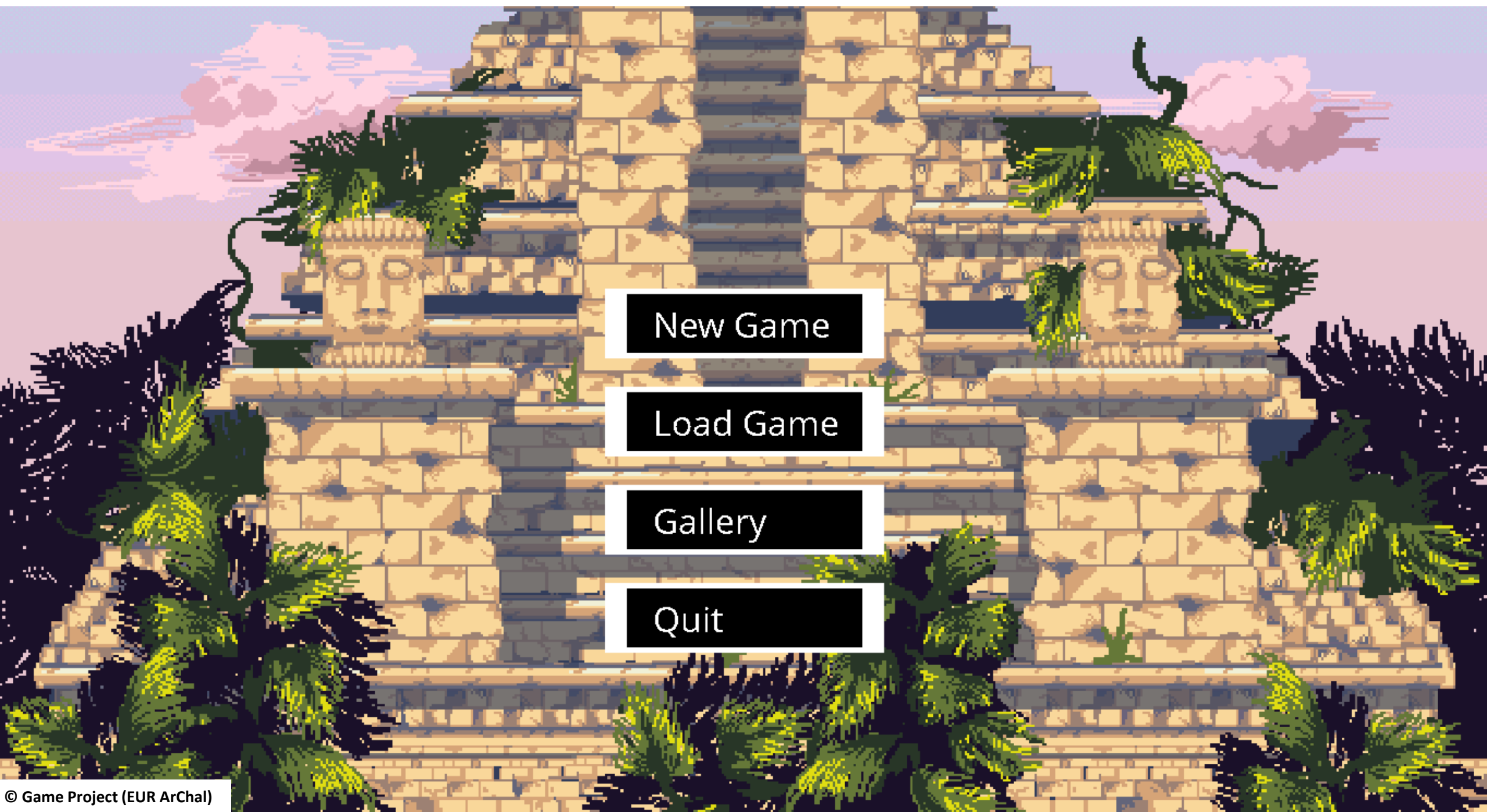




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ROMAN CISTERNS

ROMAN CISTERNS

1. DEFINITION

Roman cisterns are freshwater storage facilities built for accumulation and subsequent supply of water used either to drink or for other purposes.

2. DESCRIPTION

- . Roman cisterns are inherited from Ancient Greece.
- . Tanks or pools, generally located underground (at least partially underground) were built or excavated in the city grounds and covered with vaults in order to collect and store fresh water. They were called cisterns.
- . Cistern walls were generally covered with opus signinum, a waterproof building material or mortar the Romans used to prevent leakage.
- . Water supply to fill the cisterns could come from different sources (usually only one or two sources per cistern): rain, a nearby spring, a nearby river, an aqueduct or a well
- . Size/capacity of the cisterns vary from a few cubic meters in the case of a cistern designed to supply water to a single house to almost 100.000 cubic meters if the purpose was to supply a major city.