

Rocking Romans

History/Geography:

The Romans in Scotland

Once the Romans had control of the South of Britain, they tried to invade the rest of the island and conquer the area they called Caledonia in modern day Scotland. Some of the people who lived in Caledonia were called 'Picts' by the Romans. The Pict people did not want the Romans to rule and so they fought back. The Romans won a victory against the Picts at the Battle of Mons Graupius, however fighting continued and eventually the Romans decided that invading Caledonia was too difficult, as it was very cold and there was too much resistance from the people who lived there. The Romans built a wall, called Hadrian's Wall, which stretched from one coast to the other with lots of Roman forts and soldiers to guard it. Some of the wall can still be seen today.

Activity 1



Identify Scotland on a map, use an atlas if you have one at home or look online.

Activity 2

Look at pictures of Hadrian's Wall below and read the separate document 'The Romans in Scotland'.

Resource G

Hadrian's Wall

- Hadrian's wall stretches 73 miles
- It was built to stop the Picts from invading Roman Britain
- It formed the edge of the Roman Empire
- The Romans began to build the wall in AD 122
- The wall was named after Emperor Hadrian
- The Romans built forts along the wall



Now complete the story board showing the Romans trying to invade, the Picts fighting back and then the Romans building Hadrian's Wall (this is on a separate sheet).

Science:

Take a look at the Rocking Romans Science Ideas (there is also a separate sheet which is a bit easier to read) and try a some of these activities. Can you complete one for Chemistry, Biology and Physics?

Romans – Science Ideas Web

Age range: 7–9 years

Functions of the skeleton
 Roman warriors used armour and chainmail to protect themselves from being injured in battles.
 🔍 How do different parts of our bodies protect important organs? 🔍 How do other animals protect themselves?

Exercise and healthy lifestyles
 Roman boys engaged in lots of sporting activities, such as swimming, riding, ball games, running, wrestling and hunting.
 🔍 How does exercise affect our pulse rate and breathing rate? 🔍 How is this helpful? 🔍 Why do you think Roman girls didn't do lots of sports? 🔍 Do girls do as much sport as boys today?

Keeping teeth healthy
 Rich Romans did not generally have high levels of tooth decay.
 🔍 Why do you think their teeth didn't decay much? 🔍 What can we do to keep our teeth healthy?

Conditions for growing plants
 Roman farmers grew a wide variety of crops, including wheat, olives, grapes, plums, apricots, figs, beetroot, onions and cabbage.
 🔍 What foods are grown in our town? 🔍 What foods can we grow in our school grounds? 🔍 What's the best way to grow beans/corn/courgettes/onions?

Light and shadows
 Romans used parasols to protect themselves from strong sunlight.
 🔍 What is a shadow? 🔍 When are shadows useful to us? 🔍 Can we make a shadow puppet? 🔍 Which materials don't make shadows?

BIOLOGY

PHYSICS

Uses and properties of materials
 Romans used metals in coins (eg silver, bronze), armour and weapons (eg bronze, iron), jewellery (eg silver, gold), cooking utensils (eg pewter) and water pipes (lead).
 🔍 Can we create a table showing what different metals are used for and why they are used in those ways?

Changes of state
 Romans had reusable writing tablets made from beeswax.
 🔍 Can we make a wax writing tablet? [SAFETY NOTE: re melting wax – a low melting point wax is recommended, such as soybean wax]
 🔍 How would you save the information on your tablet in very hot weather?

Reversible and irreversible changes
 Romans used pottery in cooking, storage jars and roof tiles.
 🔍 Can we find more examples of things that don't change back after they have been heated?

Mixtures of materials
 Romans used pumice as an abrasive and a lightweight building material.
 🔍 Why do you think pumice floats on water? 🔍 How can we find out? 🔍 Why do you think it is lighter than other rocks? 🔍 How many examples of solid/gas and liquid/gas mixtures can we find?

CHEMISTRY

Effects of gravity
 Roman aqueducts carried fresh water over long distances to the towns and cities.
 🔍 What are aqueducts used for now in the UK? 🔍 What is the longest aqueduct that we can make? 🔍 How does gravity help us get water from a water tower?

Effects of forces in producing movement
 Throwing sports, such as discus and spear, were popular in Roman times.
 🔍 What's the best way to throw something as far as possible? (Examples – using different muscles in arm/shoulder, how hard you throw, angle of throwing, whether to use a running throw)

ROMANS

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