Ellie’s Roman Britain Expedition

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain and understand key historical evidence from the period.

Use your knowledge of Roman Britain to answer the following questions. Think carefully about how Roman innovations changed the lives of people living in Britain at the time.

Ellie the elephant has been busy researching the Roman occupation of Britain. From the bustling market towns to the fortified northern borders, the Romans left behind a landscape transformed by engineering, trade, and culture. Use what you have learned in class to help Ellie complete her historical records.

Word bank: Legion · Aqueduct · Mosaic · Hadrian's Wall · Centurion · Governor · Hypocaust · Villa

1. Explain two ways in which the Roman army maintained control over the province of Britannia. (2 marks)

2. Why was the construction of the road network essential for the Roman Empire's success in Britain? (2 marks)

3. Describe the function of a 'hypocaust' and explain why it was considered a luxury in a Roman villa. (2 marks)

4. Hadrian's Wall was built in 122 AD. What does this structure tell us about the Roman relationship with the tribes in the north of Britain? (2 marks)

5. If you were a trader in Roman Britain, would you prefer to live in a town or a rural villa? Give one reason for your choice based on Roman lifestyle. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Roman mosaic, focusing on the geometric patterns and colours commonly used in Roman interior design.

Extension challenge: Research the Roman market town of Verulamium (modern-day St Albans). Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a merchant living there, mentioning at least two Roman imports or local goods being sold.