

Ellie's Roman Empire Explorer: A Historical Fact-File

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the impact of Roman civilisation on Britain, considering both the benefits and the consequences of the Roman occupation.

Imagine you are a historian working with Ellie the Elephant to catalogue life in Roman Britain. Use your textbook or reliable library resources to research the different aspects of Roman life. When answering the questions, try to use precise historical vocabulary and provide evidence to support your ideas.

Word bank: Legionnaire · Occupation · Aqueduct · Civilisation · Infrastructure · Province · Centurion · Cultural · Mosaic · Hypocaust

1. Roman Infrastructure: Identify one major engineering project introduced by the Romans (e.g., roads or aqueducts) and explain how this changed the way people lived in Britain. (3 marks)

2. Comparing Lifestyles: Contrast the daily life of a Roman soldier stationed in a fort with a local Iron Age farmer living in a roundhouse. What were the main differences? (4 marks)

3. The Roman Military: Explain why the Roman army was so successful at conquering and maintaining control over the province of Britannia for nearly 400 years. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Some historians believe the Roman occupation was a 'civilising' force for Britain, while others argue it was a destructive invasion. Which perspective do you find more convincing and why? (5 marks)

5. What might happen if...: If the Roman Empire had never invaded Britain, how might the development of British towns and trade routes have been different? (4 marks)

6. Cultural Legacy: Choose one example of Roman culture (e.g., language, art, or architecture) that is still visible in the UK today. Describe it and explain its significance. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Museum Exhibit Card' for a Roman artefact found in Britain. Include a detailed sketch, a description of what the object was used for, and a 'Curator's Note' explaining what the object tells us about the person who owned it.