Ellie’s Roman Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain and identify key aspects of Roman life.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below to test your understanding of Roman Britain.

Ellie the elephant loves visiting the local museum to learn about the past. Recently, she was fascinated by the history of Roman Britain. Nearly two thousand years ago, soldiers from the Roman Empire sailed across the sea and invaded Britain. They wanted to expand their lands and trade resources. When the Romans arrived, they did not just build forts; they changed how people lived. They constructed straight, sturdy roads that connected towns, making it easier to travel and trade goods across the country. The Romans also introduced central heating systems for their villas and built incredible public bathhouses. In the towns, they created beautiful, colourful mosaics on floors using tiny tiles. They even brought new foods, such as grapes and cherries, which had not grown in Britain before. Roman life was very different from what came before it, leaving a legacy of engineering and art that we can still see today. Ellie thinks it is amazing how much of our world was shaped by these clever ancient builders. She loves imagining what a busy Roman market might have sounded like over a thousand years ago.

Word bank: Empire · invaded · settlement · mosaic · aqueduct · centurion

1. What are two examples of new foods that the Romans brought to Britain? (2 marks)

2. According to the text, why did the Romans build straight, sturdy roads? (2 marks)

3. Why might the Romans have needed central heating in their British villas? (2 marks)

4. How can we tell that the Romans valued art in their homes? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the arrival of the Romans was a positive change for Britain? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Roman mosaic floor design using geometric patterns and bright colours, just like the ones Ellie saw at the museum.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Roman soldier arriving in Britain for the first time. Write three sentences in your diary describing what you see.