

The Romans

Unit 1



Contents

About this Unit	3
Setting the context - where did the Romans come from?	4
What about here in Wales?	6
Awesome Activity	7
Ancient Buildings - Fact files	8
The Forum	11
The Colosseum	12
The Pantheon	13



About this Unit

Unit 1: Who were the Romans?

Unit theme

Who were the Romans?

Learning Objectives

This is an introductory activity. It's an opportunity for learners to explore and learn about key sites in ancient Rome and deepen their understanding for the Roman period, before moving on to the impact of Rome on the wider world and Wales in particular.

Links to the Curriculum for Wales

Curriculum Purposes

Supports children and young people to be ambitious, capable learners.

Area of learning

Humanities

Statement of what Matters

Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.

In detail

Appropriate disciplinary approaches, including digital humanities will help learners gather, justify, present, analyse and evaluate a range of evidence. Interpreting and synthesising information will help learners build upon what they have already learned and further inform their understanding of the world.

By thinking critically about their discoveries, learners can then draw informed conclusions, but also understand that some conclusions can only be partial or inconclusive and open to different interpretations.



Setting the context

There are many different ways of finding out about Rome and the Romans; archaeology, buildings, written sources and stories/ mythology. Before launching into studying the ancient buildings of Rome, you may wish to start with some images and icons of modern Italy, which could be done via a virtual tour.

Where did the Romans come from?

The Romans came from the city of Rome in modern-day Italy. The Romans conquered different countries across Europe, Wales and further afield. This was the Roman Empire.

The beautiful and historic city of Rome was the centre of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire began in the 8th Century BC and ended in the 5th Century AD.

There are many ancient buildings in Rome which date from a time when the city was the centre of the Roman Empire.



Wales did not exist, it was called **Britannia Superior** and was divided into lowland and highland. The Romans changed Wales. They built roads and buildings and even changed our language and culture.



Can you spot the Welsh word in these Latin words?

castellum

fossa

pontem

murus

Find out!

- ▶ There are many remains of Roman buildings in Rome. Find out the names of some of these famous buildings.
- ▶ Discover 5 fantastic facts about these famous buildings.

Statements of What Matters

Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
GWYDDONIAETH
A THECHNOLEG



What about here in Wales?



It's true! The Romans built similar buildings in different parts of Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa and here in Wales! From the Forum-basilica in Caerwent to an impressive amphitheatre in Caerleon, these are just some of the impressive Roman sites that can be discovered.

Additional Activities

Research the legend of Romulus and Remus – the brothers who were reputed to be the founders Rome - by using written sources, images and videos which are available online. Compare the story with Welsh myths based on real places e.g. the story of Cantre'r Gwaelod/Llyn y Fan/Cader Idris. What is similar or different about the characters and events? What is the purpose of such myths? Why not make a storyboard of one of the tales which will show all the key events?

Find out!

- Go to the [CADW website](#) to find locations of Roman remains here in Wales.
- Which Roman site is nearest to your school?
- What was the purpose of the Roman remains that are nearest to your school?

Statements of What Matters

Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.



HUMANITIES
— Y DYNIAETHAU —



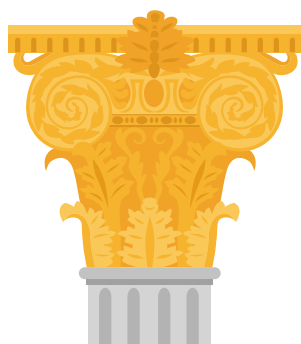
**LANGUAGES, LITERACY
& COMMUNICATION**

IEITHOEDD,
LLYTHRENNEDD A
CHYFATHREBU

Awesome Activity

Create an awesome advert for the Roman ruins here in Wales.

- ▶ Working in groups, choose two Roman remains of interest to you and plan a television advert to attract tourists to visit these sites.
- ▶ Dip into a wealth of amazing facts by Cadw about Caerleon Fortress and Roman Baths or Segontium, the amazing Roman Fort which was mentioned in one of the Mabinogi tales, the Dream of Macsen Wledig. Or how about discovering more about the Roman town of Caerwent on the [Cadw website](#)?
- ▶ Or go on the [Caerleon Amphitheatre virtual tour](#).
- ▶ Or watch the [Segontium video](#).



Work as a team to prepare a short commentary about the sites, their purpose, main features and interesting facts about them. You could also include information about directions to the sites and opening times and dates.

Make it stand out by...

Using a green screen and images to make your advert interesting.

Using Google maps to show the exact location of the Roman ruins and their surroundings.

Don't forget to use persuasive language, interesting adjectives and facts, and catchy phrases.



Statements of What Matters

Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.

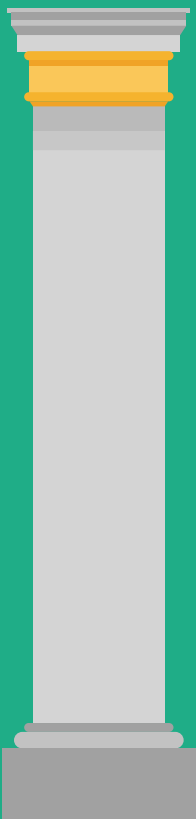


Ancient Buildings

Fact files

Read the fact files about three famous ancient Roman sites you can visit. You can also use Google Earth to discover more about these amazing buildings.

The Forum,
The Pantheon
and The Colosseum



Go for it!



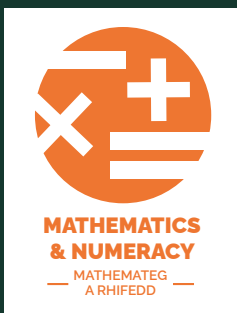
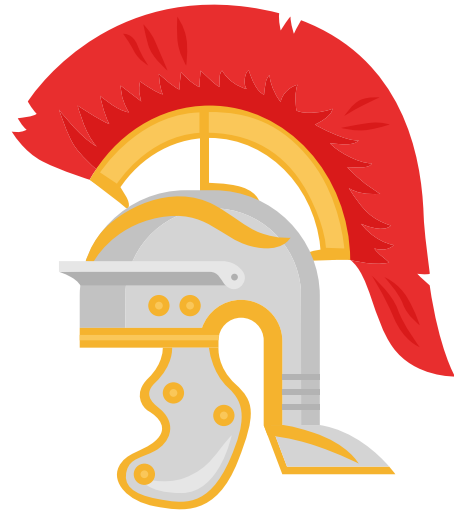
Ancient Buildings

Fact files

Rome and its ruins ... What a city!

This activity will allow learners to explore the **physical evidence of the Roman period through ancient buildings still standing today.**

- ▶ Compare the size of Roman amphitheatres with similar modern day buildings in Wales, e.g. Principality Stadium.
- ▶ Draw plans with measurements and work out how many people (and animals) different buildings could hold.



Statements of What Matters

Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world.



Ancient Buildings

Fact files

- ▶ Create a collage of pictures (on paper, digitally or other medium) of Rome's famous ancient landmarks. If learners have been on a virtual journey, they will have seen some of the important sites in the video so this will be an opportunity to learn more about them and their purpose in Roman times.
- ▶ Create an image or model (2D/3D or digital) of a famous building/site in Rome.

In addition to research on the sites themselves, you might want to point them to virtual tours of some ancient sites in Rome.

[Here is an example](#)



Statements of What Matters

Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals.



The Forum

Ancient Buildings

Fact files

Name

The Forum.

Type

A collection of important buildings built over many centuries.

Size

820 x 560 metres.

Architectural features

Various styles were used as it was built and rebuilt over time.

Location

In a low lying valley between the Palentine and Capitoline hills.

Purpose

Originally a marketplace and later used for government business and large public gatherings of all kinds.

Did you know?

1. The Roman Senate or parliament met here.
2. After the fall of the Roman Empire, stone from the Forum was stolen for other buildings and burnt to make lime.
3. Every major Roman settlement contained a basilica (similar to a town hall). Basilica Porcia in The Forum was the first ever created in 184 BC..



The Colosseum

Ancient Buildings

Fact files

Name	The Colosseum.
Type	Amphitheatre or stadium.
Emperor(s)	Commissioned by Vespasian, opened by his son Titus and added to by Domitian.
Built	Between AD 70-82 from stone, rock and concrete by slaves.
Size	189 x 156 metres.
Architectural features	Circular structure, four storeys high, built of columns and arches.
Capacity	Seating for 50,000.
Location	Palantine Hill.
Purpose	Entertainment – contests between gladiators and animals, also mock naval battles.
Did you know?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tickets were pieces of broken clay. Entry was mostly free and open to all – but women and slaves were given the seats with the worst view.2. An estimated half a million people and one million animals died in the contests held here.3. Spectators were sheltered from the sun by a huge temporary canvas roof (awning) which was pulled into place by hundreds of sailors.



The Pantheon

Name

The Pantheon.

Type

Temple.

Emperor(s)

Caesar Augustus and Hadrian.

Built

Between AD 117-138 on the site of Marcus Agrippa's original temple of 27 BC which burnt down in AD 80 concrete by slaves.

Size

Portico entrance 34.20 x 15.62 metres
Dome 43.2 metres in diameter.

Architectural features

Series of columns, arches and the largest unsupported dome in the world.

Location

Piazza della Rotonda.

Purpose

Dedicated to all the pagan gods, it became a Catholic church in AD 608.

Did you know?

1. There is a hole in the centre of the roof of the dome called the Oculus (eye). As the earth turns on its axis the sun's rays shine through it and light up each one of the statues of the gods in turn.
2. The front of the Pantheon looks rectangular but the main part inside is round, which gives the impression that you are standing inside a globe.
3. The dome is made of a special type of concrete to which lightweight volcanic rock (pumice) was added. The dome has no supports to keep it in place and is the oldest example of a domed structure in the world.



Ancient Buildings

Fact files

