

Romans



As the Learning Team are working from home and don't have access to our actual handling artefacts, we have created a series of learning posts/pages based on our schools Romans loans box replicas. We've also put together a brief Roman history timeline.

As well as the information here there is a short video to go with some objects, available on the website and linked to our social media posts.

Our information is short and easy to read - but remember this is about interesting you in the topic, it's not the whole history of the Romans!

Roman Oil Lamp (Replica)

Pottery lamps were used as a source of light by all Romans. Oil lamps offered an alternative to candle light. Oil is poured through the hole in the top of the lamp and a wick in the hole at the end. The wicks were made from papyrus, flax or pieces of linen. Pottery oil lamps were made in several different ways. They could be made by hand, in a mould or on a wheel. Oil lamps were cheap to make and as such would be thrown away if broken. When oil gets very hot it can explode and the oil would spray up the wall. The broken lamp would be thrown away and another lamp taken out and filled with oil.



Replica oil lamp



Oil lamp from 100BC

Roman Helmet (mini replica) - Galea

Roman soldiers—Legionaries—were Roman citizens who came from across the Roman Empire. Men over 20 could become soldiers and had to serve for 25 years. Soldiers couldn't get married. They would have to march 20 miles or more a day, wearing full armour and carrying weapons. Their armour included breast plates made of iron with leather straps, a helmet or Galea, a sword or gladius, and a spear or javelin. Their helmets were made of bronze, iron or steel and covered the back, top and sides of the head plus the forehead. The plumage on the top of a helmet is called Crista, and is where the word crest comes from. Legionaries wore their crista longitudinally and Centurions wore then transversely. They were made from horse hair and were a sign of manliness.



Replica Roman Helmet



RRoman Helmet—artefact—

Roman pottery;

Large amphora (replica)

Small pottery plate, bowl and jug (replica)

Pottery was used for many things in ancient Rome. The objects were hand-made from clay and were used for many purposes including cooking pots, utensils, amphorae and fine wares. They show what life was like in everyday Roman life. A Roman amphora was used to carry liquids such as wine, oil and fish sauce, and varied in size depending on the contents.

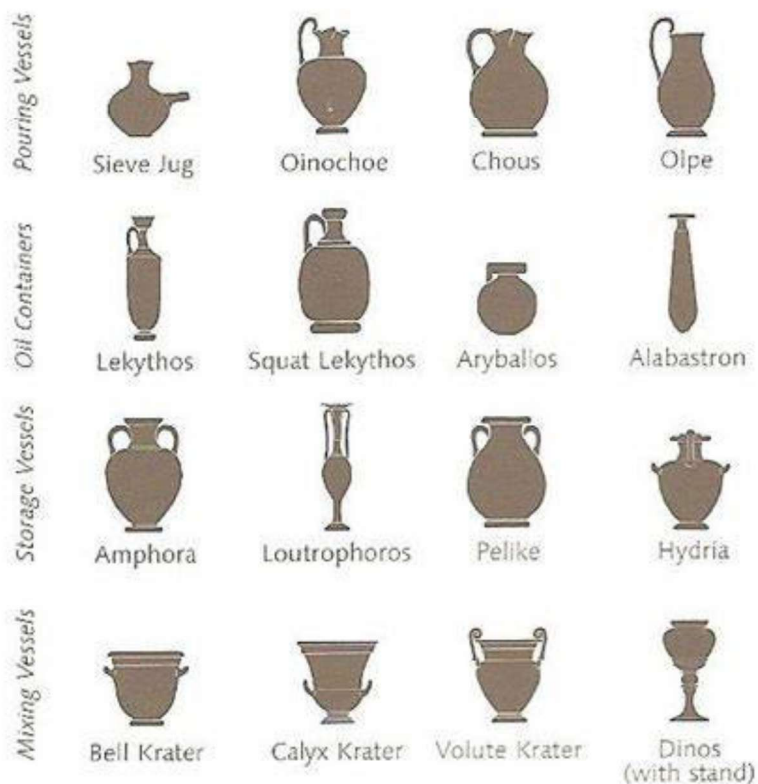


Replica bowl, plate and jug



Replica amphora

Pottery Shapes



Roman Coins (10 coins total) (Replicas)

2x small replica gold coins—Claudius 41-54 AD

2x small replica silver coins—Nero 50-68 AD

2x large replica bronze coins—Nero 50-58 AD

2x small replica silver coins—Vespasian 69-79 AD

2x large replica bronze coins—Hadrian 117-138 AD



Replica Roman Coins

Writing tablet and stylus (replica)

A writing tablet is made from two pieces of wood tied together so they could open and shut, with a shallow recess that was filled with wax. A stylus was used to write on the wax surface. It was made from iron, bronze or bone. The pointed end was used for writing and the flat end erased the writing. A wax tablet made from two pieces of wood is called a diptych.



Replica tablet and stylus

Roman Sandals (replica) Caligae (pair) Caliga (single)

Heavy soled hobnailed sandal boots were given to all Roman Legionaries. They were made by a suter (shoemaker) who was a very valued craftsman. The leather used was preserved by vegetable tanning which made them resistant to bacterial decay. Romans created the need for different types of shoes for different needs.

Ordinary people may have had;

Sandals—sandalia or soleae

Shoes—calcei

Slippers—socci

Boots (for wet weather)- pero

Shoe that reached mid calf—calcamen

Unstudded boots for women—caligae muliebres

Roman Soldiers would have;

Dress boots—embromides

Shoes—campagi militares

Marching boots (ventilated) - caliga



Replica Roman Boots

Roman Shield (Replica) - Scutum

Roman shields featured a boss or umbo, a thick, round, wooden or metal protrusion that deflected blows and served as a place to mount the grip.

Shields were carried on the left side of the Roman soldier. They were curved—concave—to protect the foot soldiers who carried them. It made it difficult to use weapons when carrying it.

In battle formation, soldiers used their scuta to form a testudo, or tortoise formation. To do this they held their shields in front and above while marching in formation.

Chain Mail—Lorica Hamata (Replica)

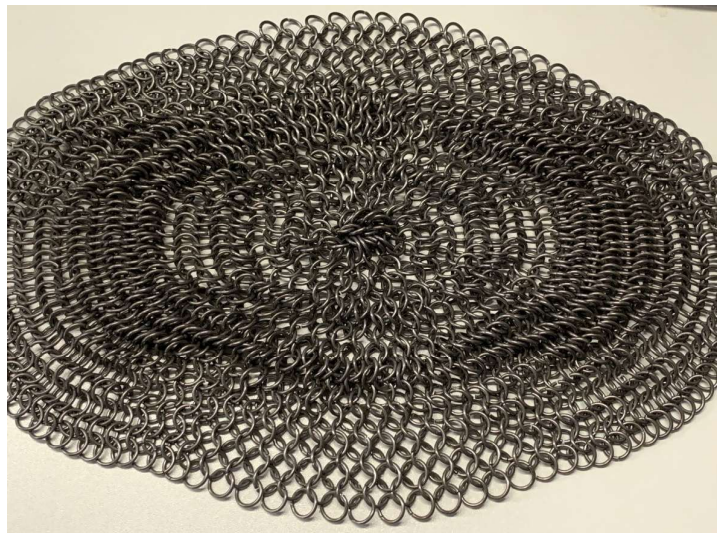
The lorica hamata is a type of mail armour used by soldiers for over 600 years. It is made from small iron rings linked with those around it to create a strong net that was difficult for fast moving arrows and spears to go through, therefore protecting the soldier.



Replica Shield



Testudo formation



Replica chain mail

Roman Soldier



Mosaic

One of the most famous types of Roman art is the mosaic. The Romans borrowed the art of mosaic making from the Greeks, although the first people to make mosaics were from Mesopotamia (now Iraq), thousands of years before the Greeks. Roman artists developed mosaic making to a very high level of skill, and thousands of mosaics can be seen all over the Roman empire and in museums.

Mosaics were usually made to decorate floors and were made up of many small pieces of stone (or sometimes pottery), called *tesserae* (one is a tessera). Tesserae were usually cubes of stones about a centimetre in size, and of different colours. If you look closely you can see that few are perfectly square; most are odd shapes with three or four sides. They were arranged by the artist to make a picture, and stuck down using cement.



Later on, Roman mosaic makers used coloured glass tesserae, because this allowed them to use a wider range of colours to get subtle shading effects. Mosaic making was very intricate and took a long time, so it must have been very expensive. This is why you see them in the villas (country houses) and town houses of rich people, but not in ordinary homes.

How were Mosaics made?

First the mosaic maker and the owner of the house had to agree on a design. There are many types of design, such as geometric patterns, animals and plants, scenes from mythology such as gods and strange creatures, and scenes from real life such as farming and gladiator fights.

The tesserae had to be made by cutting up the stone. The following materials were usually used in Britain:

- Yellow - limestone and sandstone

- Red and brown - ironstone

- Blue and black - slate

- White - chalk

Next the artist would make a smooth, solid base for the mosaic, by spreading cement over a foundation of rubble. The outline of the design was sketched onto the cement as it started to harden. Then the craftsmen poured a mixture of lime and water over the cement. The tesserae were laid into this sticky stuff, following the design sketched on top

ROMAN NUMERALS CHART

1 TO 100

1	I	21	XXI	41	XLI	61	LXI	81	LXXXI
2	II	22	XXII	42	XLII	62	LXII	82	LXXXII
3	III	23	XXIII	43	XLIII	63	LXIII	83	LXXXIII
4	IV	24	XXIV	44	XLIV	64	LXIV	84	LXXXIV
5	V	25	XXV	45	XLV	65	LXV	85	LXXXV
6	VI	26	XXVI	46	XLVI	66	LXVI	86	LXXXVI
7	VII	27	XXVII	47	XLVII	67	LXVII	87	LXXXVII
8	VIII	28	XXVIII	48	XLVIII	68	LXVIII	88	LXXXVIII
9	IX	29	XXIX	49	XLIX	69	LXIX	89	LXXXIX
10	X	30	XXX	50	L	70	LXX	90	XC
11	XI	31	XXXI	51	LI	71	LXXI	91	XCI
12	XII	32	XXXII	52	LII	72	LXXII	92	XCII
13	XIII	33	XXXIII	53	LIII	73	LXXIII	93	XCIII
14	XIV	34	XXXIV	54	LIV	74	LXXIV	94	XCIV
15	XV	35	XXXV	55	LV	75	LXXV	95	XCV
16	XVI	36	XXXVI	56	LVI	76	LXXVI	96	XCVI
17	XVII	37	XXXVII	57	LVII	77	LXXVII	97	XCVII
18	XVIII	38	XXXVIII	58	LVIII	78	LXXVIII	98	XCVIII
19	XIX	39	XXXIX	59	LIX	79	LXXIX	99	XCIX
20	XX	40	XL	60	LX	80	LXXX	100	C

Roman History—an overview



There are many sources to look at for the history of the Romans This is some of the most relevant information, in timeline form.

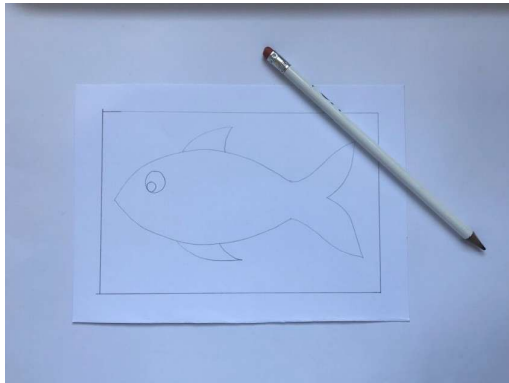
Date	Event
753 BC	Rome is founded by Romulus (first of seven legendary Roman kings) He was the twin brother of Remus, twin sons of Mars the god of War. The seven kings were; Romulus Numa Pompilius Tullus Hostilius Ancus Martius Lucius Tarquinius Priscus (Tarquin the Elder) Servius Tullius Tarquin Superbus (Tarquin the Proud)
509 BC	Rome becomes a Republic The last king is expelled, and Rome is now ruled by senators.
450 BC	The first Roman Law written on 12 Bronze Tablets
240 BC	First Roman literature. Greek Classics translated into Latin.
218 BC	Hannibal invades Italy. Hannibal, a Carthaginian general, leads the second Punic war with an invasion of Italy
200 BC	Over 50,000 miles of road built by this time
71 BC	Spartacus the gladiator leads the slaves in an uprising
45 BC	Julius Caesar becomes first supreme ruler of Rome – ending the Roman Republic
44 BC	Julius Caesar assassinated – on the Ides of March (March 15 44BC)
27 BC	Roman Empire begins. Octavius makes himself the first Emperor of Rome and titles himself 'Augustus'. He ruled for 56 years.
14-68 AD	Augustus Dynasty 14-37 AD Tiberius 37-41 AD Caligula 41-54 AD Claudius 54-68 AD Nero
43 AD	Romans invade Britain making it part of the Roman Empire. They based themselves in Londinium. (modern day London)
64 AD	Rome Burns when Nero set fire to Rome and blames Christians

69-79 AD	Vespasian begins building the Colosseum. His son Titus completes it.
79-81 AD	Titus earns peoples devotion. Eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD led to destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Titus organised the clear up and repair.
80 AD	Colosseum is completed. Completion of colosseum celebrated with 100 days of games. The Romans also invade Scotland
117 AD	Roman Empire included all of Italy, all lands around the Mediterranean, much of Europe including England Wales and parts of Scotland.
122 AD	Hadrian's Wall. Hadrian solidifies the Roman frontiers building the long wall built across northern England to keep barbarians out as well as the unconquered people of Scotland.
140 AD	Romans finally conquer Scotland
306 AD	Constantine becomes Emperor
324 AD	Constantine makes Christianity Rome's official religion. Rome becomes a Christian empire
380 AD	Christianity Theodosius I, proclaims Christianity as the sole religion of the Roman Empire.
395 AD	Rome splits Rome split into two empires, the West and the East. Each side had a ruler in charge of it, the empire was split by Theodosius. Eastern Empire renamed the Byzantine Empire.
410 AD	Rome begins to collapse losing its provinces one by one
410 AD	Romans left Britain to send armies elsewhere. Anglo Saxons next to rule.
430 AD	Romans lose North Africa and Spain
450 AD	Romans lose Gaul and Italy to Atilla the Hun
476 AD	End of the Western Roman empire and the fall of ancient Rome. The last Roman emperor Romulus Augustus was defeated by the German, Odovacar. The fall of the (Western) Roman Empire is complete.
1453 AD	The Byzantine Empire ends Byzantine Empire (Eastern Empire) falls to the Ottoman Empire.

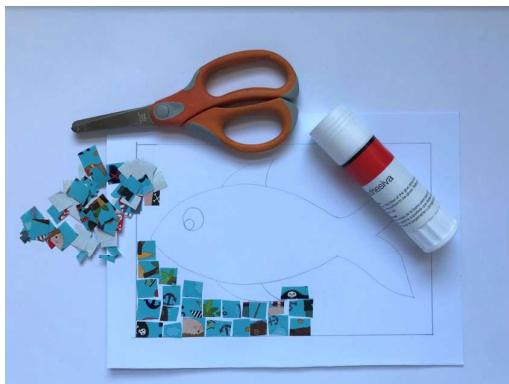
Make your own Roman Mosaic



Step 1. Gather your materials. You will need card, scissors, a pencil, glue and coloured paper or wrapping paper.



Step 2. Draw your design on to the card.



Step 3. Cut the coloured card and wrapping paper into small squares. Glue these onto your design. Leaving small gaps in between each one.



Step 4. You have completed your mosaic. Don't forget to share what you have created with us **#SpikeDinosAdventures**

Websites we have found useful.

www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_rome.php

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8

www.softschools.com

www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk (Roman Britain for kids)

www.historyforkids.net/roman-history-facts-for-kids.html

<https://superbrainybeans.com/history/romans/>

www.historyforkids.net/ancient-rome.html

More interesting objects on display in the Archaeology Gallery to come and find when we are open again.



Roman Mosaic—artefact

Found in East Malling



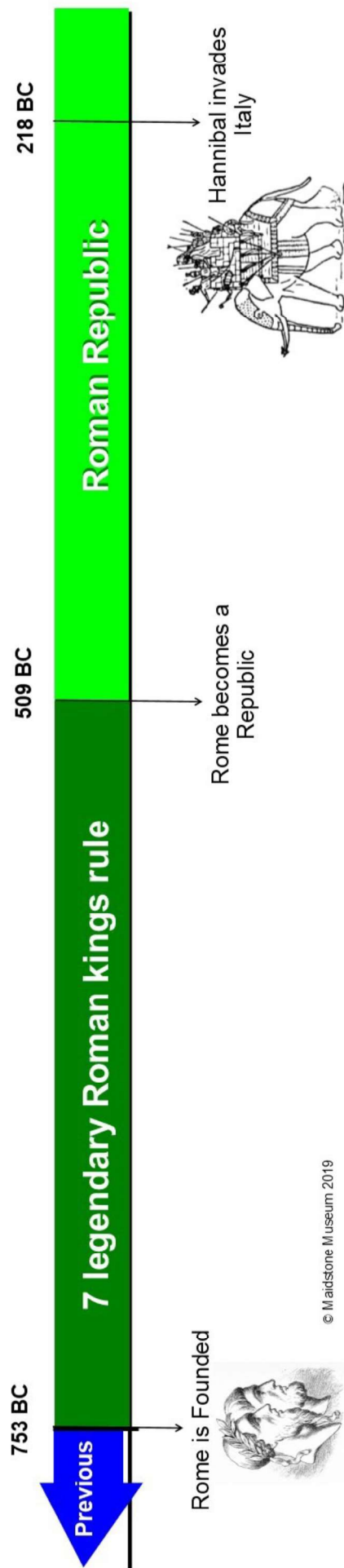
Roman Coins—artefact



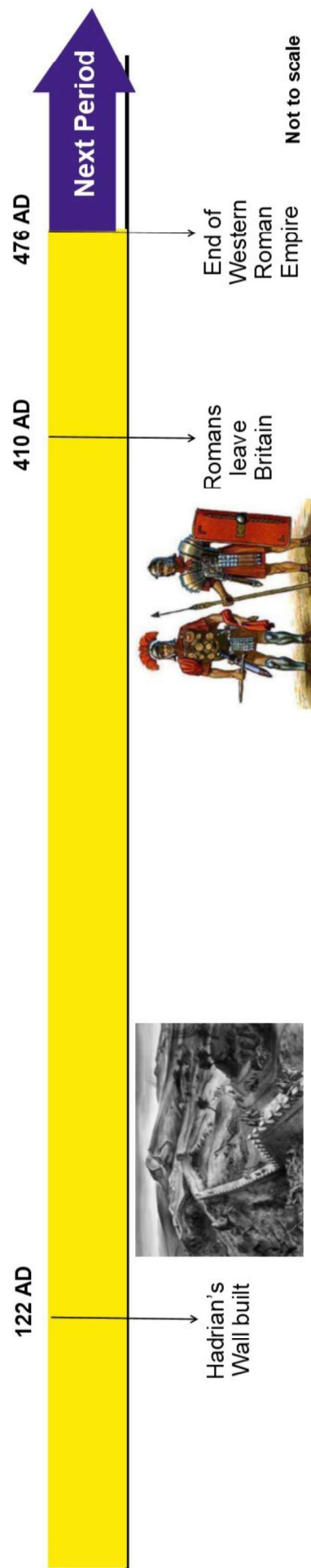
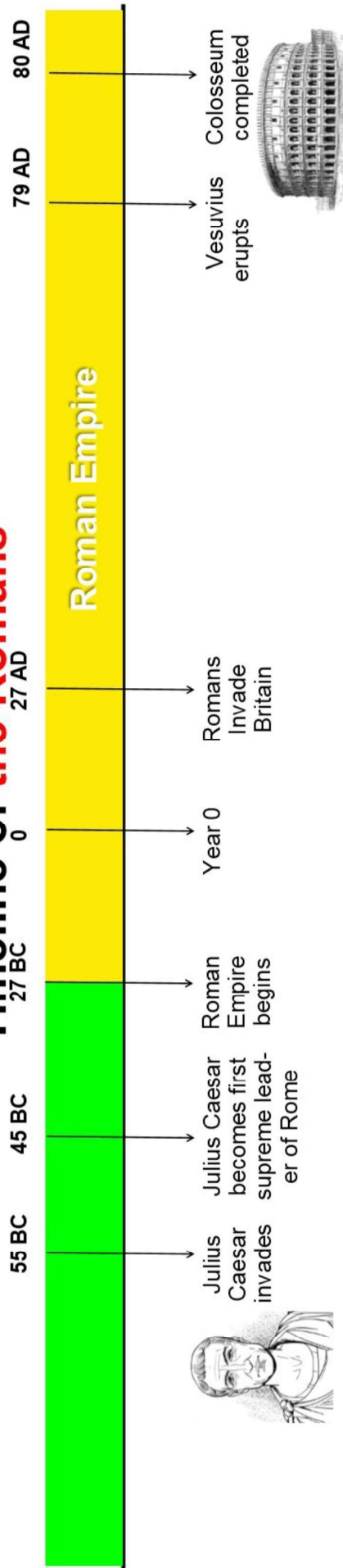
Pins made from antler or bone —
artefact

Found in Chalk, Hartlip, Strood,
Frindsbury, Sittingbourne,
Reculver,

A timeline to print, cut out and stick together!



Timeline of the Romans





For more information, help with school questions, to book school visits, or jus to say hello, please contact us at museumeducation@maidstone.gov.uk.

Thanks for reading, downloading or dipping into our resource.

Roz and Vicky

Maidstone Museum Learning Team

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