



Roman Place Names

We don't know what the Romans called Gelligaer, or a lot of the other places where they left remains, but we do know what name they gave to some other places.

Use the internet to fill in the blanks in the grid below. When you have finished the grid, find a map of Wales and mark these Roman sites on the map.

Modern Name	Roman Name
Caerhun	
	Isca Silurium
Caernarvon	
Caerwent	
	Moridunum
Usk	
Y Gaer (near Brecon)	
	Segontium
	Leucarum
Neath	
	Gobbanium

Think and find out:

Look at the modern place names. What can you notice about the beginning of a lot of them? Can you find three other Welsh place names with the same beginning? Try to find out whether or not the Romans were there.

Try to find three other places in Wales where the Romans were definitely present but where the place name doesn't have the same beginning.



Odd Fact About the Romans

The Romans had some ideas that were very different to ours and they did things that might sound strange to us. Below are some strange facts about the Romans. Have a look at them and then try to find out two more strange facts and write them in the spaces that have been left for your discoveries.

Fact 1

The Romans sometimes used powdered mouse brains as toothpaste!

Fact 2

At one banquet in Rome, the guests were served with hundreds of ostrich brains!

Fact 3

Julius Caesar hated going bald so he made it illegal for anyone to stand above him and look down. If you looked down at his bald patch you could be put to death!

Fact 4

Cobwebs were used to stop bleeding.

Fact 6

Gladiators and chariot racers had fans just like modern footballers!

Fact 5

There were people in Rome who earned their living by plucking other people's armpits!

Fact 7

When the Roman soldiers were first ordered to invade Britain in 43 AD, they went on strike on the grounds that it was beyond the known world and there could even be monsters.

Fact 8

Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were supposed to have been raised by a wolf!

My fact

My fact



Descriptions and Drawings

Look at the information below and use it to draw what you think a Roman soldier from the fort in Gelligaer and a Silure warrior looked like.

Roman Auxiliary

- No beard or moustache / Short hair
- Woollen tunic (often red but auxiliaries sometimes wore other colours)
- Metal helmet / Armour often chain mail)
- Gladius (sword) / Oval Shield (legionaries usually had rectangular)
- Strong sandals

Silure Warrior

- Hair in spikes / long moustache
- Body decorated in patterns
- Wearing trews (trousers) and a cape
- Torque around neck / brooch holding cape
- Round shield / sword



Roman Months

On the left below are the names of the Roman months and what we call them today. On the right are the reasons they got their names. The reasons are in the wrong order. Draw a line from the month to the correct reason for its name.

Januarius (January)	Birth of Julius Caesar – originally named Quintillis 'the Fifth Month'
Februarius (February)	'The Ninth Month'
Martius (March)	'The Tenth Month'
Aprilis (April)	God Janu
Maius (May)	Goddess Aprilis of the Etruscans
Junius (June)	The Seventh Month
Julius (July)	War God Mars
Augustus (August)	Februa festivals – the end of the ancient Roman year
September	Birth of Augustus Caesar – originally named Sextilis 'the Sixth Month'
October	Earth Goddess Maia
November	Goddess Juno
December	'The Eighth Month'

Think:

At one time the Romans only had ten months. What clue can you find to show that possibility? What clue is there to show that Romans worshipped other people's gods as well as their own?











Latin in the Classroom

The Romans spoke Latin. It is Latin inscribed on the Gelligaer stone.

Below the stone you will find some Latin words for things in the classroom.

Use the drawings to help you match the Latin words with their English meanings.

<div>Charta</div> 	Table for Writing	<div>Ianua</div> 
<div>Erasura</div> 	Wall	<div>Mensa ad Scribendum</div> 
<div>Fenestra</div> 	Rubber / eraser	<div>Murus</div> 
<div>Foruli</div> 	Paper	<div>Sella</div> 
	Bookcase	
	Door	
	Window	
	Chair	



Roman Numbers

Roman numbers looked very different to ours. In fact, they were made up using letters of the alphabet. Using the table below to help you, answer the questions that follow.

Units	Tens	Hundreds	Thousands
I = 1	X = 10	C = 100	M = 1000
II = 2	XX = 20	CC = 200	MM
III = 3	XXX = 30	CCC = 300	MMM
IV = 4 (1 less than 5)	XL = 40 (10 less than 50)	CD = 400 (100 less than 500)	MMMM
V = 5	L = 50	D = 500	MMMMM
VI = 6 (1 more than 5)	LX = 60 (10 after fifty)	DC = 600 (100 more than 500)	MMMMMM
VII = 7	LXX = 70	DCC = 700	MMMMMMM
VIII = 8	LXXX = 80	DCCC = 800	MMMMMMMM
IX = 9 (1 less than 10)	XC = 90 (10 less than 100)	CM = 900 (100 less than 1000)	MMMMMMMMM

Look at these Roman numbers and work out what they are in modern numerals.

VII		XVI		DCCCII	
XX		LIX		CCXXII	
III		DVIII		CDXL	
DCC		LI		MCC	
M		CXX		MMCIV	



Roman Number Puzzles

- 1 There were 6 barracks in Gelligaer. If there were 80 men in each one, how many men would that be in total?
- 2 It was eight miles from Gelligaer to the Roman fort in Penydarren and six miles from Gelligaer to the fort in Caerphilly. If a soldier marched from Penydarren to Gelligaer and then from Gelligaer to Caerphilly, how far would he have marched?
- 3 The soldiers in Gelligaer were auxiliaries. They usually had to serve for 25 years in the army before becoming a Roman citizen. If a soldier was 18 when he joined up, how old would he be when he left the army and became a citizen?
- 4 The Roman coin called a denarius was worth four times as much as the coin called a sestertius. If a soldier had 16 sestertii (plural of sestertius) how many denarii (plural of denarius) would they be worth?
- 5 There were 16 asses (plural of as) in a denarius. If a soldier had 5 denarii, how many asses would they be worth?
- 6 Roman soldiers were expected to march 20 miles in a day. If they did that for 6 days, how many miles would they have travelled?
- 7 If they marched at 5 miles per hour and took a half hour rest in the middle, how long would it take them to march 20 miles?
- 8 If they were marching at 5 miles per hour, how long would it take to march the 6 miles to Caerphilly?
- 9 There were 480 men in a cohort (probably the number of ordinary auxiliary soldiers in Gelligaer). There were 10 cohorts in a Legion. How many men would that be?
- 10 If there were 12,000 men in the army and half of them were auxiliaries, how many auxiliaries were there?



Following Orders

The soldiers in Gelligaer were auxiliaries. This means that they may have come from any part of the Roman Empire. They may not have spoken Latin in their everyday lives but they had to learn how to follow Latin commands. Below are some of the commands that were used.

Take a good look at them and what they meant. The teacher will choose one of you to come out and give a command (or perhaps a few). You will give the command you have chosen and the others must listen to you.

If they are not sure what the command means, they should look on the sheet to find it and see how quick they can be to obey.

Surgite	Stand!
Genua flectite	Kneel!
State	Attention!
Procidite Attente	Move – March!
Consistite	Halt!
Ad Dextrum Clina	Turn to the right!
Ad Sinistrum Clina	Turn to the left!
Transformate Clina	Turn to face the opposite direction!
Accelerate	Quick march!
Tardate	Slow Down
Mittite	Throw
Gladios Stringite	Draw Swords!
Gladios Condite	Sheath Swords
Laxate	At Ease!



Did he have.....?

Have a look at the items listed below. Tick those you think a soldier in Gelligaer might have owned and put a cross against those you think it would have been impossible for him to own.

☐ A sword☐ Olive oil☐ A pineapple☐ A watch☐ A biro pen☐ A lump of cheese☐ A clay pot☐ A Game Boy☐ A feather☐ A gun☐ Toothpaste☐ Pigs knuckles☐ A baseball cap☐ Coins☐ Tweezers☐ A sponge☐ A CD☐ A helmet☐ A magazine☐ Jewellery

Think:

Choose two items you thought the soldier might have and two things you think he wouldn't have owned. Give your reasons for your choices.

Two items a soldier might have

1

Reason

2

Two items the soldier wouldn't have

1

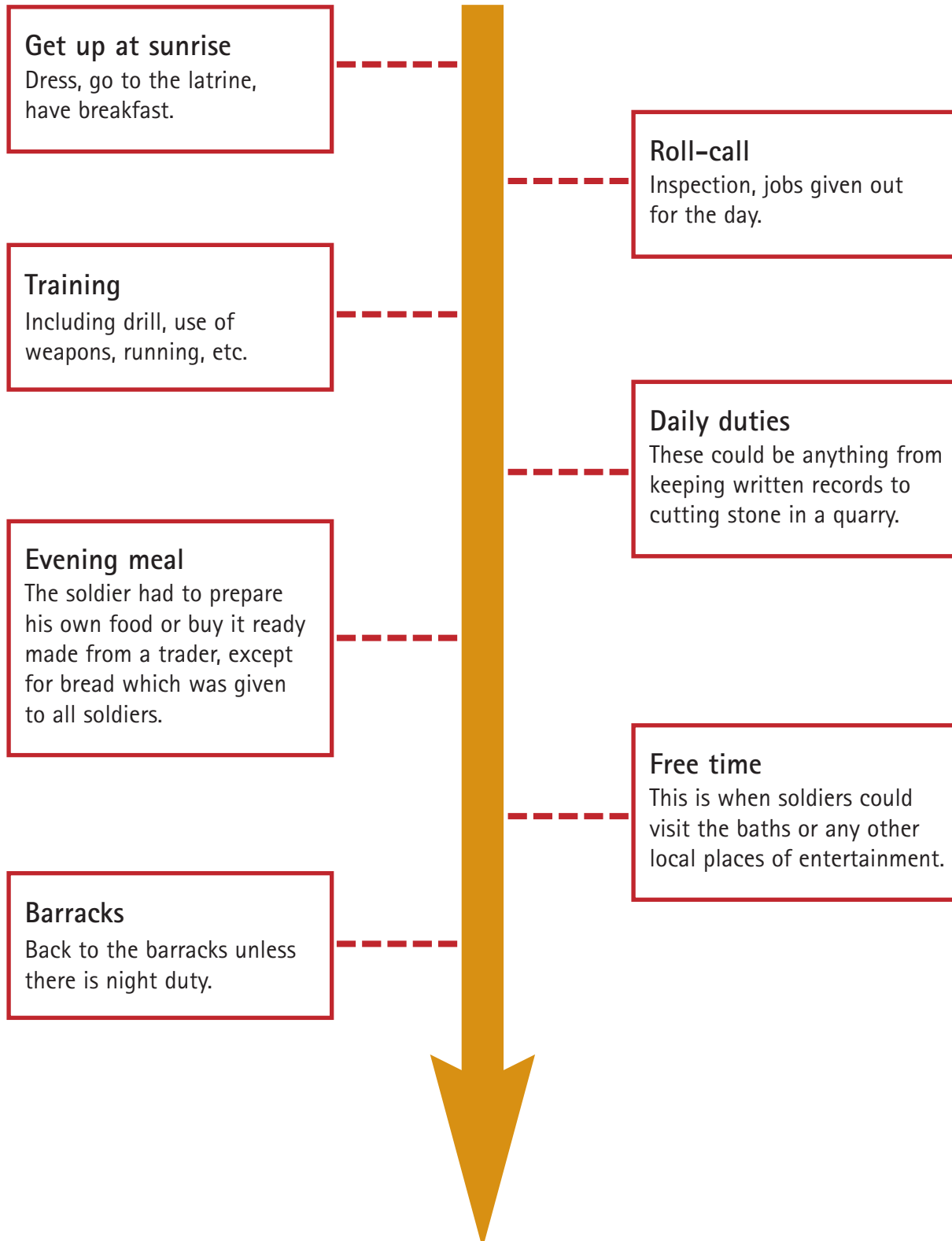
Reason

2



A Day in the Life of a Soldier

You are an auxiliary soldier in Gelligaer fort. Imagine you are writing home about a typical day. The timeline below might help you think of ideas.





Roman Soldiers Equipment

In the wordsearch, find the names of items that would be carried or worn by a Roman soldier.
The words are listed below it.

GLADIUS

SCUTUM

LORICA

TUNICA

CALIGAE

SARCINA

RATIONS

CINGULUM

PUGIO

JAVELIN

SHOVEL

WATERSKIN

CLOAK

W	A	T	E	R	S	K	I	N	W	H	O	N
V	T	R	F	I	A	A	I	K	A	O	L	C
R	A	M	H	G	O	T	N	N	T	E	Y	R
C	S	N	P	C	I	S	I	I	E	C	S	L
C	Y	I	U	R	S	C	P	O	R	A	O	O
I	F	L	F	H	R	O	A	S	N	L	B	R
N	A	E	O	A	H	I	R	R	K	S	S	I
G	R	V	S	P	R	G	T	E	I	U	R	C
U	E	A	C	I	N	U	T	T	N	I	U	A
L	H	J	U	R	E	P	B	N	R	D	S	A
U	A	A	T	R	C	A	L	I	G	A	E	C
M	N	I	U	Y	L	D	E	K	S	L	S	E
L	A	P	M	S	A	A	E	L	A	G	E	T

Find out:

1. What was a gladius?
2. On what part of the body would a galea be worn?
3. What was the lorica made from?
4. Which of these items was used to carry equipment?
5. Where would a soldier put his cingulum?
6. How would a soldier carry his sarcina?
7. What was the tunica made of?
8. Where would a soldier wear his caligae?
9. What would the waterskin be made from?
10. What was the shovel for?



So you want to be a soldier.....?

Auxiliary soldiers like the ones in Gelligaer came from all over the Roman Empire. Many men were eager to join as auxiliaries.

Below are some reasons for deciding to join the army or for deciding against it. Imagine that you are thinking of joining up. Sort them into two groups – those that might make you want to join and those that might

✓ FOR YES, ✗ FOR NO

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | You will have to stay in the army for up to 25 years. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | You will have a regular wage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | You will have the chance to travel. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | You will not be able to go home to see your family very often if at all. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | At the end of your service you will become a Roman citizen. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Punishments given to soldiers are very harsh, including flogging.
Some soldiers even end up being put to death. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | You will not be allowed to have a wife until you leave the army. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | You will have to learn a lot of orders in Latin. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | You will have to pay for a lot of your equipment, including your weapons. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Some of your pay will be taken from you to pay for a pension after you
leave the army and for your funeral when you die. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | You will be expected to spend a lot of time training and keeping fit. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | You will often be in dangerous places where you could get killed. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | When you finish in the army you will get money and land. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | You will have to obey all orders. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | You will be expected to march about 20 miles a day, carrying heavy equipment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 | The Legionnaires will probably think they are better than you. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 | You get a share of any wealth captured in battle. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 | People will know you are a soldier just by looking at you. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

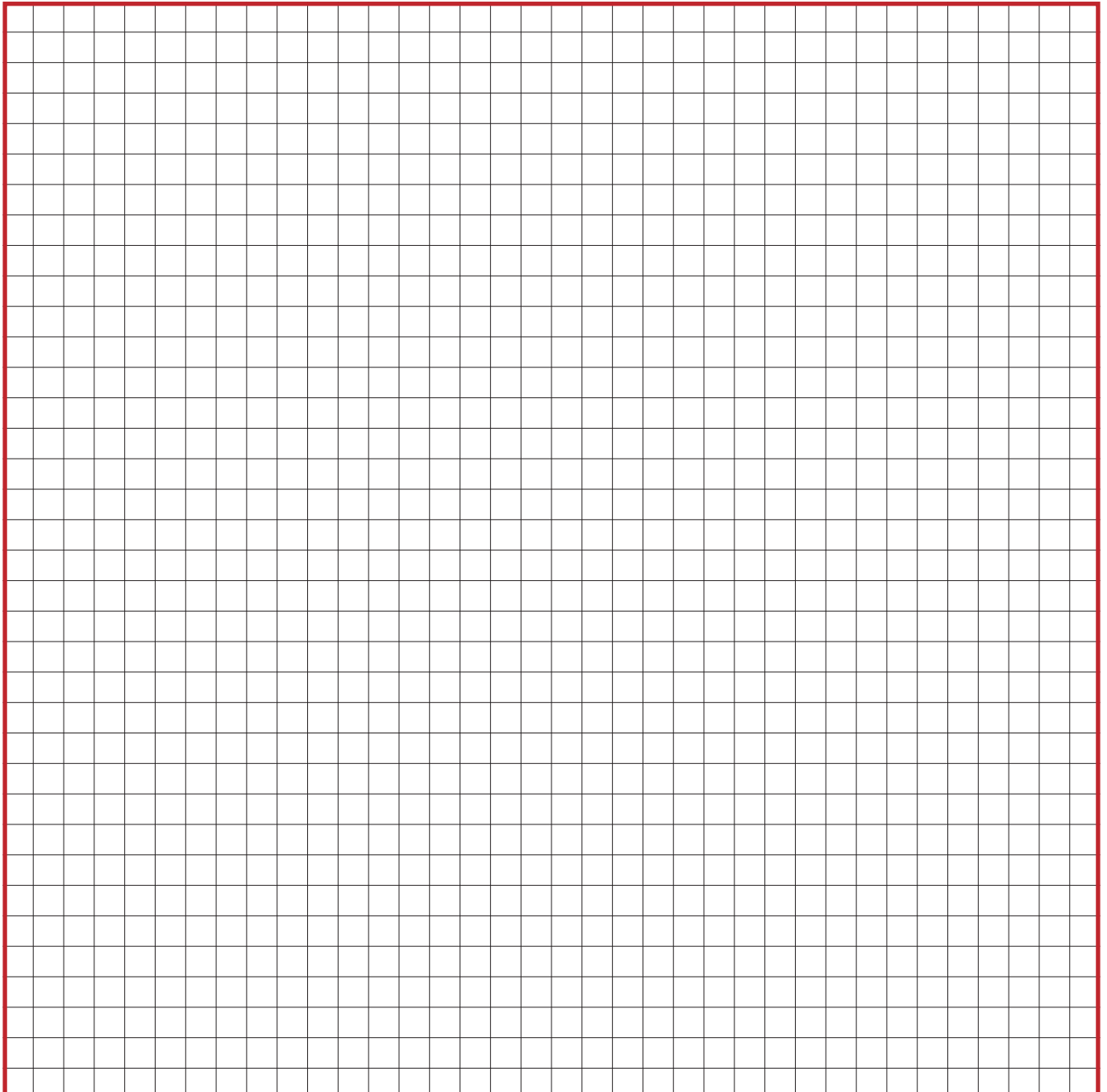


Make a Mosaic

Legend has it that some people saw the remains of a mosaic near Gelligaer Roman Fort. If they did, it is no longer there. Usually mosaics were used to decorate private homes and grand official buildings.

First the mosaic would have to be designed and then wet plaster would be spread over a section of the floor. Small squares of tiles, glass or stone were pressed into the plaster to make the pattern. When the plaster dried, the picture that had been made would be held in place.

Design a mosaic in the grid below. You can use only half a square if you need to. On the next page is a picture of a modern mosaic in Gelligaer which may help you.

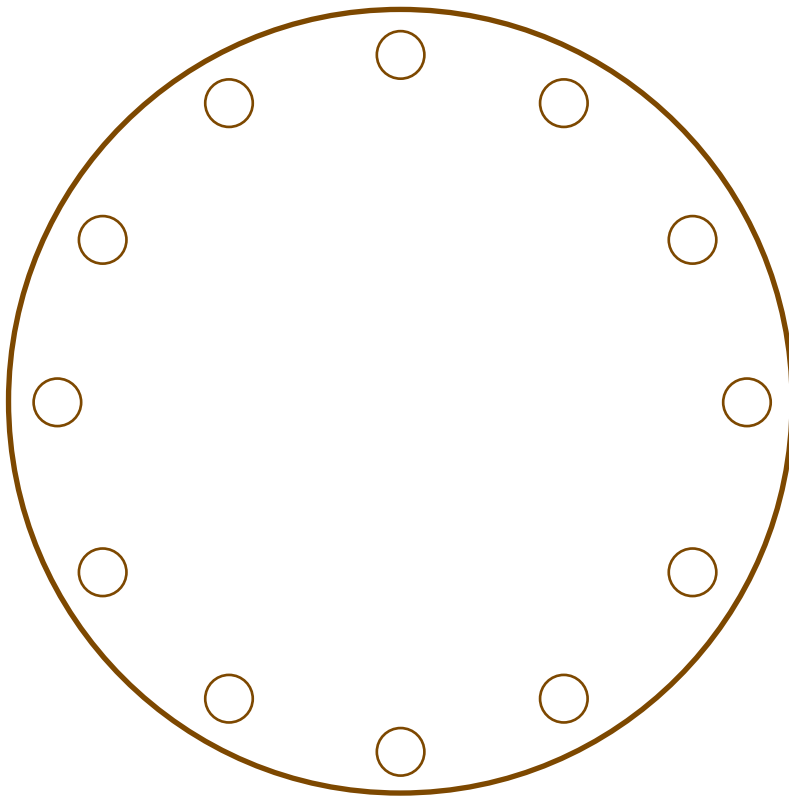




Make a Bulla

A bulla was a kind of pouch or locket worn by Roman children. It was meant to give them good luck and keep them safe from evil spirits. Some were just pouches made from material but some were made from metal. They were given to children soon after birth. Girls wore them until they got married. Boys wore them until they were old enough to become citizens. Boys sometimes put them back on for special occasions, such as if they won an award for bravery.

As well as not being made from the same materials they were also made in different shapes. You could use the plan below or make your own.



- 1 Make a circle out of material. Something that doesn't fray is the best.
- 2 Decorate it if you choose.
- 3 Make holes at intervals around the edge. Do not go too close to the edge.
- 4 Take a piece of string or ribbon and thread it through the holes. Pull it tight to make a pouch.
- 5 Put something in it to be your Roman lucky charm.
- 6 Use the rest of the string to hang it around your neck.



Stone from Gateway

This is a picture of the inscribed stone found in Gelligaer Roman Fort. You are designing a similar stone for a Roman gateway. Sketch your plan for the stone, including an inscription in the space below.



Take some air drying clay and roll it out evenly. Before cutting into shape, scratch your outline onto the clay and then use a wooden spatula to cut out the outline. You could use the spare clay for some extra 3D decoration. Scratch your inscription onto the surface of the clay tablet.

Think:

What else could you have used to make a model of the stone? Try making another version using other materials.



The Rubbish Detective

Archaeologists often use the things that people threw away or lost in the past to help them find out about the people who lived on a site.

If people dug up your rubbish, or things you had lost, thousands of years after you got rid of them, they would be able to use them to work out something about your life – like a detective looking for clues.

Look at the clues in these rubbish bins. What can you detect from them?

- Potato peelings
- Plastic bag with breadcrumbs in it
- Empty sauce bottle
- Broken mug
- Empty bottle of washing up liquid
- Egg shells

- Crumpled up paper
- Broken pencil
- Empty roll of sticky tape
- Crisp packets
- Torn sticker

- Old pair of trainers
- Worn out t-shirt
- Comics
- Letter from teacher
- Empty packet of sweets
- Homework with cola spilt on it
- Broken toy

- Bill from supermarket
- Wrapper from bar of chocolate
- Used tin of dog food
- Old magazine
- Broken comb

What about some Roman rubbish?

- Shells
- Knucklebones from pigs
- Coin
- Broken jar with traces of oil
- Chicken bones



Archaeological Grid

This inscribed stone was one of the finds found in Gelligaer Roman Fort. Archaeologists need to record exactly where remains are found. To help them keep a record of the finds, they use a grid system like the one below.

Draw these finds in the right part of the grid.

- A gladius blade (sword) in A2
- A piece of broken pottery in D2
- A coin in D3 and in E4
- A carved stone in E1
- A modern tin can in B1
- A ring in C3



1					
2					
3					
4					
	A	B	C	D	E

Think:

Which one is most likely to be rusty? Why?

Why might you find modern rubbish on an archaeological site?

If the person who lost the ring also lost a bread loaf, why wouldn't you still find that?



Archaeology of Eating

When archaeologists were digging up Gelligaer, they found the remains of two granaries (places for storing grain). This tells us a bit about what the Romans ate but sometimes they find other evidence as well.

They get very excited when they find preserved poo!! From that, they can tell what people were eating and even if they had worms living in their insides!

These are some of the food items that have been found in Roman sites in Wales.

What was found?	Where was it found?
Fishbones	Brecon and Caernarfon
Cherries	Caerhun (in an amphora)
Dove bones	Caerwent
Dill (a herb)	Caernarfon and Caerwent
Coriander seeds (another herb)	Caerwent
Wine	Caerwent (written on an amphora)
Chicken bones	Caerleon (in the baths)
Lamb and mutton chops	Caerleon (in the baths)
Pork ribs	Caerleon (in the baths)
Pigs trotters	Caerleon (in the baths)
Oyster shells	Caerleon (in the baths)
Radish seeds	Caerleon
Lentils	Caerleon
Olive stones	Caerleon

Find out:

Where exactly in Wales are these places? See if you can find the places on a map.

What is an amphora?

If you don't recognise any of the food, find out what it is.

Think:

Why do you think there was so much food found in the baths in Caerleon?

Imagine you have a dinner plate. On it are the leftovers of a meal. There is the bone from a chicken wing, some chips, a bread bun with seeds on the top and some peas. What do you think would be most likely to be found from that plate by a future archaeologist? Why?