Ellie’s Roman Empire Explorer Challenge

Learning objective: To understand key aspects of Roman life in Britain, including their influence on buildings, roads, and daily habits.

Ellie the Elephant has been digging through history! Below is a list of Roman inventions and daily items. Your task is to sort them into two categories: 'Things the Romans brought to Britain' and 'Things that existed in Britain before the Romans arrived'. Write the items in the correct columns provided in the table below.

Word bank: Straight stone roads · Hillforts · Underfloor heating (hypocaust) · Round wooden houses · Aqueducts for fresh water · Iron tools · Public bathhouses · Farming crops like wheat

1. 1. Create two columns on your page titled 'Roman Innovations' and 'Life Before Romans'. Sort the words from the word bank into the correct columns. (4 marks)

2. 2. Why do you think the Romans built such straight roads across Britain? Think about how they moved their army. (2 marks)

3. 3. The Romans used a system called a 'hypocaust'. Describe what this was used for in a Roman villa. (2 marks)

4. 4. If you were a Roman soldier stationed in Britain, why might you be happy to visit a public bathhouse? (2 marks)

5. 5. Look at the list again. Which Roman invention do you think was the most important for helping people live together in towns? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Roman road stretching across a British landscape. Include a milestone marker and show how straight the road looks compared to the winding hills around it.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just found a Roman coin worth 5 denarii. If 1 denarius was worth roughly 50p today, how much would your coin be worth in modern money? Write a short diary entry about what you would buy for your Roman villa with that money.