

Ellie's Roman Discovery

Learning objective: To understand life in Roman Britain and identify key features of Roman settlements.

Read the story below carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided.

Ellie the elephant loves to dig up history. One sunny afternoon, she walked across a grassy field in Britain. She felt something hard under her trunk. She brushed away the soil and gasped! It was a beautiful mosaic floor made of tiny, coloured tiles. Ellie knew she had found a Roman villa. Long ago, the Romans invaded Britain and changed how people lived. They built straight roads that crossed the country and created busy towns. Roman people liked to be comfortable. In their villas, they had special floors that stayed warm in winter. They also built large public baths where they could wash and chat with friends. Many people in Britain started to use Roman coins, like the denarius, to buy food and goods. Ellie looked at the patterns in the tiles. She imagined the Roman family who lived there centuries ago. They would have walked on these very tiles to eat their dinner. It was like stepping back in time. Ellie felt lucky to find this secret piece of the past hidden right beneath her feet.

Word bank: Empire: A large group of countries ruled by one leader. · Settlement: A place where people build homes to live. · Mosaic: A picture made from small coloured tiles. · Villa: A large Roman house. · Invaded: To enter a country by force to take control.

1. What did Ellie find buried under the soil? (2 marks)

2. List two things the Romans built in Britain. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the Romans wanted to have warm floors in their homes? (2 marks)

4. How did life in Britain change after the Romans arrived? (2 marks)

5. If you were an archaeologist like Ellie, would you enjoy digging for old treasures? Why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what a Roman mosaic floor might look like. Use lots of different colours and shapes.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Roman living in a villa. Write three sentences about what you might see in your home.