Key Stage 4
Roman City Life

Notes for teachers

Curriculum links
- Classical Civilisations

About this session

Using objects from the British Museum collections this gallery-based talk is designed to support the Classical Civilisations GCSE component Roman City life (J199/22). Led by a member of the learning team, students develop critical thinking and enquiry skills through exploring and discussing objects in the British Museum collection. They will investigate, analyse and interpret material evidence to explore the Roman social, cultural and historic context in which they were created and key themes related to life in Roman cities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Gallery 69, 70 or 71</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>Max 15 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Times</td>
<td>Weekdays</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Start times 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm</td>
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Please note: This session can be booked from October to April inclusive. Outside these times you may wish to book the Roman Britain session which can be adapted to focus on city life (please indicate this preference this when completing the Booking Enquiry Form).

In detail

- Students will explore the different foundation myths of Rome.
- Using critical thinking and enquiry skills students will discuss in pairs or small groups what amenities / facilities are needed when many people live close together and consider how the Romans managed challenges such as the disposal of waste, fire and provision of water.
• The session will develop close observational skills as students explore primary evidence to investigate different aspects of Roman City life including buildings for leisure and entertainment, decoration and building materials, comparisons between how the rich and poor lived.
• Through the session students will be encouraged to understand that the past is constructed through different interpretations of evidence.

Key themes
The foundation of Rome, comparison of the different living conditions of rich and poor, layout and decoration of typical buildings such as insula and domus, citizenship, leisure and entertainment

Before your visit
• Please make the purpose of the Museum visit clear to your students before they arrive so know the expected outcomes of the visit.

After your visit
• Your session and museum visit can be a platform for wider work back at school. It can be documented during the session, e.g. using digital cameras so that further in discussions can be done on themes back at school.

Find out more

www.britishmuseum.org/schools
www.ancientcivilisations.co.uk
Search the British museum collections online