

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1. *Ancillas* are maids. What is the Latin for only *one* maid? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. If you look at the picture on the previous page (this is from a tomb stone), do you think the couple love each other? Why (not)?

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1. Can you link the Latin words with the right translation?

*Anulus* girl

*Puella* husband

*Velum* daughter

*Maritus* veil

*Filia* ring

