

Roman Artefact Collection (HI10033)

This collection contains a variety of Roman replica artefacts designed to help you find out more about everyday life in Roman Britain.



Contents: -

1. 11x Roman Coins
2. 8 x Roman Jewellery
3. 1 x Roman Helmet
4. 2 x Roman sandals
5. 1 x Roman Desktop Timeline

(Contents may vary)

Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about Roman life?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Artefacts

1. Roman Coins

Made from different materials such as copper, bronze, silver or gold. Featured images of emperors, gods and other symbols. Coins would have been used to exchange for goods and services. A **denarius** was a silver coin, **sestertius** made from a yellow metal like a £1 coin, **as** copper like a 2p. 1 denarius was equal to 4 sestertii which was equal to 16 asses. There was also a gold coin called **aurei**. These were the same size as a denarius but much more valuable. It was worth 25 denarii, or 100 sestertii, or 400 asses.

A legionary soldier earned about 300 denarii a year. The army kept more than half of this for food, equipment and savings but still legionaries were richer than most ordinary people.

Design your own coins. Note that Roman coins weren't perfectly like modern coins.

2. Roman Jewellery

Romans loved jewellery especially armlets, bracelets and rings. Jewellery was worn as a sign of wealth and social status and some jewellery was believed to offer protection or provide good luck to the wearer. Roman women wore bangles around their wrists and above their elbows.

Look carefully at the jewellery and use it as evidence to find out about life in Roman Britain.

Design and make own replica Roman jewellery. Look carefully at the detail and design.

3. Roman Helmet

The Romans fought many battles and conquered many lands. A soldier fought with a short sword, a dagger and a javelin. He carried a long rectangular shield and wore a helmet. Looking at helmets can teach us about the hierarchical structure in the Roman army and the importance of leadership. The soldiers with feathers on their helmets were centurions who were the commanders of a group of soldiers. Legionaries were the ordinary soldiers. Examining the helmet can indicate the position and status of the wearer and reveal how it protected soldiers in battle and the value they placed on military strength.

Soldiers weren't just fighters but also builders. They built roads, bridges and forts. Find out how successful the Roman army were in battle and why they invaded Britain.

Use templates to make own card Roman helmets. Add detail and patterns.

4. Roman Sandals

Questions you might ask:

why do the sandals have so many hobnails in the bottom?

how comfortable would they be to walk in?

how long might they last?

Understand the practical purposes of sandals, their design features and how different types of sandals reflected social status. Soldiers wore sandals for marching and combat. They were typically made from leather and had hobnails on the soles to provide grip and durability.

Research, design and make your own Roman sandals.

5. Roman Timeline

Learn about key events and dates such as Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BCE, Emperor Claudius' invasion and settlement in Britain in 43CE, the construction of Hadrian's Wall 122CE, Boudicea's Rebellion 61CE. Describe key events using evidence from different sources such as the artefacts.

Discover more about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. Explain the order of events and what happened using vocabulary related to this period of time.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zynj6rd>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfq8>