

Life in Roman Britain

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

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below using full sentences. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

When the Romans arrived in Britain, they brought significant changes to how people lived. Before their arrival, many people lived in round wooden huts, but the Romans introduced rectangular stone houses with tiled roofs. One of the most impressive features of Roman life was the network of straight roads, which allowed soldiers and traders to travel across the country much faster than before. In their towns, the Romans built public baths where citizens could socialise and clean themselves. Water was brought into these towns using massive structures called aqueducts. Wealthy families often decorated their floors with beautiful mosaics, made from thousands of tiny, colourful stones. The Romans also introduced new foods, such as grapes and cherries, which were previously unknown in Britain. While many Britons resisted the Roman invasion at first, the influence of Roman engineering, law, and architecture eventually transformed the landscape. Even today, if you look closely at the layout of some modern British towns, you can still see the straight lines of the old Roman streets hidden beneath our feet.

Word bank: Empire · Aqueduct · Mosaic · Settlement · Invasion · Baths

1. Identify two examples of new foods that the Romans brought to Britain. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what was the primary purpose of the straight Roman roads? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the Romans built aqueducts in their towns? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest that the Roman period still affects our lives today? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the Roman influence was mostly positive for Britain? Explain your answer using one reason from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of a Roman town, including a straight road, a rectangular stone house, and a public bath building.



Extension challenge: Ellie the elephant is curious about history! Research one Roman invention not mentioned in the text—such as underfloor heating or concrete—and write a short paragraph explaining how it worked.