

The Romans Group Leader's Notes

These notes accompany 'The Romans' trail.

The notes include:

- Directions and pictures to help you find your way around
- Answers to the challenges in the pupils' trail
- Extra information about the Romans

It's a good idea for each adult to have a copy of the notes and to read through them in advance.

The trail begins by the lifts in the **Early People Gallery, Level -1**.

Gallery display cases look like this.

Each case has a **theme** and a **title**.

The theme of this case is 'Tilling the soil, tending the beasts.' Its title is 'Roman agriculture in Scotland.'



Each case has a **case number** on the bottom left of the display.

The number can usually be found here.



Felix is a type of soldier known as a Legionary. His rank is 'Centurion', meaning he is in charge of 80 men. He is the pupils' guide round the galleries.

The Romans spoke a language called Latin. To say 'hello' in Latin, you say 'salve', pronounced 'sal-way'.

The names below are Latin from ancient Rome. Use the table to help the children choose their Roman name.

There are no female names in this list, because women were not allowed to join the Roman army.

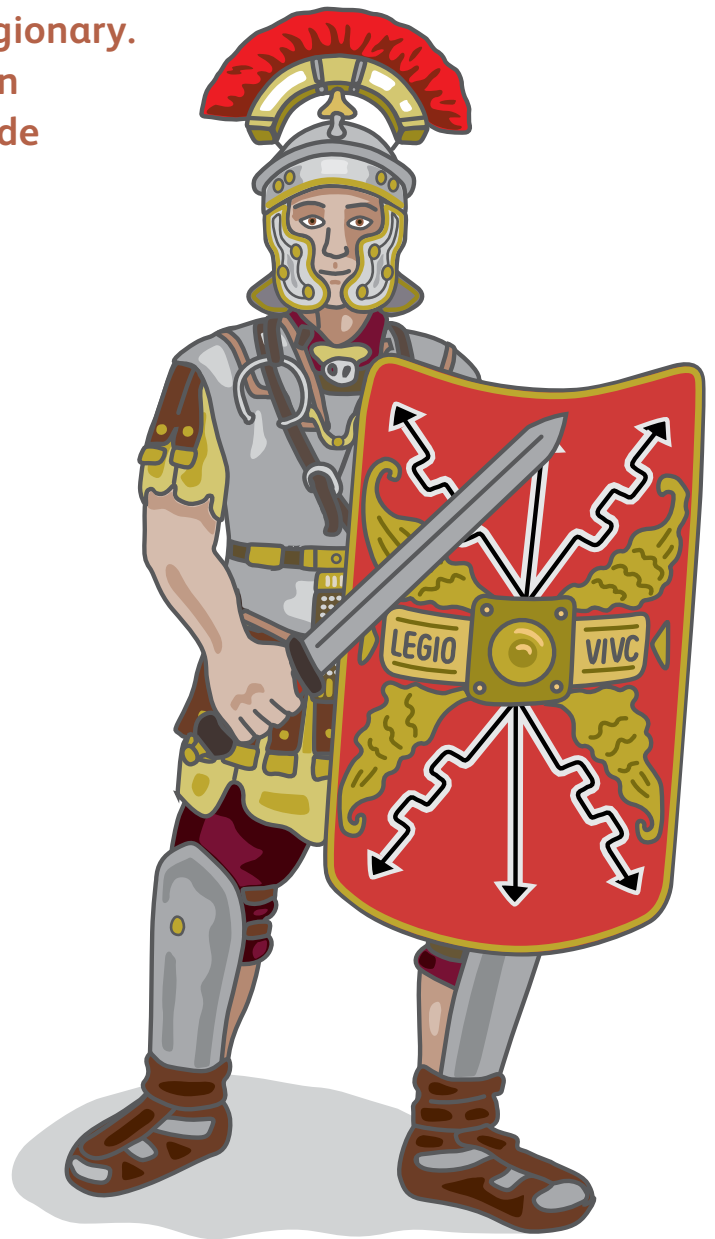
Choose your Roman name (definitions)

Aquilus – Latin for 'Eagle'

Julius – a popular Roman family name derived from the name of Roman God Jupiter

Cassius – a Roman name meaning vain or narcissistic. Could also mean powerful, and was quite popular amongst wealthy Romans.

Flavius – a name meaning golden or blonde. Could also be a last name, and was the family/last name of 3 Roman emperors.



1. Roman farming

Case C6: Tilling the soil, tending the beasts

Roman agriculture in Scotland

Where can I find it?

Walk down the steps, past the statues towards the tall carved stone.

Turn left through the archway. Turn right and follow the route round to the left.

Case C6 is on the left hand side.

Match the Objects Answers



Sickle – This was used for harvesting grain crops (e.g. wheat, barley, spelt).

Object 1 in the case.



Hoe – This was used to harvest root crops (e.g. turnips and parsnips) and shape soil.

Object 4 in the case.



Rake – to loosen or smooth soil before planting seeds. **Object 6** in the case.



Scythe – Used for mowing grass, reaping crops and cutting reeds. **Object 9** in the case.

What does it look like?



Further Information

- The Romans introduced lots of different food to Scotland. This included garlic, onions, shallots, leeks, cabbages, peas, celery, turnips, radishes, and asparagus.
- They also brought lots of different herbs with them too, such as rosemary, thyme, bay, basil and savoury mint.
- Romans farmed animals, such as cows, sheep, goats and pigs.

Things to think about:

1. Do you think any of these kinds of tools are used in the world today?
2. What kind of tools/machines do farmers use now in Scotland?
3. What food do we get from farming?

2. Roman hunting

Case D7: Fruits of the wild

Hunting – the Romans and after

Where can I find it?

Face the Farming case, and then take a few steps to your right. Walk forward towards a dark brown wall and some more cases. The case you are looking for should be on your right.

What does it look like?



Further Information

- Hunting was sometimes used as part of training for Roman soldiers. It helped them learn to stay hidden, to use weapons like the bow and spear, and to be able to sneak up on people.
- Wealthy Romans also hunted for fun. In England, a few Romans even brought in some types of deer from Europe just so they could hunt them.
- In Scotland, Romans could hunt deer, wild boar, large birds and even wolves!
- The animals shown in this case are:
 - Deer
 - Wild Boar
 - Dogs
 - Horses

Things to think about:

1. Can you find the boar tusks?
Why do you think the Romans kept them?
2. What do you do for fun today?
3. What do you think the objects in this case were used for?

3. The Antonine Wall

Object number S4

The Bridgeness Slab

Where can I find it?

Facing Case D7, take a step to your right. Walk towards the tall white pillar, and then turn left. Go past Case S10 and look up to your left. Object S4 is fixed high up on the wall.

What does it look like?



Further Information

- The Bridgeness Slab was originally positioned on the Antonine Wall. It is displayed at the same height as it would have been on the Wall and the supporting wall is the same height as the Antonine Wall.
- The Latin inscription reads '*For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius, Hadrianus Augustus Pius, Father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion completed (the wall) over a distance of 4655 paces.*'
- The Slab is an example of Roman propaganda/advertising. It shows a Roman cavalryman (soldier on a horse) trampling on some native people.
- The Antonine Wall was about 39 miles long and stretched all the way from Glasgow to Edinburgh (the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Forth).

Things to think about:

1. What animals can you see in the stone?
2. How do we spread information/propaganda today?
3. The native people on this stone are not wearing any clothes. Do you think this is a good idea in Scotland? Why do you think the Romans have chosen to show them like this?

4. Money, money, money!

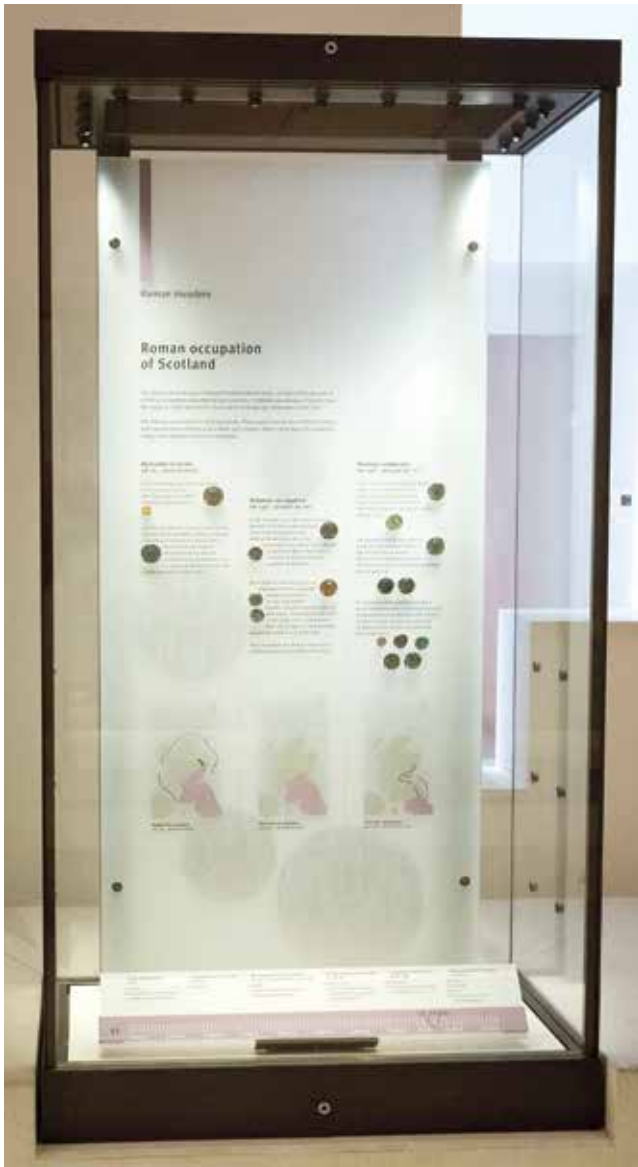
Case S1 Roman invaders

Roman occupation of Scotland

Where can I find it?

Stand with your back to the Bridgeness Slab. Walk forward for a few steps. Case S1 is on your left.

What does it look like?



Further Information

- The coins in this case show the three periods of Roman military occupation of Scotland:
 - The Agricolan invasion AD 79 to around AD 100
 - The Antonine occupation AD 139 to around AD 165
 - The Severan campaigns AD 208 to around AD 212
- Coins were used as a form of advertising. The coins would record any big battles that were won and spread news across the Roman Empire.
- They would often show a picture of the Emperor, the ruler of the Roman Empire. The Empire stretched all the way from Scotland to Africa.
- These coins were used all across the Roman Empire, so would be seen by thousands of people.

Things to think about:

1. What do you think these coins are made from?
2. What else can you see on these coins, apart from people?
3. What can you see on our coins today?

5. Life on the move

Case R15 Bloodshed, weapons and heroes Living on the move

Where can I find it?

Facing the coins case, turn to your right. Walk forwards until you see a case on the left with parts of a Roman tent in it. If you reach the horse and helmets, you've gone too far!

What does it look like?



Answers to the questions can be found on the case label. The answers are:

Leather

Wooden tent pegs

Further Information

- This display shows what life on the move would be like for a Roman soldier. Fragments of a leather tent and wooden tent pegs show how soldiers lived when on the march.
- Each tent would have eight men sleeping in it. It must have been quite cosy in there!
- Most Legions would march between 15–20 miles a day, depending on how much they were carrying and what the weather was like
- When the soldiers were in forts, they would have proper beds and the officers would have their own houses to live in.

Things to think about:

1. Do you think this tent would have been heavy? Imagine being a Roman soldier, and having to carry everything you needed with you.
2. What do our tents look like today? What might we take when we go camping?
3. What do you think the Romans took with them? Find out in the next section.

6. Roman armour and weapons

Case R12 Bloodshed, weapons and heroes

The organisation

Case R14 Roman military equipment

Where can I find it?

Stand with your back to the tent. There are cases full of armour and weapons in front of you, slightly to the right.

What does it look like?



Find your Kit Answers

Children can choose any of the following objects.

Question	Object/Answer	Case Number	Object Number
Something to cook with...	Cooking Pot	R12	5
Something to wear on your feet...	Shoes, Boots	R14	9, 10, 11, 12
A weapon...	Swords, Spears Arrows, Javelins Lance	R14	2, 14, 15, 16, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33
Something to protect your body...	Armour, Maille, Shield	R14	3, 5, 13, 23, 24, 25
Something to protect your head...	Helmets	R14	34–38
Tools for digging and building	Pick Axe, Turf cutter Entrenching tool (small spade)	R14	26, 27, 28

Further Information

- Roman soldiers in Scotland could come from all over the Empire. Soldiers from Germany, Belgium, France, Dalmatia (modern-day Croatia) and Syria all served in Britain.
- A Roman Legion consisted of about 5,000 men.
- The Roman army provided soldiers with boots or shoes made of strong leather. The soldiers hammered short nails into the soles of their shoes, to make them last longer and to give a better grip, a bit like football boots today.
- There were two types of soldiers in the Roman army—Legionaries and Auxiliaries
- Legionaries were Roman citizens trained to be soldiers. These would be divided into cohorts (groups) of 80 men led by a centurion.
- Auxiliaries were recruited from nations conquered by the Roman Empire.
- The Auxiliaries protected the Legions by fighting in front of, or to the side of them.
- Auxiliaries often had special skills such as horse riding and archery.

A Legionary like Felix would have worn:
Shield: *Scutum* (pronounced *scootum*) –a curved rectangular shield made of strips of wood pressed together using thick glue from cattle skins. They protected a Legionary's legs so he didn't need to wear shin-guards (known as grieves). Each unit of the Roman army had its own coloured designs on the front of the shield. Legionaries carried the shield on their left arm, and would hold their short sword, or gladius (case R14), with their right hand.

Helmet: *Galea*—Each soldier would wear a large helmet to protect their head and face. If you were a Centurion, like Felix, you would have a big red plume on your helmet.

Body Armour: *Lorica*—the breastplate which protected a soldier's chest and back. This was a jacket of overlapping metal plates and strips. It was often worn over a thick leather jacket.

Kit bag: Marching Legionaries carried lots of equipment, which could weigh as much as 60lbs/27kg. That's like carrying around 27 bags of flour! They had to carry their own food for three days, a bronze food tin (mess tin), a kettle or cooking pot and a mill for grinding corn. Soldiers had to build forts and marching camps so they also carried building tools. These were usually some rope, a pick axe, a turf-cutter and a small spade.

An Auxiliary would have worn:

A simple mail or scale shirt: They would wear this over their tunic (long shirt). Some also wore leather or woollen trousers. Auxiliaries wore similar helmets to those worn by legionaries.

Shield: The shield was usually made from leather and wood and was oval shaped.

Additional activities

There are lots of other Roman objects in this gallery to explore and investigate. Here are two more objects to discover; can you find them?



Cramond Lioness Sculpture, Number W8

You can also find out more about our Roman collections and play our Roman games online. Visit www.nms.ac.uk/explore



Altar to the God Jupiter, Number Y4

How to get back to the gallery entrance:

Face the Military case, and then turn left.
Walk straight forward through an arch.
Turn right, walk straight ahead and you should find yourself back near the lifts!