

Key Stage 2: Eating and drinking in Roman Britain

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the workshop or to adult helpers.

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

- Key themes for this gallery session are eating and drinking in Roman Britain and how we can find out about the past using a variety of sources of information - in particular the use of excavated objects displayed in a museum.
- Key vocabulary includes evidence, archaeology, utensils, recipe, storage, preparation, cooking and pottery.
- Discuss different sources of information (e.g. objects, written documents, and drawings) which archaeologists use to help them reconstruct the past beyond living memory. Think about how primary sources are made available to us today through archaeological excavation, preservation in an archive or display in a museum.

During your visit

- During this session students will investigate how archaeologists find out about the past by working with clue cards to locate specific objects, using a Roman recipe as the stimulus for finding out about utensils and food preparation, handling Roman pottery and extracting information from a single object.
- The Museum would very much appreciate it if students attending could wash and dry their hands before the session to help conserve the handling objects. We also recommend that students wash their hands after the session, particularly if they go straight into their lunch break.
- Rooms with objects relating to the session include:
 - Gallery 49: Roman Britain Gallery: a wide range of objects relating to life in Roman Britain
 - Gallery 69: Life in Ancient Greece and Rome: Farming (Case 15); Transport amphorae for olive oil, wine, grain and fish sauce (between Cases 16 and 17); Roman Household Utensils (Case 11)
 - Gallery 70: Imperial Rome: The Chaourse Hoard (Case 31)

Eating and drinking in Roman Britain continued...

After your visit: follow-up activities

- Undertake further research into what types of food would have been eaten in Roman Britain, how it was prepared and how people ate their food. This information could be presented in a non-chronological written account, via reconstruction drawings (what would a Roman kitchen have looked like and what food would be prepared in it?) or through role-play (act out the preparation and consumption of a Roman banquet).
- Using a Roman recipe, students could create a recipe card with supporting illustrations showing the food being prepared. Students may find it useful to look on Explore to locate the particular utensils needed for each step of the recipe.
- Consider the difference between primary sources (such as those listed above) and secondary sources (history books, information on the internet or filmed reconstructions) where people have used primary sources to present their own view of the past.

Curriculum links

History

Programme of Study: Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain

An overview study of how British society was shaped by the movement and settlement of different peoples in the period before the Norman Conquest and an in-depth study of how British society was affected by Roman or Anglo-Saxon or Viking settlement.

In this gallery session you will learn about

- eating and drinking in Roman Britain
- how to use objects to find out about the past

Key words

evidence

archaeology

utensils

recipe

storage

preparation

cooking

pottery, rim, body, base

Object clue cards

- You will use clue cards to investigate objects in the gallery and gather information about different sorts of Roman food.

Roman recipe

- You will look for utensils in the gallery which the Romans would have used to help them when they were following a recipe.

Roman pottery

- You will handle some pieces of Roman pottery and learn some words used by archaeologists to describe pottery.
- You will look for examples of Roman pottery like the pieces you have handled in the gallery and find out about the different types of pottery used by the Romans.

Roman tombstone

- You will look at a Roman tombstone to find out about eating and drinking at a Roman banquet.