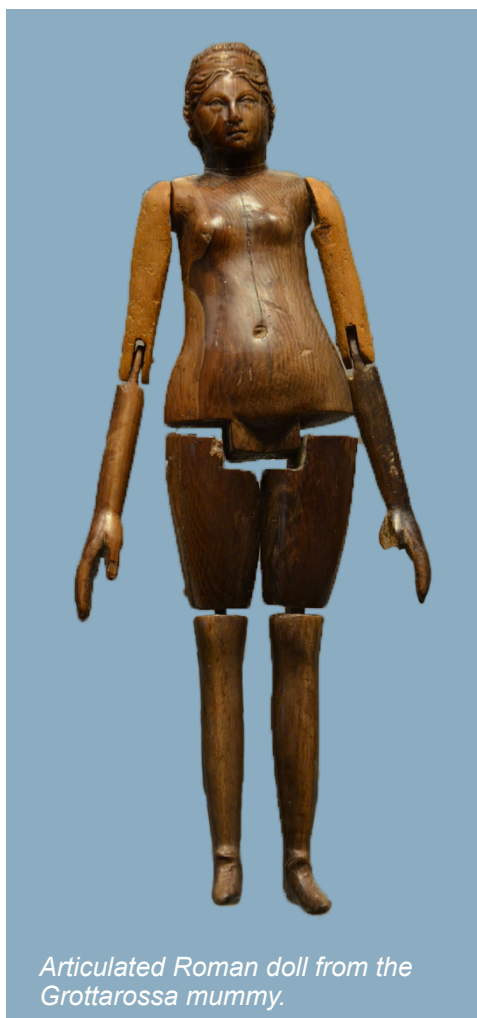


Growing up in the Roman empire

Articulated doll



This is a doll made of dark ivory from the 2nd century AD. It was found in Rome in an elaborately decorated marble sarcophagus of an eight year old girl, who had been mummified.

The sarcophagus was found at Grottarossa, to the north of Rome, and is now commonly known as the Grottarossa Mummy. It is now held in the National Roman Museum at the Palazzo Massimo.

Many hundreds of similar figures made of clay or wood have been found, which are often identified as votives; offerings made to a god or goddess.



Do you think this is a votive or a toy?

Can we learn anything about Roman childhood from looking at this doll?

How much do you think a barbie doll could tell someone in the future about modern day childhood and society?