

PRE- ROMAN FLOORS

This module explores early floors in ancient Ashkelon. In particular, floors found during the Persian and Hellenistic Periods. There are many other types of floors found in Ashkelon, including stone and mosaic during later time periods.

Questions Explored in this Module

What types of floors did we find in ancient Ashkelon?

How do you know you have found a floor?

Did floors in different rooms differ?

Archaeology Word Wall

Floor: The surface that people walked on.

Beaten Earth Floor (Dirt floor): Most floors in ancient Ashkelon were just dirt that was pressed down because people walked on it. Archaeologists call these beaten earth floors

Mudbrick Floor: Bricks made out of dirt and water that get hard when they dry in the sun.

Plaster Floor: Plaster is the stuff casts are made out of. It is hard and usually white.

Wall: Walls in Ashkelon are made of all sorts of things including large stones, small stones, shells, and mudbricks.

Hellenistic: This time period of ancient Greek history occurred after the death of Alexander the Great and before the emergence of ancient Rome.

Persian: The Persian time period came before the Hellenistic time period. During this time period Cyrus the Great ruled much of the Middle East.

Procedures

Log Book: What types of floor do you have in your house?

Video 1: How do you know it's a floor?

Log Book: This floor is a mud brick floor. What are the good things about having dirt for floors? What might have been some problems with having dirt for floors?

Video 2: White plaster floor

Log Book: What are the benefits of dirt floor compared to a plaster floor?

Video 3: Snail floor- Dirt floor

Log Book: Why do you think there is a collection of shells on the floor? Draw what you think the snail shells were for.

Interactive Homework

Have students look at floors in 3 different rooms in their house. Have their parent take pictures of the floors and discuss with the student why the particular material is used for the flooring in each room. Be sure to have the parent record the child's thoughts. Collect the data and then analyze it to come to conclusions about flooring in different rooms during modern times.

Junior Archaeologist Activity

Make mudbricks! In a bucket mix dirt and water until a mud ball forms. Press the mud into muffin tins or ice cube trays. Let them sit in the sun for 10 days or throw them in a 250 degree oven for 15 minutes. Once the bricks are cool, carefully pop them out of the tins/trays and use them for building. Plaster of paris or mud can be used to help the bricks stick together.