

Funerary monument showing enslaved women tending to their mistress.

What does the picture on the right tell us about the types of jobs female slaves did in the household?



Enslaved women such as these shown in the picture would have helped their mistress to dress each morning.



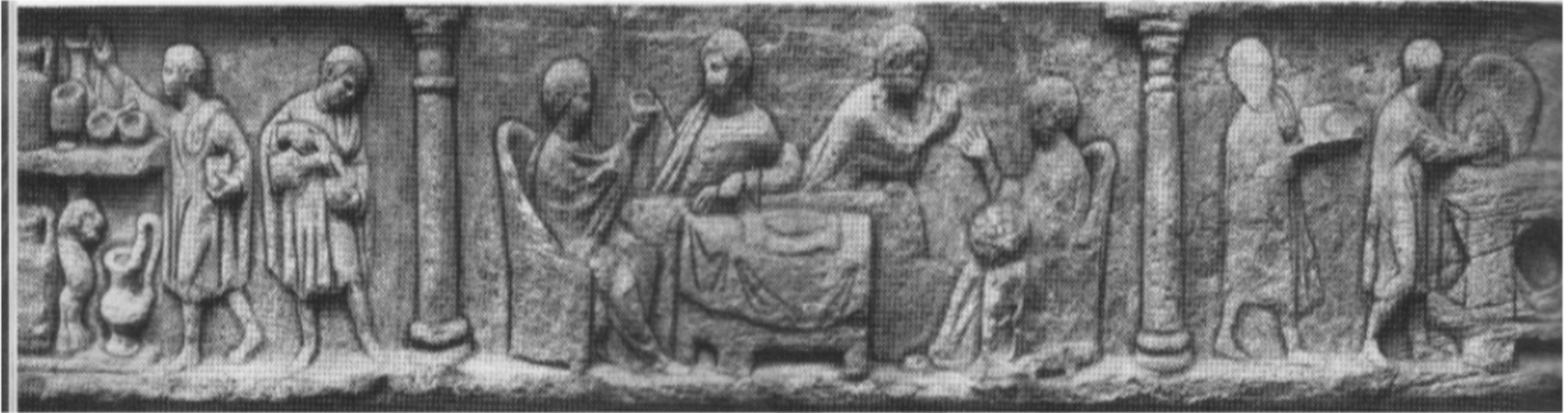
- A skilled hairdresser would arrange her hair (seen on the left)
- Another enslaved woman is shown holding a mirror
- The jug carried by the figure on the right may have contained oil or perfume.
- Enslaved woman would have helped with childcare and the general upkeep of the house.

Study the picture below then answer the question in full sentences.

A

B

C



Explain what the slaves in scenes A and C are doing and how scene B is related to this.

The poet Martial complains that the freeman who looked after him from birth does not accept that he is now a grown man.

You had been the rocker of my cradle, Charidemus, and guardian and constant companion *for me as a boy*. Now the barber's towels grow black *when* my beard *has been* shaved and *my* girl complains *when* pricked by my lips; but to you I have not grown up: our estate manager trembles at you, *our* accountant fears you, the house itself *fears* you. You allow us neither to play nor to love; you want nothing to be allowed to me and you want everything to be allowed to you. You scold, you watch, you complain, you sigh, and your anger scarcely refrains from the canes. If I have taken up purple clothes or I have dressed my hair, you exclaim '*Your* father had never done those things'; and you count our drinking cups with knotted brow, as if that wine jar were from your cellar. Stop; I cannot bear a kill-joy freedman. My girlfriend will tell you that I am already a man.

Martial, *Epigrams* 11.39

What is the relationship like between Martial and the slave who looked after him since he was born?

What evidence do you have to suggest this? Pick out at least three examples to support your point.

In the mines

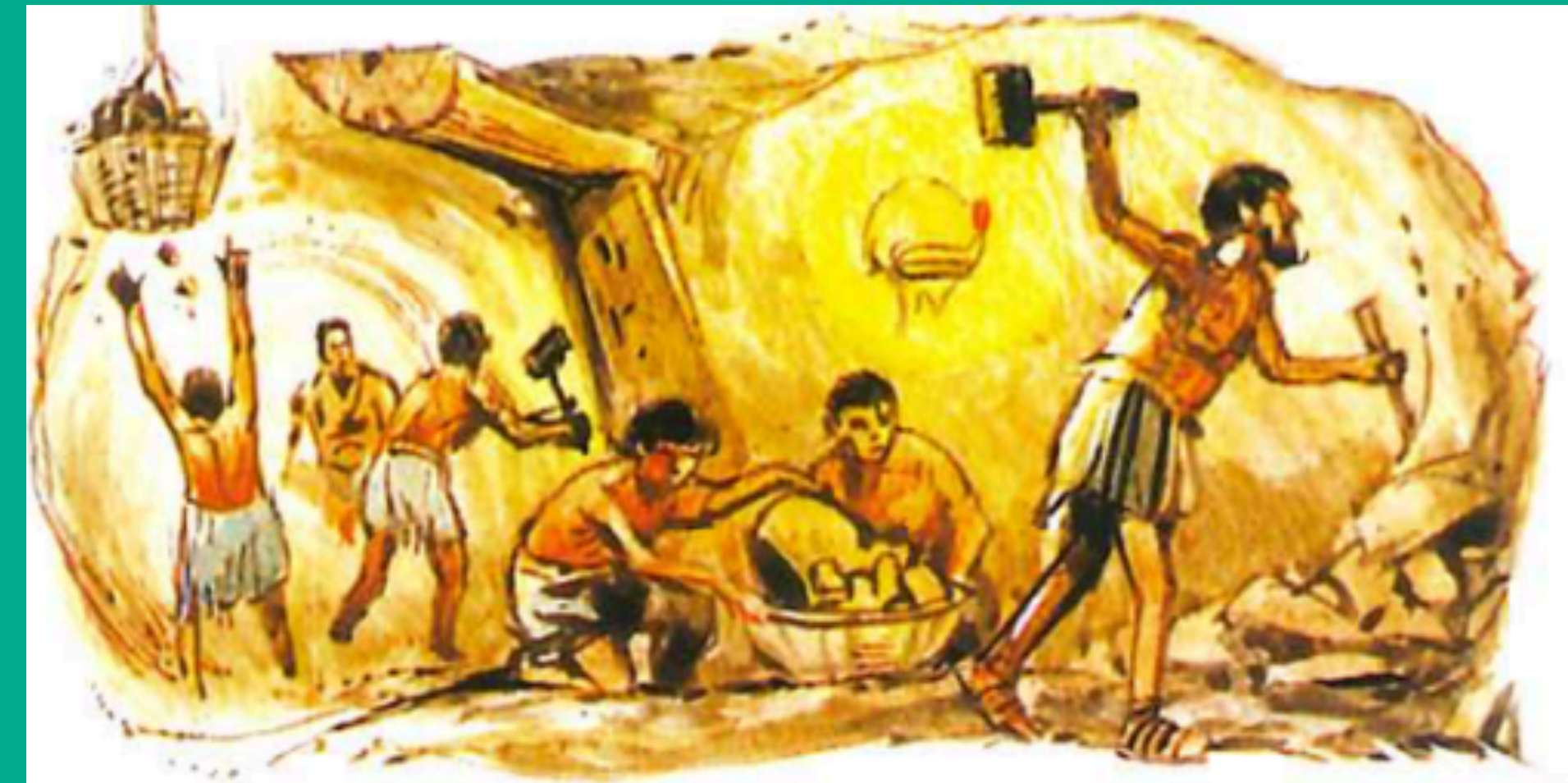
The worst conditions for enslaved people were in provinces such as Spain and Britain where they worked in the mines. The historian Diodorus Siculus described the terrible sufferings of the people working in the mines in Spain:

These men exhaust their bodies by working underground day and night, and the mortality rate is high because of the terrible conditions. They are not allowed to pause or rest – the supervisors beat them to force them to continue working. They throw away their lives as a result of these terrible hardships. Some of them survive because of their physical stamina or willpower, and endure their misery for a long time but, because of the extent of their suffering, they prefer death to life.

Why were slaves thought to be suitable for working in mines?



Answer the question in a full sentence.



Slaves who worked in mines suffered particularly bad conditions. They were harshly treated and forced to work constantly in mines that were often unsafe. Many died as a result of injuries or beating.



Other slaves worked as hairdressers, butlers, maids and cooks. Some helped their owners in workshops or factories.

The government owned many slaves, who maintained buildings, bridges and aqueducts. Others worked as civil servants, helping the administration of the empire. Some became very powerful and important.

Answer the question in full sentences.

QUESTION

Although the conditions of their lives varied, what did all enslaved people have in common?

Would you have preferred to be a slave in a domestic household or working for a master who owned a farm or a mine?

Why?

Give reasons supported by at least 5 pieces of evidence or examples from what you have learnt today.

Internet links: For links to websites where you can read more about the lives of slaves, go to **www.usborne-quicklinks.com**