

Imperial Rome

Aims

- To provide students with visual encounters with key objects from Imperial Rome.
- To provide teachers with an opportunity to build student familiarity in terms of object identification and object vocabulary.
- To provide a visual starting point for cross-curricular work on Rome.

Description

- A sequence of 10 slides

Teaching ideas

- If you are planning to visit the British Museum, use the images to familiarize the students with some of the objects from Imperial Rome which they will be see in Room 70 at the Museum.
- Introduce vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. marble, silver, gold), technical terms (e.g. inscribed, carved, moulded), name of object (e.g. statue, bust, hoard), function of object (e.g. social status, commemoration, propaganda).
- Ask students to discuss each image first with a partner and mind-map what the students think about the objects before adding in additional taught information.
- Assign individual objects to student groups. Ask the group to research their object and then present their object to the rest of the class.
- What do the objects tell us about imperial Rome?
- What do the objects tell us about the extend of the Roman empire? Mark the location of the objects on a world map and then continue to research the spread of Roman material on Explore.
- Discuss the nature and role of primary evidence in historical investigation. Ask students to select one object and write down what they can observe directly from the object. What are the limitations of using primary evidence out of context? What else could you use to find out more about the object?
- Compare the Roman objects with modern examples of the same objects (e.g. a coin, a portrait/statue of an important person). What are the similarities and differences?

Notes on the pictures

Further information on each of the images can be found using the URL given below for each object.

There is also a brief information note within the notes section of each individual slide on the PowerPoint.

Marble statue of the emperor Septimius Severus

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/m/statue_septimius_severus.aspx

Marble portrait of Tiberius

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/m/marble_portrait_tiberius.aspx

Brass sestertius of Hadrian showing Personification of Africa

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/b/brass_sestertius_of_hadrian_sho.aspx

Gold aureus with a portrait of the young Faustina II

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/g/gold_aureus_with_portraits_of_t.aspx

Chariot racing scene

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/t/plaque,_chariot-racing_scene.aspx

Marble cinerary urn of Vernasia Cyclas

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/m/marble_urn_of_ Vernasia_cyclas.aspx

Iron hipposandal

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/i/iron_hipposandal.aspx

Wooden writing-tablet

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/w/a_wooden_writing-tablet.aspx

Bronze statuette of a legionary

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/gr/b/bronze_statuette_a_legionary.aspx

The Muse Casket

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_mla/t/the_muse_casket.aspx

Background information

British Museum

Objects from Imperial Rome are on display at the British Museum in Room 70.

Websites

Look at other objects from Imperial Rome at

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx

Learn more about Imperial Rome at www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk

Books

British Museum Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ancient Rome by Mike Corbishley
British Museum Press, 2003

Pocket Dictionary of Roman Emperors by Paul Roberts
British Museum Press, 2006

Pocket Timeline of Ancient Rome by Katharine Wiltshire
British Museum Press, 2005