

Ellie's Roman Empire Explorer Challenge

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

Ellie the Elephant is sorting through her historical records! Look at the list of items below. Some were brought to Britain by the Romans, and some were already used by the Iron Age Celts. Sort the items into the correct columns and complete the logic puzzle to help Ellie finish her history log.

Word bank: Concrete · Woad (blue body paint) · Aqueducts · Roundhouses · Straight roads · Hill forts · Coins for trade · Central heating (hypocaust)

1. Draw a table with two columns: 'Roman Innovations' and 'Iron Age Traditions'. Sort the eight items from the word bank into the correct columns. (8 marks)

2. The Romans used a system of currency. If a Roman soldier earned 5 denarii a week, and a loaf of bread cost 20 pence (in modern equivalent), how much would 3 loaves of bread cost in total? Show your working. (2 marks)

3. Why was the invention of straight roads important for the Roman army compared to the winding paths used by the Celts? (2 marks)

4. True or False: The Romans built villas with underfloor heating called a 'hypocaust'. Explain your answer. (2 marks)

5. If you were a Roman governor, why might you choose a flat area near a river to build a new town (a 'colonia') instead of a hilltop? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a Roman hypocaust system, showing where the fire would be lit and how the hot air travels underneath the floor tiles.



Extension challenge: Research a Roman site near your local area (such as a Roman wall, fort, or road). Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a Roman soldier stationed there, mentioning one challenge of living in the British weather.