

The Story of **The Romans** in Guernsey



For all the Family

Interesting Facts

Games and Colouring

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Romans In Guernsey

This Activity Book looks at the effect of the Roman Empire on the island of Guernsey, largely through resources held by Guernsey Museums & Galleries.

Guernsey is an island situated in the English Channel between France and England. It is the second largest of the Channel Islands.

The Evidence

Since prehistoric times Guernsey's safe harbour has been an important stopping place on the route taken by traders travelling between modern day France and England.

During the 1980s, a shipwreck dating from about AD 286 was discovered in Guernsey's harbour. This suggested that Guernsey was part of the Roman Empire. A few years later, archaeological excavations in St Peter Port proved that Islanders had also adopted the Roman way of life.

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Who were the Romans?

The Romans came from the country we now call Italy. They were led by Emperors who were advised by a Senate. The Roman army was very efficient and the Romans were very clever engineers and builders.

Roman Army

At about 175 AD there were 400,000 soldiers around the Roman Empire.

The Roman army was set up like this:

8 men = 1 Contubernium (Tent group)

10 Contubernia = 1 Century

6 Centuries = 1 Cohort

10 Cohorts = Legion

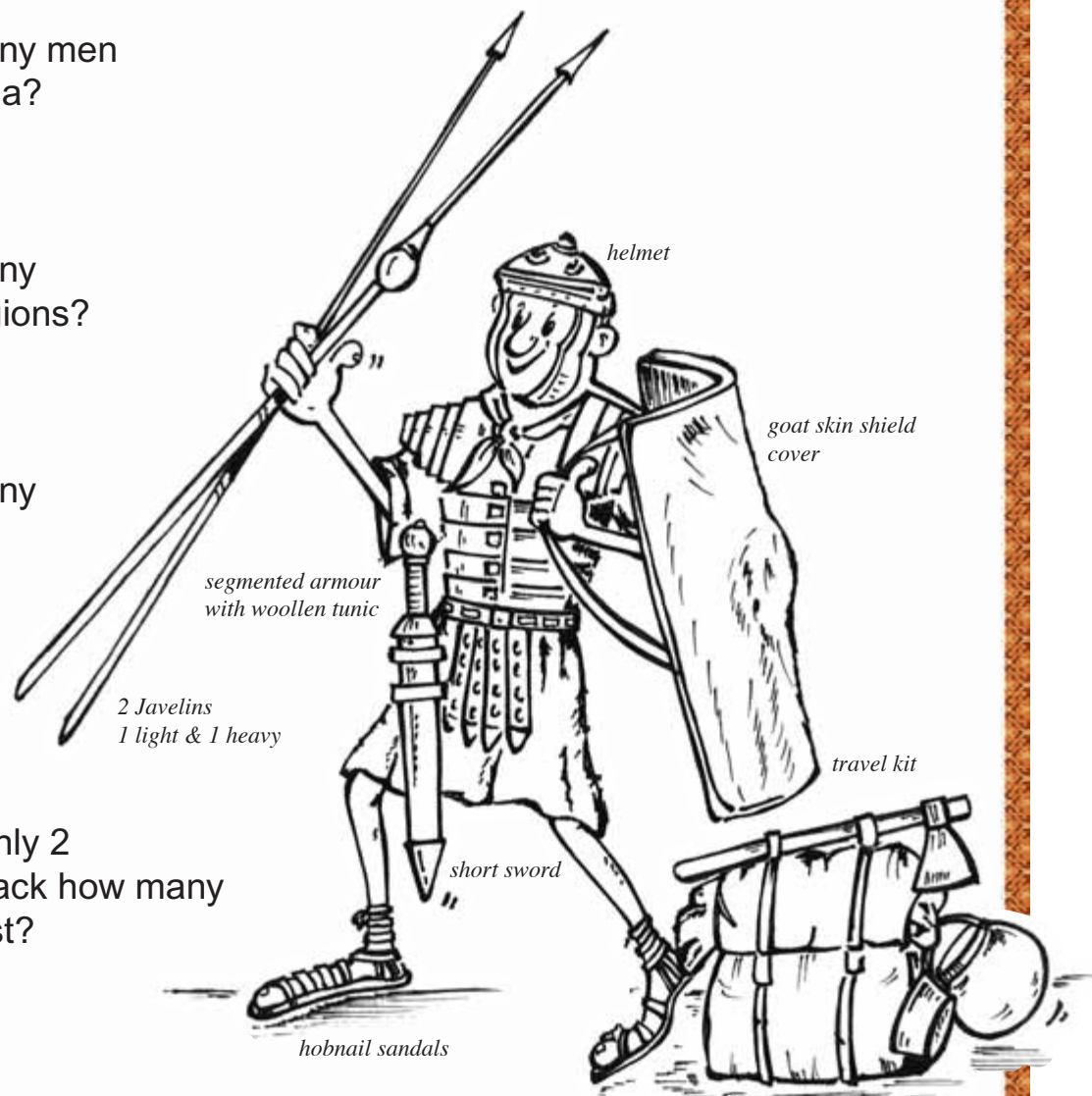
A Roman Legion aimed to have 6,000 men including officers.

activity: how many men in 10 Contubernia?

activity: how many Cohorts in 3 Legions?

activity: how many Centuries in 3 Cohorts?

activity: if 3 Legions went into battle and only 2 Legions came back how many soldiers were lost?



The Roman Empire



Over the years the army invaded many countries building roads, bridges and forts wherever they went. They also took many of the people from the countries they invaded as slaves. The Roman Empire covered most of Europe and North Africa.

Guernsey (called 'Lisia' by the Romans) became part of the Empire in about 56 BC

activity: find Guernsey on the Roman Trade map (it is very small)

activity: match the Roman name to its name today:

Macedonia	Scotland
Italia	Britain
Britannia	N. Greece
Hispania	France
Gallia	Spain
Caledonia	Italy

Guernsey before the Romans

When the Romans invaded Britain in AD 43 most Guernsey people were still living in the Celtic or Iron Age way.

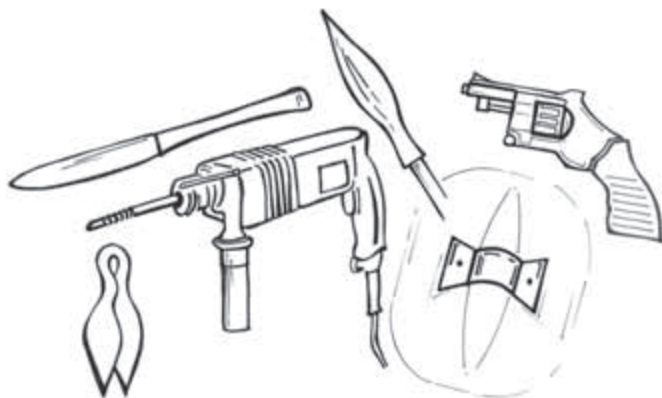
People in Guernsey lived in tribal villages around the Island. Each tribe had its own leader and way of living. The tribes sometimes fought each other so the leader also had to be a warrior. This period was known as the Celtic or Iron Age.



Iron Age Village by Peter Arnold

Archaeologists found evidence of an Iron Age Village and the graves of Iron Age warriors in Guernsey's King's Road.

activity: which of these tools and weapons do you think were found in this warrior's grave?



Guernsey Museum & Galleries

Lisia

Many people believe that Guernsey was called 'Lisia' by the Romans.

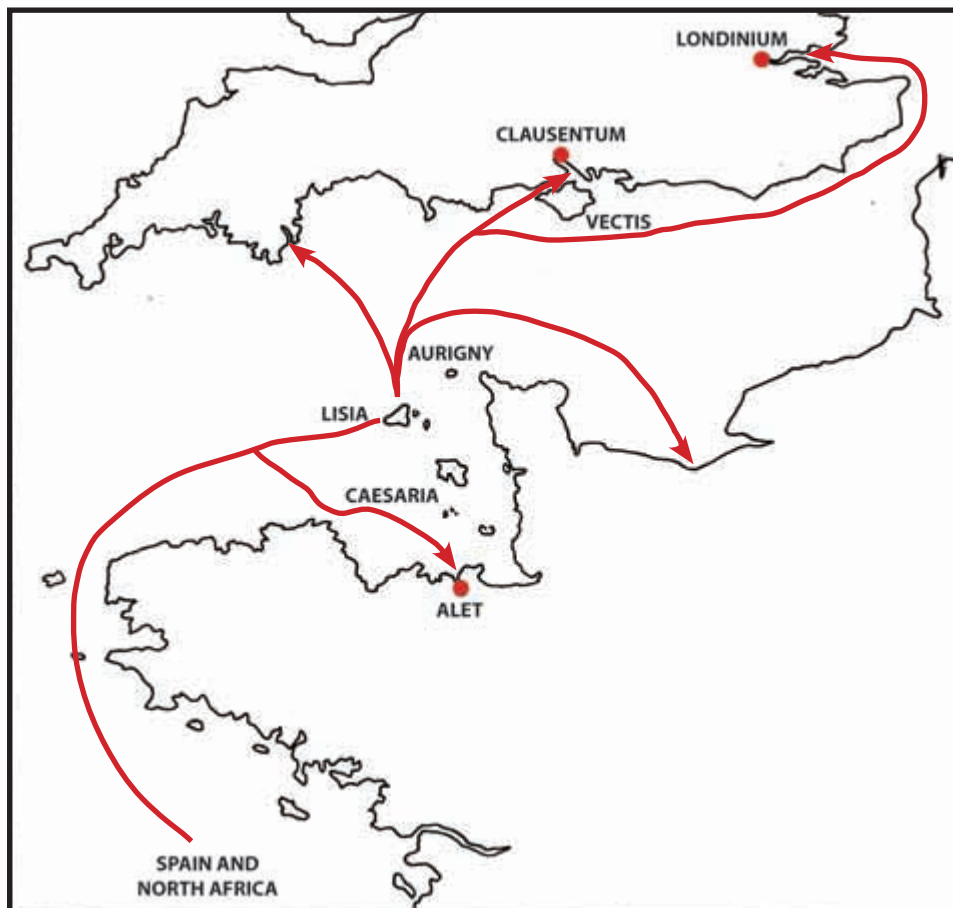
As ships traded around the Roman Empire they stopped off in the Island. Guernsey people began to adopt the Roman way of life.

activity 1: look at this map. It shows the route that Roman ships took on their way to and from Hispania (Spain), Gallia and Britannia.

Colour the sea blue

Write France and England on the correct parts of the map.

Colour Lisia, Aurigny and Caesaria in yellow.



activity 2: find a map of England and France.

what is the modern name for Clausentum and Alet?

what is the modern name for the island of Vectis?

Roman Ships

Roman trading ships had sails, a large steering oar at the back and a cabin on the top deck. They stowed their cargo in the hold. The direction the ships sailed in depended on the wind and the tides. They used the stars and the sun to find their way.

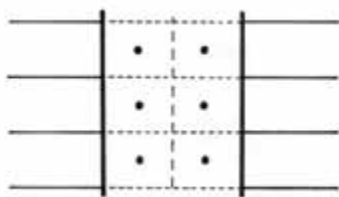
In 1982 a Roman shipwreck was found in Guernsey's harbour. This was a Roman ship but made in the Celtic way. The timbers were heavy and fixed with large iron nails by 'butt' jointing rather than 'mortice and tenon' jointing which was the usual Roman way. It also had a flat bottom which was unusual.

The divers found many things which helped to tell the story of the wreck.



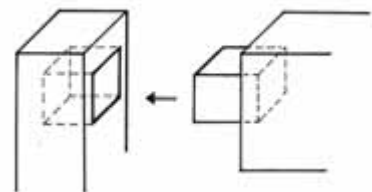
An artist's impression of what the Guernsey ship may have looked like. (Guernsey Maritime Trust)

did you know? Roman Slaves were not used to row the ships



Butt jointing

Mortice & Tenon joint



The Roman Ship found in Guernsey

The ship was probably travelling to or from Gallia with a cargo of pitch. When it is heated up pitch becomes sticky like tar. This was used for sealing such things as the joints on warships or wine casks.



Pitch

When the divers looked at the ship's timbers they found that they had been burnt. This suggests there was a fire on the ship and this is why it was wrecked.

The fire melted the pitch and many things including coins, wooden spoons, gaming counters and pieces of pottery were found trapped in it.



Barrel stave

Wooden spoon

spatula

A gaming counter



Example of Roman tile

The divers found Roman tile which may have come from the cabin roof.

Two bronze castings, which were probably part of a pump to bail the water out, were also found.



activity: why didn't the wooden items from the ship rot away when they had been underwater for nearly 2000 years?

Were they: (a) made of strong wood or (b) trapped in the tar-like pitch

The archaeologists also found evidence of fruit stones, walnuts and grains of wheat that had been burnt.

This shows us what the sailors ate.

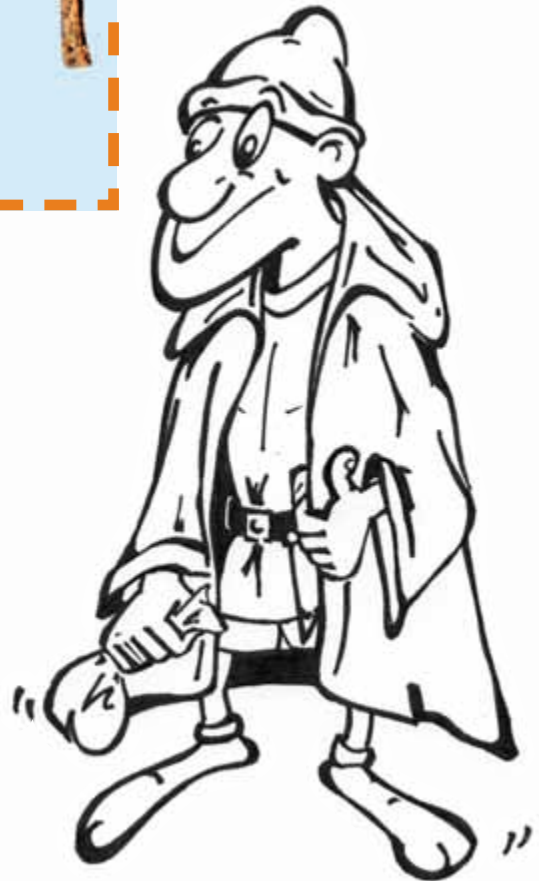
activity : find the odd one out



Pieces or 'sherds' of storage jars and cooking pots, bowls and 'mortaria' (used for preparing food), tell us what the sailors had on board the ship.



There were also fish hooks and fishing weights, a buckle and evidence of wooden barrels and sail making tools.



Amphorae

Oil, garam (fish sauce) and wine were stored in amphorae. These are storage jars made of clay.

Several amphorae were found in the water between Herm and Guernsey.

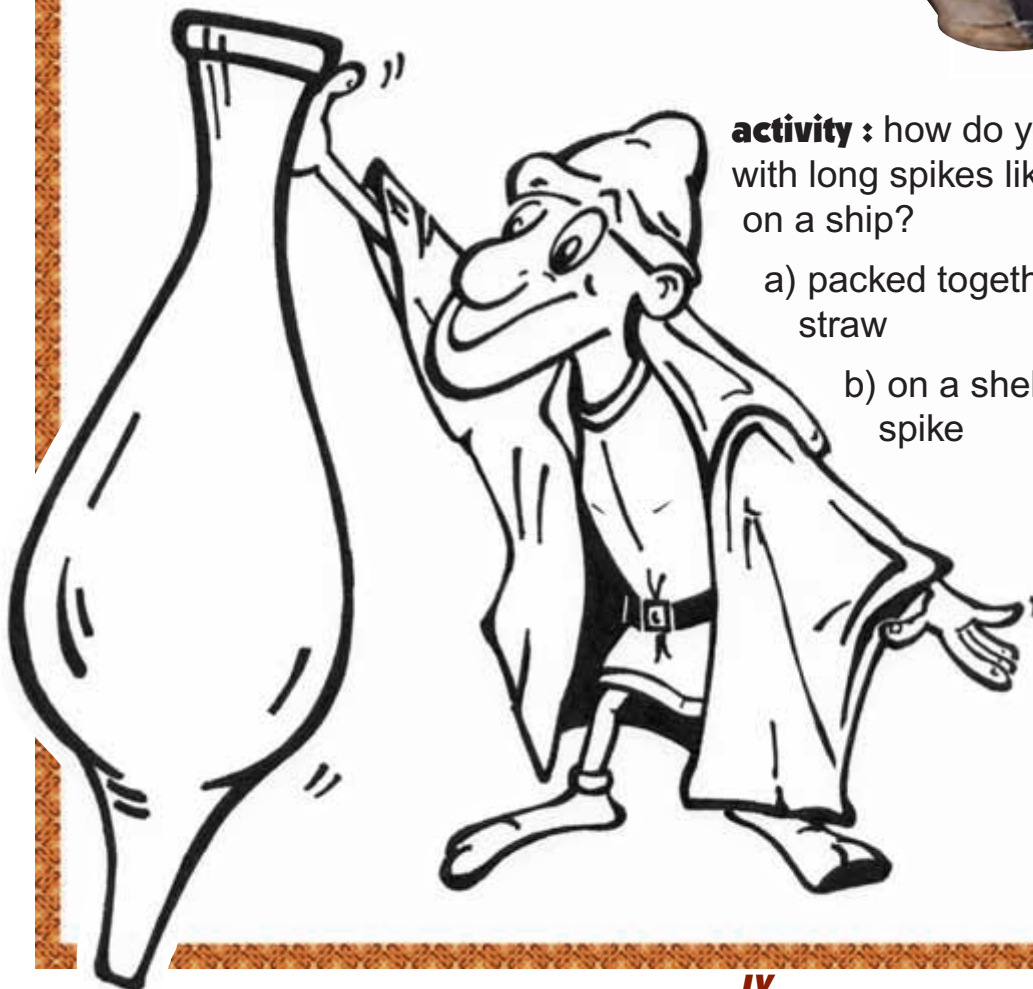
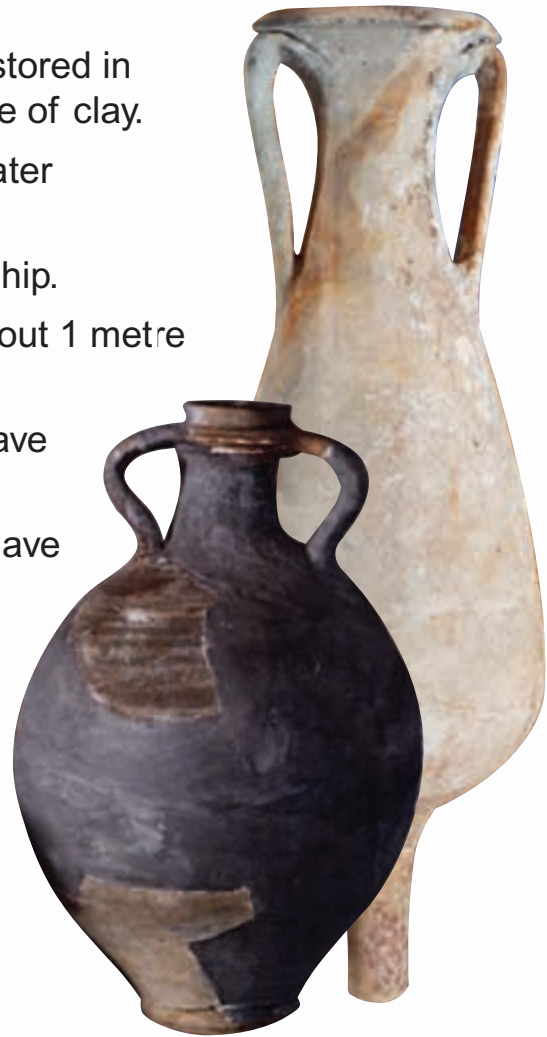
They could have come from a Roman ship.

The amphorae with a long spike are about 1 metre tall.

The other amphorae are smaller and have no spike.

Why do you think the large amphorae have long spikes?

- a) they forgot to cut it off
- b) it is easier to carry



activity : how do you think amphorae with long spikes like these were stored on a ship?

- a) packed together in layers with straw
- b) on a shelf with holes for the spike

Fire! Fire!

activity : colour this drawing of the ship on fire. Where do you think the sailors are swimming to?

- (a) Rome (b) England (c) St Peter Port in Guernsey



Wordsearch

ROMAN

SHIP

WRECK

LEGIONARY

SMELTING

WAREHOUSES

PIG

FIRE

AMPHORA

MORTARIA

COIN

LATIN

TRADE

OIL

WINE

SAILING

GLASS

GODS

GOAT

HONEY

SOLDIER

BATH

GAUL

BRITANNIA

LISIA

VALE

SALVE

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

Roman St Peter Port

Archaeologists think that many people stayed in the old Iron Age villages even when new settlements were built in the Roman style. Guernsey people may have joined the ships and travelled with the sailors to other parts of the Roman Empire. Gradually Guernsey learnt the Roman way of life. The 'finds' at La Plaiderie and other places in St Peter Port show that by AD 200 Guernsey people used Roman style plates and tableware, worshipped Roman gods and cremated (burnt) their dead in the Roman way.

St Peter Port developed as a small Roman town with Roman style buildings.



Artist's impression of Roman St Peter Port by Brian Byron

activity : find:

- a Roman Boat entering the harbour
- a Roman Boat moored by the trading station
- an Iron Age Village
- some Roman people in a courtyard
- the gates of the town

Waterfront

The waterfront in St Peter Port was a busy area with workshops, shops and warehouses.



Artist's impression of the Trading Station in St Peter Port

activity : colour the picture and find the following:

amphora axe ship pig goat warehouse tiled roof

Who lived in Roman Guernsey

Farmers

Guernsey farmers kept animals such as pigs, sheep, goats and cattle. They supplied the Romans with vegetables like parsnips; chickens and geese; honey; milk and corn to make bread.

Fishermen

Fish was an important part of the Roman diet. Many Guernsey people were fishermen. Farming families also fished and collected shellfish, including oysters.

Shopkeepers

Farmers, fishermen and craftsmen sold their own produce in the market. There were shops selling wine, oil and other merchants' goods. Evidence of a burnt out tavern which may have sold cooked food was found under the present day market.

Women

Most of the women in Guernsey were Celts. Roman soldiers and sailors often married local women when they retired. They worked with the men on the farms and in the shops as well as looking after the house and children.

Craftsmen

Roman towns like St Peter Port had craftsmen such as potters, carpenters, smelters, blacksmiths and shipwrights. A furnace was found under the present day market.



*Artists impression 'Smelting works'
in St Peter Port by Brian Byron*

Shipwrights

These were the people who repaired ships like the one found in the harbour. The families in the trading station provided the sailors with food and water for their journey. They kept animals and built warehouses to store goods which could be bought.

Important People

The richest Guernsey people were expected to help the Romans govern the island. They had to pay for things like repairing roads out of their own money. The important families may have dressed in Roman fashions.

Sailors and Merchants

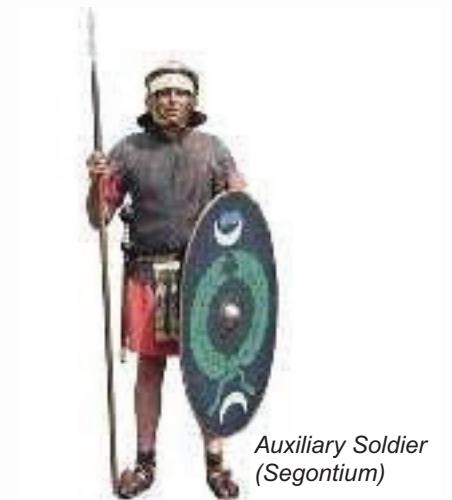
Guernsey was probably visited by sailors and merchants from all over the Empire, especially Gallia, Hispania and Britannia. Some may have decided to live here.

Soldiers

We do not know whether Roman soldiers were ever stationed in Guernsey. If so, they would probably have been 'auxiliaries' who just kept an eye on what was going on. We don't think the Roman legions ever attacked Guernsey.

Slaves

Slaves were very important to the Roman Empire. Slaves in Guernsey could have come from any part of the Empire, especially Britain. You could not always tell by looking at a man whether he was a slave or not.



*Auxiliary Soldier
(Segontium)*



...and Children!

At least half the population of the island were children. Only the richer boys had lessons with a pedagogue or teacher. Most children worked in the family trade and played with homemade toys and games.

Roman Coins

The Roman emperors minted coins that could be used across the Empire with images of themselves on one side.

Bronze and copper coins were used to buy everyday items such as food.

Silver was used to pay taxes or to buy expensive items.

Gold coins were very valuable and most people would never see one.

The sizes, names and value of Roman coins changed during the time of the Roman Empire, but in about AD 100 they were worth:

1 gold Aureus = **25** silver Denarii

1 silver Denarius = **4** bronze Sestertii

1 bronze Sesterius = **2** bronze Dupondii

1 bronze Dupondius = **2** copper As

A Roman legionary was paid 9 gold coins (Aurei) or 225 silver coins (Denarii) per year.

A teacher was paid about 180 Denarii per year

A loaf of bread cost about 1 As (about 60p in today's money)

A Denarius was worth about £10

An Aureus was worth about £250



Sestertius

activity 1: how many Dupondii made a Denarius?

activity 2: how many loaves of bread could you buy with a Denarius?

Living Like a Roman

17

The evidence uncovered by the archaeologists show that Guernsey people in St Peter Port were quite wealthy. They had jewellery and tableware such as candlesticks made out of metal, and glass in the windows of some of their houses.



This carved gemstone was found in St Peter Port. It would have been in set into a brooch or a ring.



Religion

This little statuette of the goddess Venus was found in St Peter Port. This suggests that Guernsey people worshipped Roman gods.

Venus was the goddess of Love, who was the god of War?

Find out more about Roman gods at www.brimms.co.uk/romans/gods

Forging and Copying

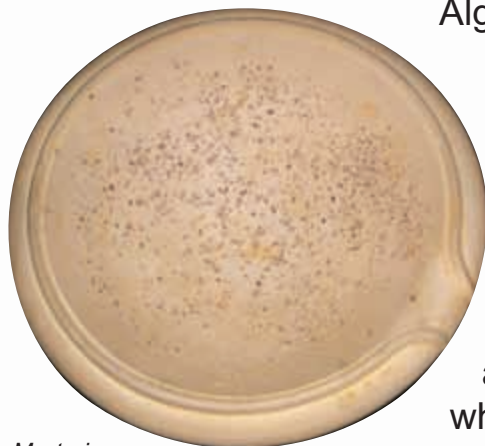
A coin mould was found which suggests that Guernsey people were cheating the traders by making counterfeit (fake) coins!

This coin may have been minted by the Roman Emperors to stop forgery. It has a deep hollow around the edge which means that it had to be filed down to make it smooth so it was easier to detect.



Food & Fuel

Guernsey people living in the Roman way ate well. Some of their food was grown and raised in Guernsey and some, such as dried fruits and wine, was brought from around the Roman Empire including olive oil from Algeria and fish sauce from Spain.



Mortaria

Food was often prepared in dishes called mortaria. These have a gritty surface on the inside which helped to grind and mix food.

Kitchenware was usually made of grey or black clay.

Drinking containers, storage jars for liquids and bowls such as mortaria were made of white clay.

Fine red clay was used for Samian ware. These were often decorated with scenes of hunting or gladiator games.



Samian ware

Light and Fuel

Oil lamps were used for light. Richer people used olive oil but poorer people used tallow or animal fat. Logs and dried cow dung were used to make fires burn.



Animals

The Guernsey archaeologists found roof tiles with paw prints set into them. The tiles were made from clay. When the tiles were hardening in the sun the animals must have walked over them and left their prints.

did you know?: there were no rabbits in Guernsey in Roman times!

Pigs

Pigs were very special to the Romans. Although they kept them to eat and for their skin, they treated them well and buried their bones carefully when they were killed.

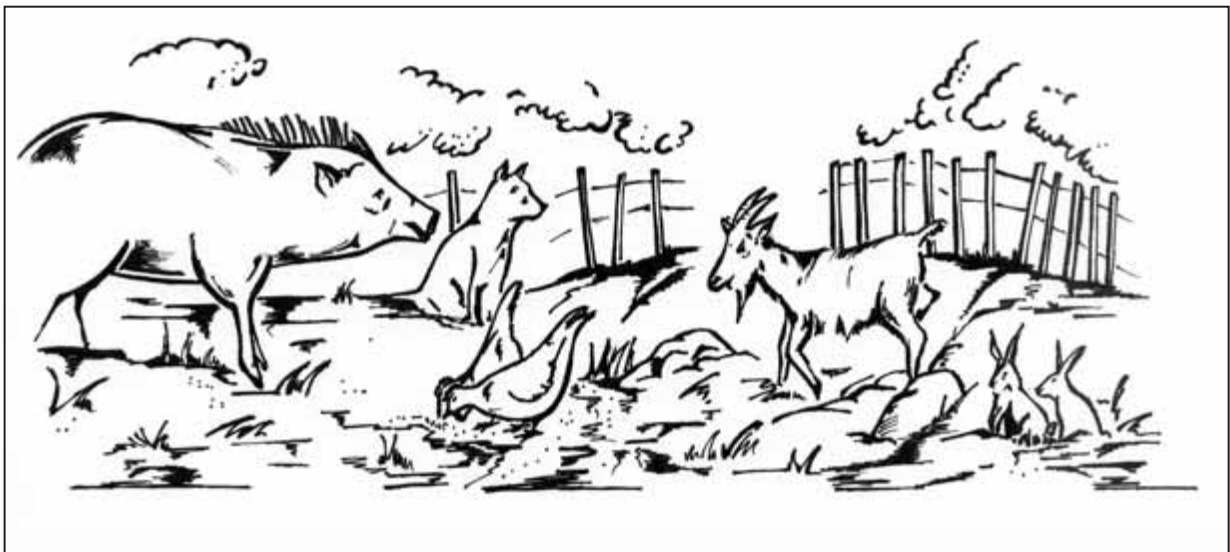


La Plaiderie: Pig's skull



This model of a pig was probably on a gatepost in a house in France

activity : colour in the drawing and find the deliberate mistake



Roman Guernsey at Work

Money was not used as much as it is today. People bartered things they had grown or made. A farmer and a fisherman might swap a chicken for some fish. A woman might weave a cloak and swap it for some pottery. However, they supplied the Roman traders with what they needed so coins from around the Empire came into Guernsey.

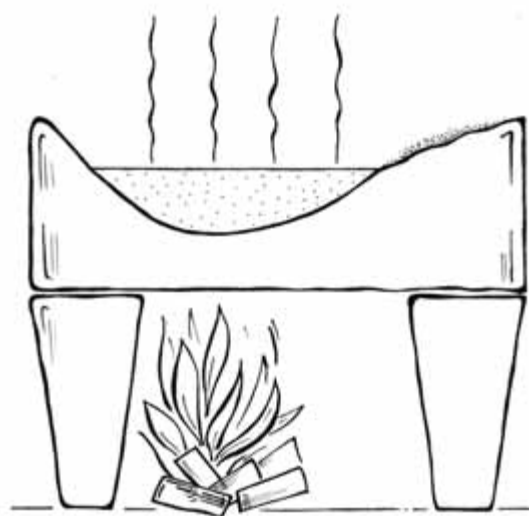
Salt Makers in a Briquetage (Saltworks)

Salt was very important as it stopped fish, meat and vegetables from going rotten. Salted meat and fish would keep for a long time. Places like Guernsey that had a lot of sunshine and were near the salty sea made salt to sell.

There were many saltworks or Briquetages in many parts of Guernsey. Place names such as La Salerie and the Salt Pans suggest where they may have been.

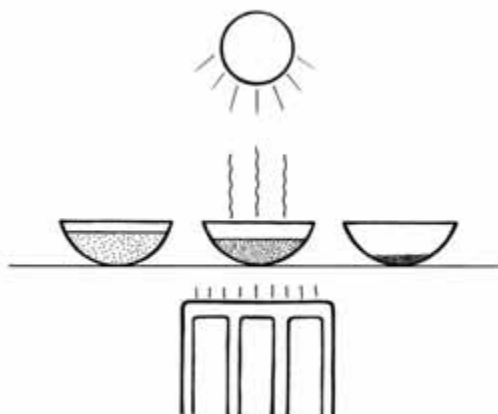
activity : find a map of Guernsey and look them up!

Romans built the salt making container from clay which was sometimes 'chaff tempered' (mixed with straw) to make it strong. They built a fire underneath to heat the seawater. When the salt had formed they scraped it off.



How to make your own salt

Fill a saucer with salty water (seawater is salty), leave for a few days in the heat of the sun or on a radiator, then scrape off the crystals when all the water has evaporated.



Tanning hides

The skins of animals were made into leather by tanners. This was a dangerous and unpleasant job often done by the poor.

Potters, Blacksmiths and Smelters

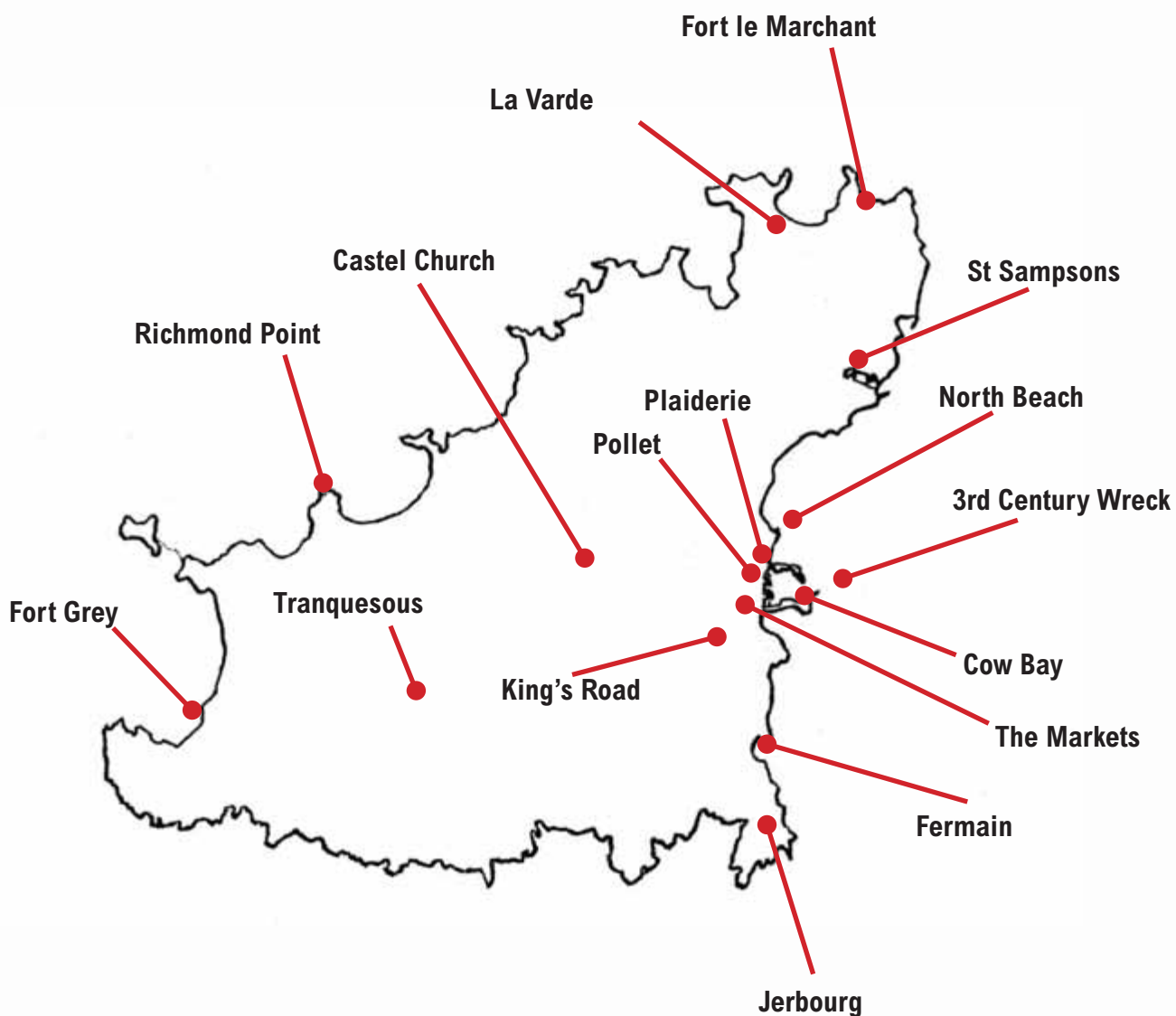
Guernsey people made clay pots and tiles and worked iron and metal to make and repair tools and weapons.



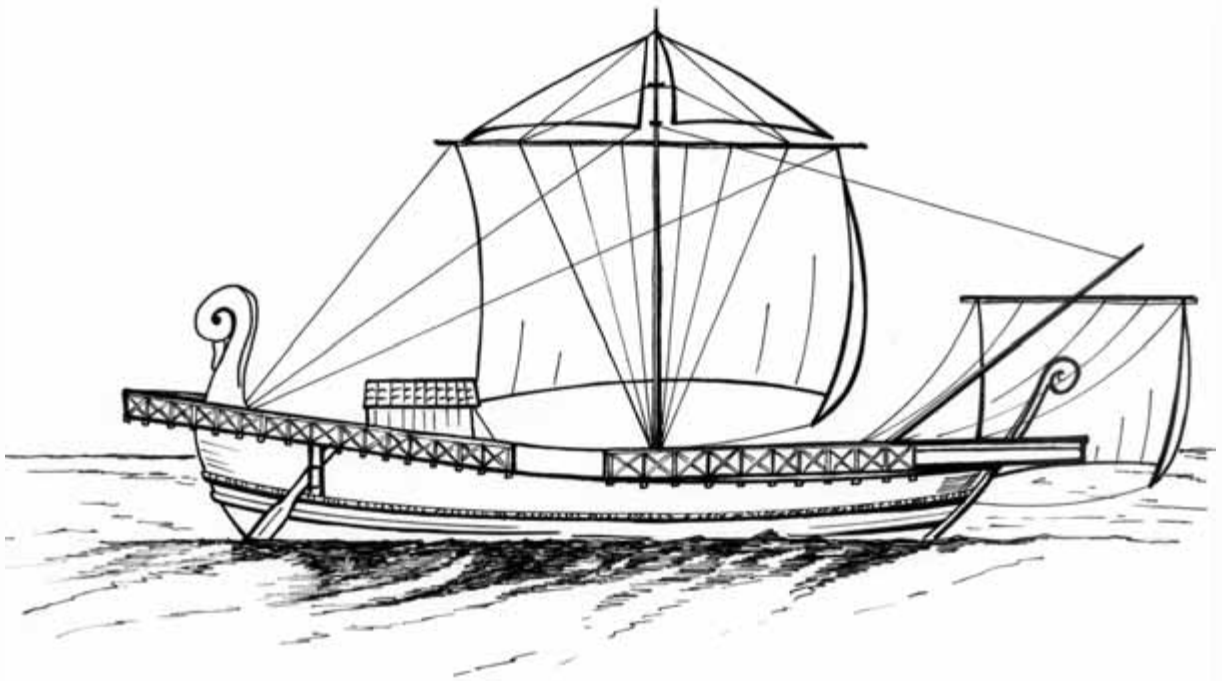
Blacksmith's forge in Roman St Peter Port (Brian Byron)

Roman finds in Guernsey

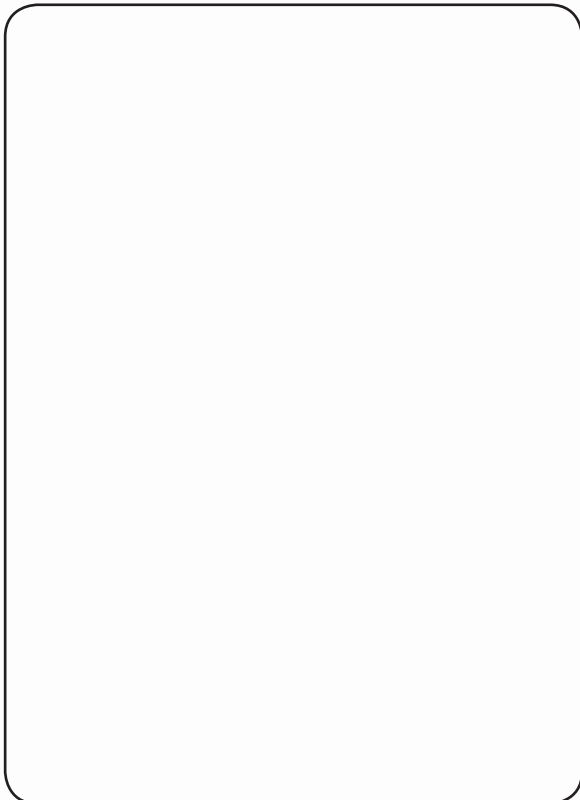
This map shows where archaeologists have found evidence of Roman life in Guernsey. Was anything found near where you live?



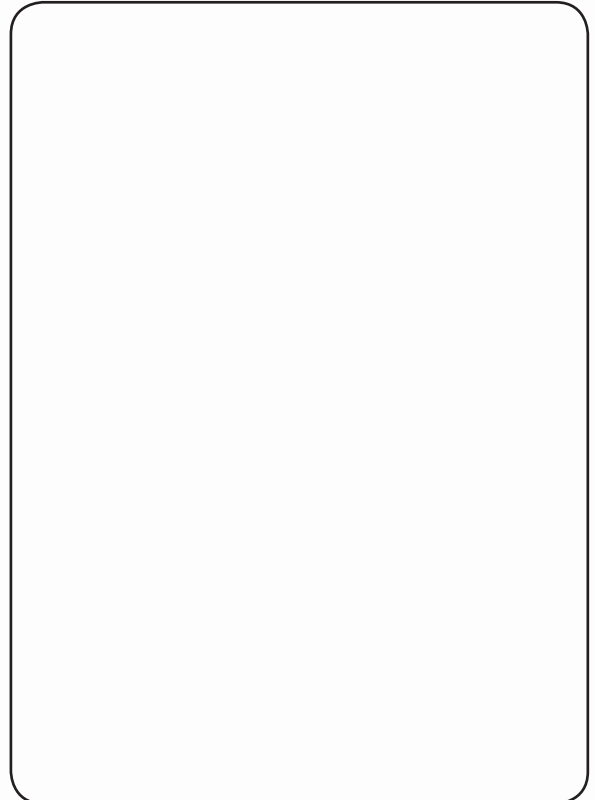
activity 1: colour the Roman Ship



activity 2: draw yourself as a Roman working in the 'Plaiderie'



activity 3: draw the Tavern that caught fire in the market area



Latin

Latin was the language of the Romans. Most Guernsey people probably spoke a form of Guernsey – French before the Roman period but now they had to learn Latin too.

The Romans used just 23 letters to write Latin:

A B C D E F G H I K L M N O P Q R S T V X Y Z

I is used for **J**

V is used for **U**

W was not a sound in Latin so **V** was used

Julius Caesar would have written his name **IVLIVS CAESAR**

activity : can you write your name from the Roman Alphabet?

activity : match these Latin words with their English meanings.

Latin	English
Cane	Father
Pater	Boy
Puer	Girl
Gratias	Mother
Salve	Goodbye!
Puella	Thank you
Vale	Greetings
Annus	Ship
Navis	Year
Mater	Dog

BWCI is a firm of Actuaries and Consultants

Actuarius is the Latin word for a Book keeper.

Numbers

Roman Numerals look more like letters

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

activity : if IX = 9, XI = 11, CD = 400 and DC = 600
What are these numbers?

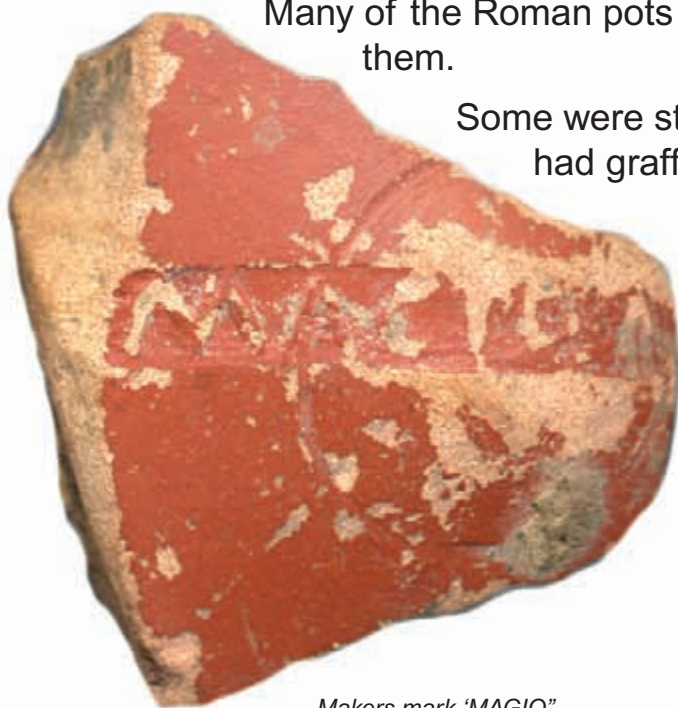
VIII XV LX DLV CM MCCXVII

did you notice?: all the page numbers are also in Roman Numerals.

activity : 2007 is BWCI's 28th Anniversary, write 2007 in Roman Numerals.

Many of the Roman pots found in Guernsey have writing on them.

Some were stamped with the maker's mark or had graffiti (scratched writing) on them.



Makers mark 'MAGIO'

This writing was found on a sherd of pottery.



PP = Pleno Pondo (full weight)

CXV = 115 - the weight in Roman pounds

A and AE (or a and ae)

If one jar is called an Amphora and lots of jars are called Amphorae,
and one girl is called a Puella, what are lots of girls called?

Roman Builders

To move quickly across the Empire the Romans built strong, straight roads. They also built aqueducts and viaducts (great arched bridges crossing rivers and valleys). They may have built a road in Guernsey.

Find out more at www.atschool.eduweb.co.uk

Public buildings were built from stone or marble. There is a piece of Roman stone in the Castel Church wall and the remains of a Roman wall under the present day market.

Roman Houses

The Romans lived in stone or wood framed houses with plastered walls and tiled roofs, often around a courtyard.

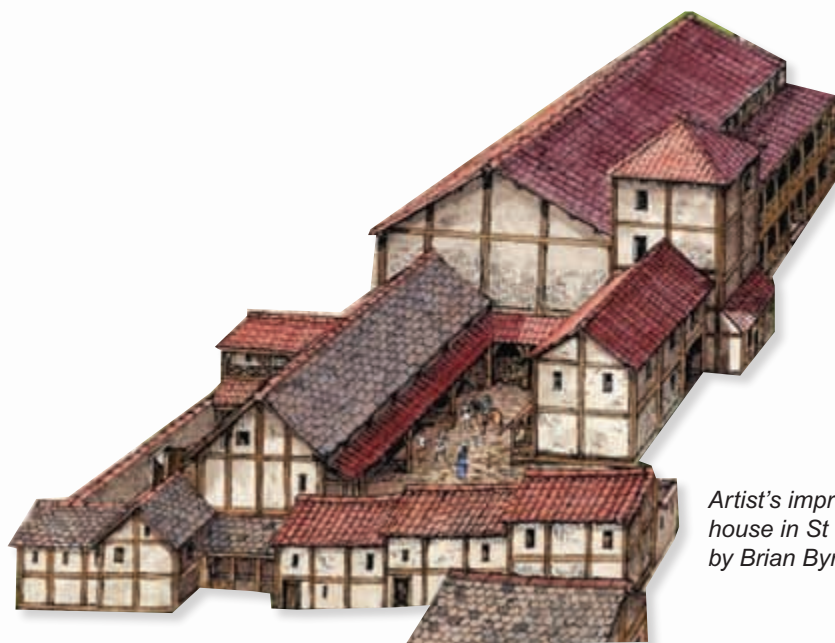


This plaster has a pattern made with a finger dipped in cochineal (crushed beetle!)

Some of the bigger houses had pipes below the floor through which hot air could be sent to keep the houses warm.

In the colder parts of the Empire such as Britain they often had rush mats to cover part of the floor.

Poorer people sometimes lived in a cenaculum which was like a block of flats built of wood.



Artist's impression of a house in St Peter Port by Brian Byron

Roman Mosaics

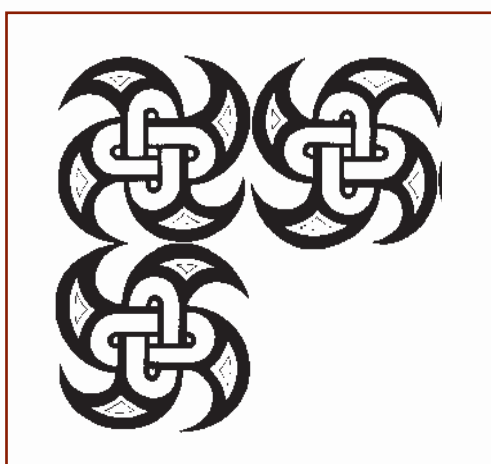
The Romans liked to decorate their houses with small pieces of coloured tile fitted together to make patterns called mosaic.

No mosaics have been found in Guernsey but they may have been covered up when something else was built on top of the site.

activity: finish drawing the mosaic pattern from this floor found in Hull.



Hull and East Riding Museums



Roman Baths

Only very rich people had baths in their houses. Most people went to the public baths. These were very popular. Romans met their friends to be oiled and scraped clean by slaves and servants.

A piece of Hypocaust tile (used in the building of Roman Baths) was found under the floor of the Castel Church. However the archeologists haven't found where the Roman Bath may have been built - yet!



The Great Bath at the Roman Baths, Bath

Roman Fashion

Most fashionable Roman men wore long pieces of material draped over a tunic fastened with brooches. Most men preferred to be clean shaven and have short hair.

Women wore a stola. This is a tunic in fine wool, cotton or silk fastened with brooches. They used braid to decorate the stola. They also plaited and braided their hair.



A Roman brooch

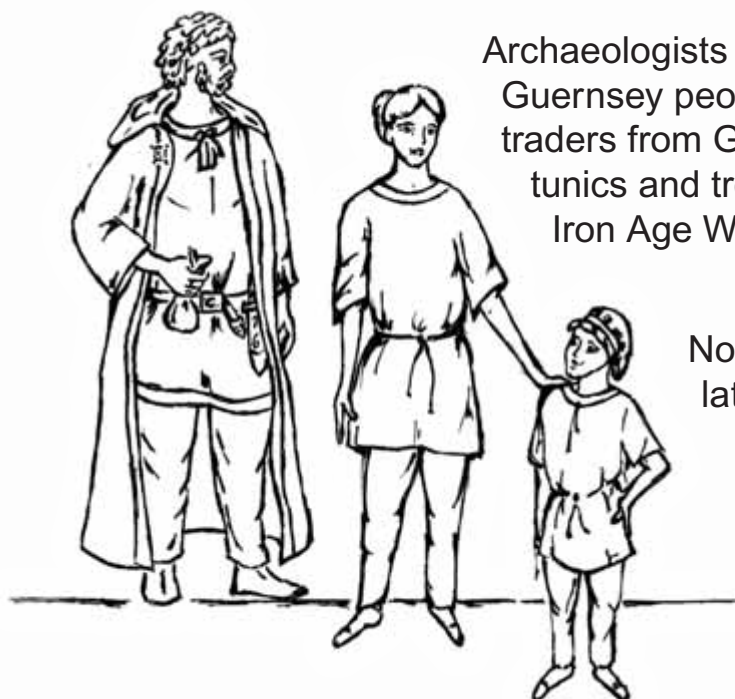


Image of Celtic style family

Archaeologists believe that most Guernsey people and many of the traders from Gaul and Britain still wore tunics and trousers in the style of the Iron Age Warrior.

Not everyone adopted the latest Roman fashions!

Entertainment & Sport

The Romans built great theatres and stadia so that the people could be entertained with plays and sports. The audience sat on stone seats looking down on the performers.



Roman theatre, Troy, Turkey

There is no evidence of an amphitheatre or a stadium in Guernsey but many of the buildings we have today are used in the same way as in Roman times.

Match these Roman buildings to the ones we have in Guernsey today.

activity:

Roman Britain

The Theatre

The Stadia

The Villa

The Fort

The Basilica

The Temple

The Cenaculum

Guernsey Today

Footie's Lane Track

The Performing Arts Centre

Castel Church

Vale Castle

The Royal Court

Saumarez Manor

Cour de Parc flats

did you know? most gladiators survived their battles with the lions.

Story

This is a story about some Roman sailors who landed in Guernsey when their ship caught fire. Fill in the words and finish the story:

The sailors were travelling from G_____ to Br_____.

'We'll be in Guernsey soon', said one.

They tightened the sail and waited for the wind to bring them close to the land. Then disaster!

'Fire! Fire! Swim for your lives!' (in Gallic or Latin of course)

The sailors jumped and quickly reached the shore. They watched sadly as their boat sank slowly into the sea.

'What shall we do now?' said the sailors.

The Captain said 'I have enough money to get what we need. The people on the waterfront will help us.'

The sailors trudged up to a warehouse, their tunics dripping on the cobbles.

'Yes?' said a stern woman.

'We have lost our s____' said the Captain. 'It sank over there. Will you help us to get to Britannia?'

'Have you got any m____?', said the stern woman.

'Yes', he said handing her some sestertii. 'We also need dry c_____ and f_____.'

'OK' she said. 'Here is your change.'

'Thank you' he said.

A few weeks later, the sailors arrived in Clausentum.

They went to the wine shop to buy something to d_____.

The Captain gave the shopkeeper one of the c_____ the G_____ lady had given him.

'Out scoundrell!' shouted the shopkeeper. 'This coin is no good. It is not R____ money, it is a counterfeit coin!'

The sailor was very upset and angry. 'The lady in Guernsey gave it to me as change from my sestertii.'

'Huh!' said the shopkeeper, 'the Guernsey people, making money by tricking poor sailors. Its time they were taught a lesson. I shall help you today but take more care in future.'

Missing Words: coins, Gallia, clothes, drink, Britannia, Guernsey, money, Roman, ship, food.

How do you think the sailors could get their own back on the Guernsey lady who tricked them? Write your story and email it: romanstory@cwgsy.net

Guernsey and the end of the Roman Empire

By AD 410 the Roman Empire had abandoned Britain and by AD 460 they had lost Gallia (Gaul). Gaul (and Guernsey) were taken over by the Franks and became 'France' and the Roman way of life in Guernsey gradually disappeared.

Around AD 500 Christian monks such as Saint Sampson stopped in the Channel Islands on their way from Britain to France. People no longer worshipped Roman gods and by AD1000 parish churches were being built, probably with stone taken from the Roman ruins!



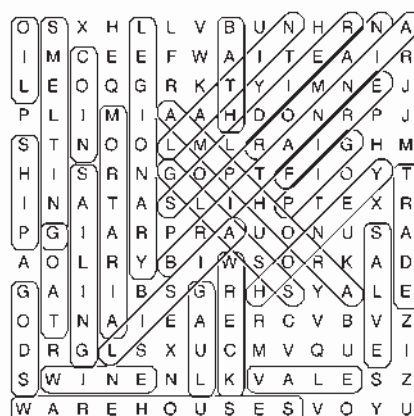
Answers

- pII 80, 30, 18, 6000
- pIII *Macedonia = N. Greece,
Italia = Italy, Britannia = Britain,
Hispania = Spain,
Caledonia = Scotland*
- pIV b) d) f)
- pV *Southampton, St Malo,
Isle of Wight*
- pVI b)
- pVIII *Crisp packet!*
- pIX b)
a) *usually, but sometimes b)*
- pX c)
- pXV 8, 16
- pXIX *Rabbits!*
- pXXV *Cane - Dog, Pater - Father,
Puer - Boy, Gratias - Thank you,
Salve - Greetings, Puella - Girl,
Vale - Goodbye, Annus - Year,
Navis - Ship, Mater - Mother*

pXXVI *Puellae*

pXXIX
*Theatre = The Performing Arts Centre
 The Stadium = Foote's Lane track
 The Villa = Saumarez Manor
 The Fort = Vale Castle
 The Basilica = The Royal Court
 The Temple = Castel Church
 The Cenaculum = Cour de Parc flats*

Wordsearch answers:



Acknowledgements

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Content by Lynne Ashton

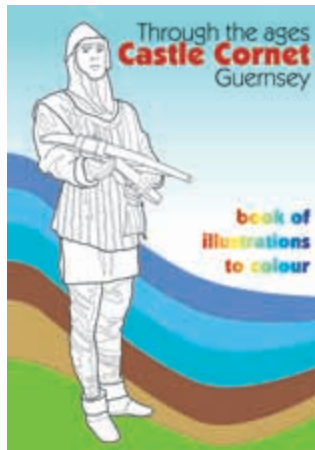
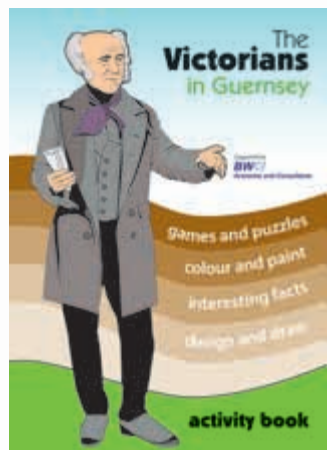
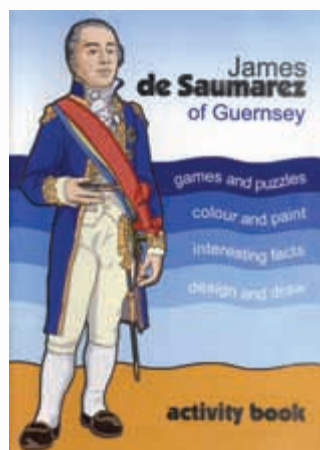
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Images supplied by Guernsey Museums & Galleries

Other books in this series:



Roman Guernsey Timeline

BC Before Christ **AD** Anno Domini (After Christ)

First Century BC (Years 100 - 1)

Guernsey is inhabited by Iron Age Celtic tribes.

56 BC Gaul (modern France) and probably Guernsey are taken over by Julius Caesar to become part of the Roman Empire.

First Century AD (Years 1-100)

AD 43 Roman Emperor Claudius invades Britain.

By **AD 84** England and Wales become a province of the Roman Empire called Britannia.

Second Century AD

Guernsey does well as the trade route between Britannia and Gaul grows. St Peter Port has buildings in the Roman style.

Third Century AD

260 to 274 AD Gaul and Britain break away from the rest of the Empire and form a 'Gallic Empire'. This includes Guernsey.

Around **286 AD** A Roman ship catches fire in Guernsey's harbour and sinks.

Fourth Century AD

The worship of Roman gods is officially replaced by Christianity.

Britannia and Gaul are attacked by 'barbarian' tribes from the East.

Fifth Century AD

AD 410 The Romans abandon Britain.

AD 460 Gaul is taken over by the Franks, which gives us the modern name 'France'.

Roman Guernsey comes to an end.



CULTURE AND LEISURE

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT