



What Did the Romans Ever Do for Us?

As language specialists

Class 4 will be reading and engaging with both fact and fiction to expand their knowledge of Roman history and equip them with both creative and report writing strategies. We will meet a number of new authors and a variety of genres to broaden our experience. Using the Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness series, we will learn the features of non-fiction writing and different aspects of Roman life. Key authors will guide our writing techniques – Tony Bradman's *Assassin* will teach us about tension writing and we will enjoy the fast paced and fun story of *Julius Zebra* by Gary Northfield. Anthony Horowitz's telling of *Romulus and Remus* will enable us to focus on writing speech and structured arguments.

In Judith Nicholls will open up the world of Roman poetry <https://www.poetryarchive.org/lesson-plan/lesson-romans-britain-judith-nichollsand> we will be looking at rhyming couplets and rhythm for performance. Film inspiration will come from the epic *Ben Hur* and through internet research we will become reporters, researchers and credible communicators.

As geographers we will

Learn about the geography of Britain first and then Europe as we map the area that was conquered by the Romans. We will be learning the main rivers, mountains, seas and coasts of Europe, middle east and northern Africa. Understanding Roman journeys will open our eyes to physical features and land use to the present day.

'Pupils will be taught to locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe seeing key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities...human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources...'

As historians we will

Use primary and secondary sources to learn all about Roman invasion. From settlement to life style, celebration to warfare, year 4 will unearth all that this ancient civilisation has to show us about invasion and changes in British history.

'Pupils will be taught about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. ...Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BC; the Roman Empire by AD 42 and the power of its army... British resistance, for example, Boudica'

As scientists we will

Investigate states of matter from ice, to water and steam. We'll be learning how science helped the Romans to keep their wine at the right temperature and we'll be freezing and insulating the Italian mountain snow for the summer season. Other practical investigations will enable us to establish fair tests and draw conclusions from our observations.

'Pupils should be taught to: compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature...'

The Big Idea...

'Those who read about the Romans get to know not the history of one city but also mankind' Florus. In this half term topic brimming with historical fact and gripping fiction, Year 4 will be considering how the Roman civilisation built the foundations of our society today. We will be unearthing clues and evidence and learning about the costs and benefits of living in their empire.

The topic will also give us chance to consider what a European Empire might look like today? How would British values stand? ... Would Boudicca have voted for Brexit?

Questions that we will, no doubt, be able to answer by the end of the topic.

As mathematicians we will

In maths we will be working on place value and the number system to get us started. We will become fluent in different methods for addition, and subtraction including adding money, giving change and calculating the perimeter of shapes. We will then move on to multiplication. We will start with a recap on the easier tables and work our way up as the year progresses. Of course, we will also be learning to read write and use Roman numerals, and will probably end up feeling quite lucky that we didn't go to school in ancient Rome.

Across the curriculum

As musicians we will look at some of the musical instruments that were played by Romans in Britain. We will be learning some songs that were sung at sporting events from over 2000 years ago.

As expressive artists we will be looking at some classical Roman sculpture, imagining what we might look like if we were to commission a sculpture to be made of ourselves as a Roman emperor. Then we will look at how Romans liked to decorate their houses with luxurious artwork such as mosaics and frescos. We will recreate some mosaics of our own.

As computer specialists we will learn how to keep ourselves safe online. We will look at how quickly things can go viral, how to search effectively and when to start being a little bit suspicious. Once fully skilled, we will be using the internet to help us learn more about Roman Britain.

As fitness experts we might refrain from gladiatorial combat and instead learn a range of skills required to succeed in a various indoor ball sports. We will have expert coaching from a specialist coach who will introduce the children to dodgeball, handball and many other fast, action-packed games.

Knowledge of the World

By the end of the half term, children will understand the impact of Roman history on modern Britain. They will understand how great leaders hold power and establish the rule of law.

Citizenship

What did it mean to be a Roman citizen? A Roman slave?
What makes us a British citizen? Should citizens all have the same rights and how do we establish equality for all?

Ambitious thinking

Could an invasion as strong as the Romans resurface?
Would America's ideas of 'building a wall' really keep invaders out? How does the future look?