

Roman Baths - Roman Life

This interactive education session responds to the National Curriculum case study on the Romans. It is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils but can be differentiated for a range of ages and abilities. Individual requirements can be discussed with the education team when planning your visit.

Learning objectives for this session:

- To provide children with the vocabulary necessary to describe the period studied.
- To enable pupils to see some of the ways the Romans changed Britain.
- To enable pupils to see some of the Celtic traditions that were absorbed into Roman Britain.
- To equip children with investigative skills, developing a greater knowledge and understanding of Roman Bath.
- To use focused observation to investigate primary and secondary sources further.

Cross-curricular opportunities are as follows:

- Art and Design:** Pupils can explore urban Roman household decoration through drawing. They can consider shape, pattern, texture and colour of mosaics.
- History:** Local children can explore the unit investigating what it was like to live here in the past. This could also be used as a comparison for rural schools looking for a contrasting urban landscape.
- Numeracy:** Pattern and symmetry can be explored when viewing the architecture and decorations.
- Literacy:** Speaking and listening skills will be developed in the context of whole class, small group and individual activities. Writing skills can be developed through the activity choices.
- PSHE:** Focusing on the role of leisure and society on a visit, exploring their value to the individual and society. In addition, considering the way people created homes and provided food for themselves as basic needs for shelter.

Resources used:

- Roman artefacts
- Replica Roman artefacts
- Replica costumes
- Drawing materials
- Magnetic whiteboards
- Mosaic pieces

Structure of the session:

These timings are approximate and reflect a session structure with three choices from below.

Important information for planning your visit:

You need to **choose** three parts for your activity session and **inform us** of your decision when you book. We cannot guarantee that you will receive your ideal session otherwise.

Choose **one** artefact handling activity from:

1. Buildings and technology
Focus on the buildings and technology the Romans introduced to Celtic Britain during settlement, after invasion (A.D.43). Examine how Roman buildings were different to Celtic ones, and why they survived better than Celtic structures.
2. Food for thought
Explore how Roman settlement included Celtic food, but also brought new ingredients and ways of cooking. Were it not for the Romans we would not have certain foods we have today. Handle evidence supporting the fact that both meals and snacks were consumed then, as now.
3. Bathing
Discover the customs and architecture introduced by the Romans to Celtic Britain during settlement, after invasion. Explore how Romans bathed with reference to Roman artefacts.

Now choose **two** self-guided activities from the three here:

1. Togas and tunics
Follow an activity sheet guiding pupils through an examination of Roman clothing. Follow this by trying on tunics (girls) or togas (boys) on top of school uniform.
2. Write on!
Follow an activity sheet exploring writing in Roman times. Use a 'wax' tablet and stylus to write in Roman script and Latin, using the vocabulary and numeracy sheets provided on the day.

3. Marvellous mosaics

Use mosaic pieces (based on the colours of our Roman mosaics), replicas and pictures to create your own mosaic design on a magnetic whiteboard.

The table below shows how your choices will fit into the session:

Time	Activity		
0000	Meet the group. Discover how the Roman Baths were discovered, along with information about Celtic and Roman Britain. Introduction to education activities. Divide into three groups.		
	All groups rotate around the activities, accompanied by adults. Guidance sheets are enclosed and will be available on the day. Drawing materials are provided.		
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
0010	Self-guided activity choice one	Artefact handling with session leader	Self-guided activity choice two
0025	Self-guided activity choice two	Self-guided activity choice one	Artefact handling with session leader
0040	Artefact handling with session leader	Self-guided activity choice two	Self-guided activity choice one
0055	All groups: tidy away. What have we learned today?		
0100	Depart		

Advice on pre-visit work:

- It would be helpful if three groups could be organised in advance. We would also be grateful if the adults with the groups could support the children by listening to their ideas, encouraging them to work as a team and generally helping them to focus on the task in hand.
- Adult information sheets are available on the day for adult helpers. Translation sheets for Roman script and Latin will also be available on the day for your information.
- Clipboards and pencils will be available during the teaching session but you are welcome to bring your own for any tours around the site.

Suggestions for follow-up work:

- Art and Design: making mosaics. Or developing the work produced on site further, using different textures and materials.
- Drama and role play: taking on the role of a Roman citizen at the Baths, reinforcing their knowledge gained during the visit. Extending the knowledge gained of domestic arrangements to create a Roman 'soap'.

- Geography: reviewing the visitor route around the site and making suggestions for improvements to it.
- English: creative writing around the Baths theme. Or instructional text detailing how to use the facility in Roman times, or how to wear a toga/tunic. Explore further writing in Roman script or Latin using the translation sheets provided.
- Technology: design and create a Roman bathhouse or a settlement comparing Roman and Celtic traditions. Exploring the principles used by the Romans in the baths: such as hot air rising, water flow and arches.

Other essential information:

- Useful websites include: www.romanbaths.co.uk
- Official guidebook, published by Bath Archaeological Trust: The Roman Baths: A View over 2000 Years
- Useful English Heritage publications include: Life in Roman Britain, Joan Alcock
Roman Bath, Barry Cunliffe
Roman Towns in Britain, Guy de la Bédoyère

For further information or to book a visit contact:

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Group Sales
Roman Baths Museum
Pump Room
Stall Street
Bath
BA1 1LZ

(01225 47 77 85

: romanbaths_bookings@bathnes.gov.uk

