

THE ROMAN  
EMPIRE

C.L.I.L

March 2018

by Edoardo Bonsignore (V classroom)

Britannia 197 d.C.



- Rome is now the capital city of Italy. 2,000 years ago it was the centre of the Roman Empire. Building started in 753 BC. The Romans had a story to explain how Rome began. Twin boys, Romulus and Remus, were the sons of Mars (the Roman god of war). An evil uncle took them as babies from their mother and threw them into the River Tiber to drown. The babies floated to land, and a mother wolf fed and cared for them. Later a herdsman looked after the twins until they grew up.

Years later, Mars told his twin sons to build a city where they had been found. The city was Rome. One day, Remus made fun of the wall Romulus had built around the city. The twins argued, fought, and Romulus killed Remus. Today, historians and archaeologists agree that people were living in Rome long before 753 BC, but the legend is one of the most famous in world history.

- **Did Romans go to school?**

Most children in Roman times did not go to school. Only quite rich families could afford to pay a teacher. Most schools were in towns. Not many girls went to school, but some were taught at home by tutors, who were often educated slaves. Boys from rich families learned history, maths, and literature at school, to prepare them for jobs in the army or government. In poor families, girls and boys had to work, helping their parents.

- **What did Romans write with?**

For short messages and at school, Roman wrote on soft wax tablets using a pointed metal stylus. To use the tablet again, or rub out a mistake you smoothed the wax over with the blunt end of the stylus. For important letters the Romans used a metal pen dipped in ink. They wrote on thin pieces of wood or on specially prepared animal skins. Books did not have pages, they were written on scrolls made from pieces of animal skin glued together and then rolled up.

We know that Roman women wrote letters, because some of their letters have survived. One was found at Vindolanda, a fort near Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. It is a birthday party invitation from Claudia Severa to her friend Sulpicia Lepidina and was written about AD 100.

- **What were Roman toys like?**

Roman children had some toys very like ones we play with today - such as toy soldiers, rattles, balls, doll's houses, carts and pull-along animals on wheels. Even poor children had board games, using pebbles for counters, and wooden dolls. Some dolls had moveable arms and legs. Roman children had ivory letters to practise their spellings with. Favourite Roman pets were dogs, birds and monkeys.

J. Fisher

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

---

AD 96-98 **NERVA**

AD 97-117 **TRAJAN**

Trajan came from Spain and was the first non-Roman to be emperor. He was a great general, and increased the territory of the Roman Empire. He commemorated these victories on Trajan's Column, in Rome.

AD 117-138 **HADRIAN**

Hadrian was Trajan's adopted son. He spent most of his reign touring the Roman Empire, and realised that the Empire was too big to rule or defend properly. He therefore abandoned Trajan's conquests in Parthia (modern Iran-Iraq) and made new borders to the Empire. His most lasting legacy is Hadrian's Wall in Britain.

AD 138-161 **ANTONINUS PIUS**

AD 161-169 **MARCUS AURELIUS & LUCIUS VERUS**

AD 161-180 **MARCUS AURELIUS**

Marcus Aurelius was a clever emperor, interested in ideas, he wrote a book of philosophy. He thought all people are basically the same, in a world that is basically good. Unfortunately, as emperor, his main problems were to defend the empire's borders against attacks, and deal with his son Commodus, who was not a good person at all. Commodus's idea of a good time was to dress up as a gladiator and kill people for fun.

AD 180-192 **COMMODUS**

AD 193 **PERTINAX**

AD 193 **DIDIUS JULIANUS**

AD 193-211 **SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

Severus was born in Libya (North Africa) and was made emperor by the Army. The three emperors before him, Commodus, Pertinax and Julianus, were all murdered. He ignored the Senate and relied on the Army – a habit followed by most later emperors. He died at York while on a military expedition in Britain.

Edwards

## Resource: The Romans - Roman Emperors

- AD 211-217 **CARACALLA**
- AD 217-218 **MACRINUS**
- AD 218-222 **ELAGABALUS**
- AD 222-235 **SEVERUS ALEXANDER**
- AD 235-238 **MAXIMINUS THRAX**
- AD 238 **GORDIAN I & 11**
- AD 238 **BALBINUS & PUPIENUS**
- AD 238-244 **GORDIAN III**
- AD 244-249 **PHILIP THE ARAB**
- AD 249-251 **DECIUS**
- AD 251-253 **TREBONIANUS GALLUS**
- AD 253 **AEMILIANUS**
- AD 253-259 **VALERIAN & GALLIENUS**
- AD 253-268 **GALLIENUS**
- AD 268-270 **CLAUDIUS GOTHICUS**
- AD 270-275 **AURELIAN**
- AD 275-276 **TACITUS**
- AD 276-282 **PROBUS**
- AD 282-283 **CARUS**
- AD 283-284 **CARINUS & NUMERIAN**

### AD 284-305 **DIOCLETIAN** (EASTERN EMPIRE - E)

Diocletian was the commander of Numerian's imperial guard, and came to power after assassinating him. He realised he couldn't rule such a big empire on his own, so he divided it in two, giving the western half to his friend Maximian. In AD 305, Diocletian abdicated and retired from public life, forcing Maximian to abdicate with him. He was the only emperor ever to leave the throne voluntarily.

- AD 285-305 **MAXIMIAN** (WESTERN EMPIRE - W)
- AD 305-311 **GALERIUS** (E)
- AD 305-306 **CONSTANTIUS CHLORUS** (W)
- AD 306-307 **SEVERUS** (W)
- AD 307-312 **MAXENTIUS** (W)

Lucy

## Fill the gaps

Rome is now the capital city of Italy. About 2000 years ago it was the centre of the Roman Empire.

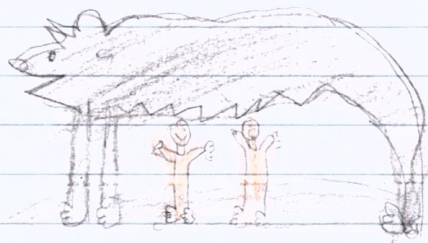
Building started in 753 B.C. before Christ (B.C.),

Twin boys Romulus and Remos were the sons of Mars (the Roman god of war),

An evil uncle took them as babies from their mother and threw them into the river Tiber to drown.

The babies floated to the land and a mother wolf fed and cared for them

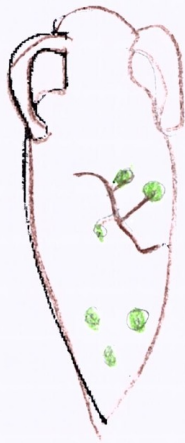
Draw the twin boys and the mother wolf



## Worksheet: The Romans - Amphorae

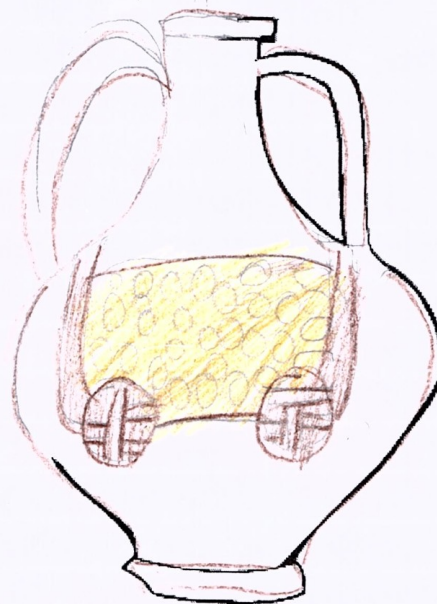
Pots tell us a lot about how the Romans lived. The contents tell us about cooking and about what they drank. The decorations on the outside of the pots show scenes from Roman life and work.

Most pottery from Roman times has been broken. Archaeologists carefully put them back together. Can you draw in the missing parts of the broken pots below?



### A storage jar

Jars like this were used for olive oil. The Romans used olive oil for cooking. Olives were crushed to make the oil. Jars were often stored in the ground to keep the oil cool.



### A wine jar

Wine is made from grapes. The Romans would tread on these grapes (in their bare feet) to squeeze out all the juices. This juice was then made into wine.



### A honey pot

Honey was used as a sweetener, as there was no sugar.

**Decorate the large pot** with a scene from Roman life. Scenes you could include are:

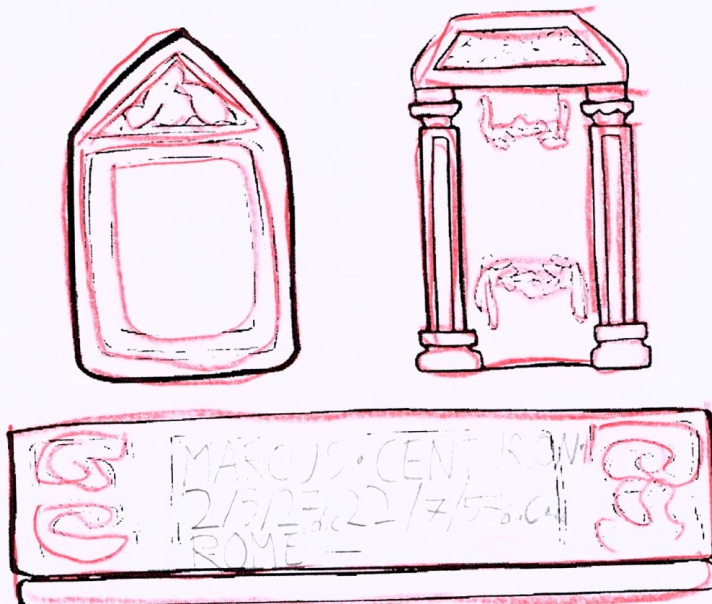
- Romans rode in chariots. They liked to watch thrilling chariot races, which could be dangerous.
- Romans often went hunting. They hunted deer for sport and for food.

*Lucas*

## Worksheet: The Romans - Tombstones

The Romans believed that when they died, they went to the Underworld. A Roman tombstone had writing on it, telling people about the dead person. Look at these examples, and find out more about what was written on a tombstone. Then draw your own Roman tombstone, with some details about an imaginary Roman, on a separate sheet of paper.

Use these tombstones and information to help you with this task:



**Roman tombstones** were coloured red or blue. There was a dot or a triangle between words. On it was carved: A dedication to a **Roman god**, a **Roman name**, **army rank**, **town of birth** and age.

Some **Roman Gods**: Pluto - the underworld, Mars - the god of war, Venus - the goddess of love.

**Army ranks**: Centurion - on foot, Equus - Roman cavalry, Vets - retired.

**Birthplace**: 'Castra' means fort. It has changed to chester or cester and is often found at the end of old Roman town names.

**Roman names**: Names for men ended in 'us'. Names for women ended in 'a'.

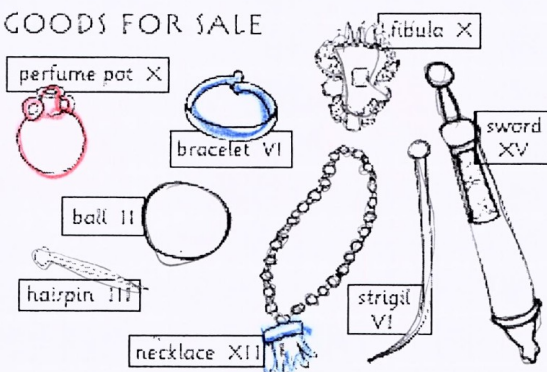


Edoardo

## Worksheet: The Romans - Shopping

Slaves did the shopping for rich Roman families. They used money, like us, but their numbers were different. Here the prices of the goods for sale are shown in Roman numerals. Imagine you are going shopping – fill in how much you spent every day, and write your answer in Roman numerals.

### GOODS FOR SALE



A strigil was a scraper used at bath time. Romans did not use soap. They rubbed themselves with oil, then used a strigil to scrape off the oil – and the dirt.

A fibula is a brooch to hold a cloak at the neck

Roman money was in metal coins. One coin was called a denarius.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII	XIX	XX
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

### SHOPPING LISTS

MONDAY		+		=	XVI
TUESDAY		+		=	XVII
WEDNESDAY		+		=	XVI
THURSDAY		+		=	XIII
FRIDAY		+		=	XVIII

Lucas

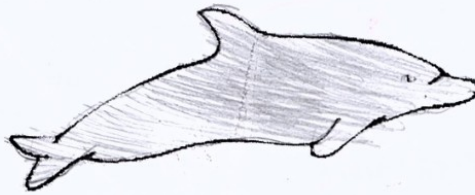
## Worksheet: The Romans - Jewellery

In Roman times men and women would often fasten their cloaks with brooches. **Brooches** would come in all different sorts of shapes and sizes. Sometimes Romans would have specially designed brooches to celebrate different Roman festivals. They would wear these badges to try and look their best at these festivals. Romans loved festivals, at one time there were over 159 festivals in one year!

Often brooches were shaped like animals to bring the wearer luck. Certain animals were symbols of certain gods, for instance the **dolphin** was often used to celebrate the sea god Neptune.

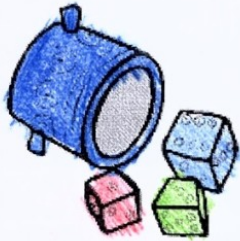
To make your own brooch you will need:

- A pencil
- Some sticky tape or glue
- Colouring pencils
- Some strong card
- A pair scissors
- A safety pin



1. Print out this page
2. Colour in the brooch
3. Stick the brooch into a strong piece of card
4. Cut out the shape with your scissors
5. Tape a safety pin onto the back of the card

## Games



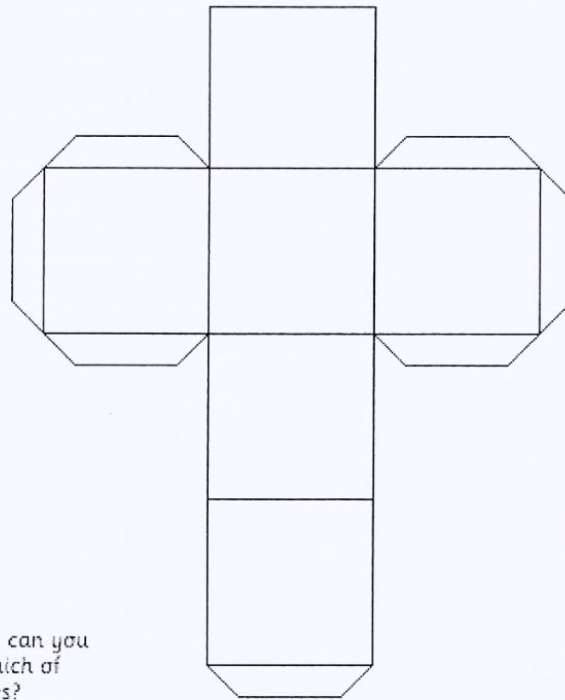
### ROMAN LIFE VI - GAMES

Romans loved playing games. All the gyms and baths had playing grounds attached. Trigon was a popular game. Players stood at each corner of a triangle, throwing balls at each other without warning. The game tests your powers of concentration, and sometimes you're asked to both throw and catch simultaneously.

Romans often played quieter games with dice. A dice is a cube made from a 'hexamina'.

Make a cube dice from the hexamina on the right:

1. Print out this page
2. Write on the squares numbers I - VI.
3. Decorate the squares.
4. Cut out the hexamina.
5. Fold it into a cube.
6. Glue the flaps and stick them.



How many other hexaminas can you make on squared paper? Which of them can be made into cubes?

*Lucas*

# Roman Numbers

The Roman Numeral, as far as we know, was the only written numbering system used in Ancient Rome and Europe until about 900 AD, when the Arabic Numbering System, which was originated by the Hindu's, came into use. (The Arabic Numbers are the ones we use today 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).



Roman Numerals do not have a zero (0) and have 7 digits (I, V, X, L, C, M)

In our number system, Arabic numbers, we have ten digits (from 0-9) and we can make as big a number as we want with these.

## What Roman Numerals mean

1 = I	8 = VIII	60 = LX
2 = II	9 = IX	70 = LXX
3 = III	10 = X	80 = LXXX
4 = IV	20 = XX	90 = XC
5 = V	30 = XXX	100 = C
6 = VI	40 = XL	500 = D
7 = VII	50 = L	1000 = M
		2000 = MM

## Counting with Roman Numerals

Roman Numerals were not just used for counting/ recording the number of objects but also the order of people sharing the same name.

Roman Numerals traditionally indicate the order

of:

## 1. Rulers e.g.



Henry I



Henry II



Henry III



Henry IV



Henry V



Henry VI



Henry VII



Henry VIII

## 2. Church leaders



Pope Benedict XV



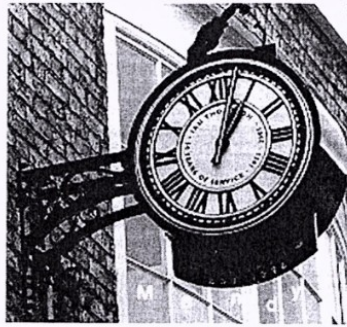
Pope Benedict XVI

XV means  $10+5 = 15$  thus, XV=15

### Other uses

Roman Numerals were also used for as dating on cornerstones of buildings showing origin of a building, statutes, headstones, books publication such as in chapter titles, volume of book series, appendices, numbers on clocks and so on.

*Lucy*



Roman numbers on a clock face



What is the most common about the Roman numerals used on clocks or watches?

If you look at Roman numerals for 4 it is  $IIII$  instead of  $IV$ .  
But the most famous clock in the world is in London.  
It is called Big Ben and it has Roman numerals on its face.

Write down where the 4 House of Commons

are located, the names of the over 2000 script  
and the 4 symbols of the 4

Write 10 Roman numbers

1990 = MCMXC

1991 = MCMXCI

1992 = MCMXCII

1993 = MCMXCIII

1994 = MCMXCIV

Arabic	1	5	10	50	100	500	1000
Roman	I	V	X	L	C	D	M

1990 = MCMXC

1991 = MCMXCI

1992 = MCMXCII

1993 = MCMXCIII

1994 = MCMXCIV

1995 = MCMXCV

1996 = MCMXCVI

1997 = MCMXCVII

1998 = MCMXCVIII

1999 = MCMXCIX

2000 = MM

2001 = MMI

2002 = MMII

2003 = MMIII

2004 = MMIV

2005 = MMV

2006 = MMVI

2007 = MMVII

2008 = MMVIII

2009 = MMIX

2010 = MMX

2011 = MMXI

John Doe

## Worksheet: The Romans - Roads and places

You will need an atlas or map of modern Britain or your Roman resources to help with this task. Remember what you have found out about the names of Roman forts - they were called 'castra' and present day names often have 'caster' or 'chester' in them.

1. Mark your own town/city on the map.
2. What's the nearest Roman town? Mark it on the map (you can use the present day name and also the Roman name).
3. Can you find any other Roman towns or forts? Mark them on the map.
4. The Romans built roads across Britain to move soldiers and supplies quickly. The famous Roman roads which our modern roads still follow much of the time were Watling Street, Ermine Street and Fosse Way. Here are the routes they took - can you find the towns and mark them on your map? You could colour each road in a different colour. The modern name is first and the Roman name is in brackets.

Ermine Street - London (Londinium), Godmanchester (Durovigutum),  
Ancaster, Lincoln (Lindum), York (Eburacum)

Watling Street - Dover (Portus Dubris), Rochester (Durobrivae), London  
(Londinium), St. Albans (Verulamium), Towcaster  
(Lactodurum), Mancetter (Mandvessedum), Wroxeter  
(Viroconium) and into Wales.

Fosse Way - Exeter (Isca), Ilchester (Lindis), Bath (Aquae Sulis),  
Cirencester (Corinium), Leicester (Ratae), Lincoln (Lindum).