

Ellie's Roman Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain and identify key aspects of Roman daily life.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your historical knowledge to answer the questions, ensuring you use full sentences.

Ellie the elephant was exploring the countryside when she stumbled upon an ancient site. She used her incredible memory to recognise the layout of a Roman villa. Long ago, the Roman Empire stretched across vast lands, including Britain. The Romans brought many changes that transformed the landscape. They built straight, paved roads that connected distant towns, allowing soldiers and traders to travel efficiently. In their towns, they constructed impressive stone buildings and public baths, which were heated by a clever system called a hypocaust. Many wealthy Romans decorated their floors with intricate mosaics made from thousands of tiny, coloured tiles. Even today, archaeologists find Roman coins, sometimes worth only a few pence, buried deep in the earth. These artefacts tell us how the Romans lived, worked, and governed. Although the Romans eventually left Britain, their influence remained in our language, our town planning, and the foundations of our modern buildings. Ellie carefully noted the stone ruins, knowing that every fragment tells a story of a time when the world was changing forever under the power of Rome.

Word bank: Aqueduct · Empire · Centurion · Mosaic · Villa · Fortification

1. Identify two features of Roman towns mentioned in the text that were used by the people living there. (2 marks)

2. According to the passage, why were the straight, paved roads built by the Romans so important? (2 marks)

3. What does the author mean by the phrase 'every fragment tells a story'? (2 marks)

4. Why might archaeologists be excited to find Roman coins, even if they were only worth a small amount of money? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think the Roman influence on Britain was mostly positive or negative? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of a Roman villa's mosaic floor, incorporating patterns and images of nature or history.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a wealthy Roman living in a villa with a Roman soldier stationed at a remote fortification. Explain why their daily tasks would have been so different.