

Roman Britain

Aims

- To provide students with visual encounters with key objects from Roman Britain.
- 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 Roman Britain.

Description

- A sequence of 10 slides

Teaching ideas

- If you are planning a visit to the British Museum, use the images to familiarize the students with some of the objects they will be seeing in Room 49 at the Museum.
- Introduce vocabulary associated with the objects such as materials (e.g. silver, stone, pottery), technical terms (e.g. construction, carved, cast), name of object (e.g. statuette, hoard, tombstone), function of object (e.g. conflict, eating and drinking, religious expression).
- Assign individual objects to student groups. Ask the group to research their object and then present their object to the rest of the class.
- Discuss archaeological evidence for the Roman period. What types of objects might survive in the ground and what might not survive? Why do some types of material survive better than others? What material are the objects on the PowerPoint made from? Does this material generally survive well in the ground? Do you think all evidence from Roman Britain is buried in the ground? What other archaeological evidence survives?
- Compare the Roman objects with modern examples of the same kind e.g. a coin, a letter, a pot. What are the similarities and the difference? What aspects of continuity and change can you observe?
- Use the objects as a source of inspiration for art and design work
- Discuss the difference between primary and secondary evidence using the objects as an example of primary evidence.

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.

Gold aureus of emperor Claudius

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/cm/g/gold_aureus_-_emperor_claudius.aspx

Section of façade from a Roman building

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/s/fa%c3%a7ade_from_a_roman_building.aspx

Kirkby Thore tombstone of a soldier's daughter

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/t/tombstone_of_soldiers_daughter.aspx

Tombstone of Volusia Faustina

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/t/tombstone_of_volusia_faustina.aspx

Roman pottery

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/p/pottery_jars,_dishes_and_bowls.aspx

Bronze figurine of a Moorish cavalryman

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe/b/bronze_figurine_of_a_moorish_c.aspx

Bronze statuettes of Roman gods and goddesses

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/g/statuettes_of_gods__goddesses.aspx

Ribchester Hoard

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/r/ribchester_hoard.aspx

Vindolanda writing tablet

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/w/tablet_with_a_party_invitation.aspx

The Hinton St Mary mosaic

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/highlights/highlight_objects/pe_prb/t/the_hinton_st_mary_mosaic.aspx

Background information

Objects on display

Objects from Roman Britain are on display at the British Museum in Room 49.

Websites

Look at other objects from Roman Britain at

www.britishmuseum.org/explore/introduction.aspx

Learn more about Roman Britain at www.ancientcivilizations.co.uk

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Find out about Roman finds from your local area using the PAS database at

www.finds.org.uk

Books

Pocket Timeline of Ancient Rome by Katharine Wiltshire

British Museum Press, 2005

Timeline of the Ancient World by Katharine Wiltshire

British Museum Press, 2004

Pocket Dictionary of Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses by Richard Woff

British Museum Press, 2003

V-Mail: Letters from the Romans at Vindolanda fort near Hadrian's Wall

by Katharine Hoare

British Museum Press, 2008