

Ellie's Roman Empire Expedition

Learning objective: To analyze and evaluate the impact of Roman innovations on life in Roman Britain.

Ellie the elephant has been exploring ancient Roman ruins. Below is a list of Roman innovations. Sort these into two categories: 'Daily Life & Comfort' and 'Defense & Infrastructure'. Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to explain the impact of these advancements.

Word bank: Aqueducts · Forts · Underfloor heating · Straight roads · Public baths · Hadrian's Wall · Togas · Mosaic floors

1. Sort the items from the word bank into two groups: 'Daily Life & Comfort' and 'Defense & Infrastructure'. Explain your reasoning for your placement of 'Public baths'. (3 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the purpose of a Roman road with a modern-day highway. Why were straight roads so important for the Roman army? (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If you were living in Roman Britain, which innovation would you find the most useful for your family? Why? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the Romans built Hadrian's Wall across the north of Britain. What might have happened if they had decided not to build it? (3 marks)

5. How did the introduction of Roman technology change the way people lived in Britain compared to the Iron Age? Identify two significant improvements. (2 marks)

6. Imagine you are an archaeologist finding a Roman mosaic. What does the complexity of the design tell you about the wealth and status of the person who lived there? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a Roman hypocaust (underfloor heating system), labelling where the fire is kept and how the warm air travels beneath the floor tiles.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a Roman soldier stationed at a fort on Hadrian's Wall. Describe your daily duties and how you use Roman infrastructure to keep the empire safe.