

Ellie's Roman Empire Explorer: The Great Civilisation Challenge

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain and evaluate the significance of Roman innovations.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through history! Below is a table of Roman innovations and their modern-day counterparts. Sort the items by placing them into the correct category: 'Infrastructure', 'Social/Daily Life', or 'Military/Defence'. Once sorted, complete the challenge questions to show your historical expertise.

Word bank: Aqueducts · Road networks · Public baths · The Latin language · Fortified walls · Concrete · Central heating (hypocaust) · The Roman calendar

1. Explain why the construction of a vast network of Roman roads was essential for the expansion and control of the Roman Empire in Britain. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the Roman 'hypocaust' system with the way we heat our homes in modern Britain today. What are the similarities and differences? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: If the Romans had never invaded Britain, how might our modern English language be different? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the Romans had not introduced advanced sanitation and aqueducts to their settlements? Describe the potential impact on public health. (2 marks)

5. Choose one Roman innovation from the word bank. Evaluate its legacy; why is it still considered an impressive feat of engineering today? (3 marks)

6. If you were a Roman governor tasked with building a new town in Britain, which three features would you prioritise and why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a Roman 'hypocaust' (underfloor heating system) as if you are explaining the mechanics to Ellie. Label where the fire was lit and how the heat travelled beneath the mosaic floors.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Romanisation' of Britain. Write a short persuasive speech from the perspective of a local Briton living in 100 AD, arguing either for or against the changes brought by the new Roman occupants.