

What have the Romans done for us?

A few suggestions

- Architecture
- Art
- Literature
- Language (Latin)
- Sanitation (sewage)
- Aqueducts
- Education
- Irrigation (water supply)
- The calendar
- Coins
- Cement and bricks
- Public heated baths
- Turnips and carrots
- Paved streets and pavements
- Apples, pears and grapes
- Benefits (free food) for poor citizens
- Roads
- Wine
- Cats
- Stinging nettles
- Towns
- Glass
- Street Cleaners
- Shops
- Laws
- Tenement Blocks
- Public order
- Firemen and Police
- Parks
- Cabbages & peas
- Public libraries
- Public notices and advertisements

The legacy of the Romans is extremely important. Many things that form part of everyday life were introduced or improved by the Romans. Over the centuries since the collapse of the Roman Empire, Roman ideas, literature, art and architecture have influenced many people around the world.

Some examples of things that Romans introduced to Britain that are still in use today can be seen on the left of this page.

Key areas

Literature

Roman authors followed the famous Greek authors, often developing and building upon Greek writing. Most surviving literature is written for or by the rich. Writers were supported by the rich. Many writers have been influenced by the Romans including Shakespeare (Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra), Robert Graves (I Claudius), Milton (Paradise Lost), Dante (Inferno) and James Joyce (Ulysses).

Art

Roman art has influenced many people. Just as with architecture, the Renaissance saw a rebirth in interest in classical art. The use of pictures of Emperors on coins and sculptures introduced powerful images to society.




Architecture

Many Roman buildings still stand - just this is evidence of how good Roman architecture was. Roman architecture has many connections with Greek architecture through the use of pillars and arches. Since the Renaissance, this style has been popular around the world.



Language

English is a mixture of many different languages, but it contains very many references to Latin. Some Latin words are used directly, whereas others have been adapted - yet the influence of the Romans in our language can easily be seen.



“What have the Romans ever done for us?”

“All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a fresh water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?”

Task: Using this information, together with further research create a superb poster explaining what you think the Romans have done for us.

Ancient Rome Final Assessment

Fill-in-the-Blank

Directions: Choose the name that best fits the blank for each sentence.

Julius Caesar

Augustus Caesar

Hannibal

Constantine

Virgil

- 1) The Pax Romana was a time of peace that started with the reign of _____
_____. Many of his actions helped make Rome strong.
 - 2) After leading thousands of men and war elephants over the Alps _____
was able to defeat the Roman armies that he came into contact with.
 - 3) _____ was a strong Roman emperor that was
murdered by Senate members.
 - 4) Known as the first Christian Roman Emperor, _____
named the new capital of the Roman Empire after himself.
 - 5) The Aeneid was an epic poem about the beginning of Rome, written by a poet named
_____.
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Short Answer

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1) What was Rome's chief governing body and who could be a member?

- 2) Who did Rome fight against during the Punic Wars? Explain why they were fighting.

- 3) Explain why Caesar Augustus is one of Rome's greatest leaders.

- 4) What was the Pax Romana?

- 5) As the Roman Empire weakened and fell, what tribes came and attacked Rome? Explain why they attacked.

- 6) Explain what the two groups of people were that made up the Roman population and who fell into each of those categories.
