

Life in Roman Britain

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Roman Empire on daily life in Britain.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Use full sentences for your answers.

Ellie the elephant loves visiting historical sites to learn about the past. She recently discovered that when the Romans arrived in Britain nearly 2,000 years ago, they changed how people lived forever. Before the Romans, most people lived in small, round wooden huts. The Romans introduced rectangular stone houses and planned towns with straight, paved roads. They were famous for their incredible engineering skills. They built long aqueducts to carry fresh water into towns and public bathhouses where people could socialise and keep clean. The Romans also brought new foods to Britain, such as cherries, grapes, and even peas! They loved art, and many wealthy families decorated their floors with colourful mosaics made from tiny pieces of stone or glass. While life was very different depending on whether you were a soldier, a merchant, or a farmer, the Roman influence is still seen today in our street layouts and the ruins of ancient walls. Ellie finds it fascinating that despite the passing of centuries, we can still walk where the Romans walked and see the foundations of the world they built.

Word bank: Empire · invaded · settlements · aqueduct · mosaic · civilisation

1. What type of homes did people live in before the Romans arrived in Britain? (1 mark)

2. Name two things the Romans built to improve life in their towns. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the Romans chose to build straight roads instead of winding ones? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what does the use of mosaics tell us about Roman homes? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the arrival of the Romans was a positive change for Britain? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a Roman-style town square. Include a straight road, a stone building, and a colourful mosaic pattern on the ground.



Extension challenge: Research one Roman invention that we still use in a different form today and explain how it has changed over time.