

Salisbury Museum's Wessex Gallery showcases over 2,500 rare objects which tell the story of early Britain from the mathematical genius of the ancient Britons and Beaker people through to the Roman invasion and the Norman Conquest.

The extensive Roman collection includes the Downton Mosaic, a well-preserved mosaic floor which was part of a fourth century Roman villa. The intricately patterned mosaic was uncovered in the late 1950s on a new housing development in Moot Close, Downton, South Wiltshire.

A standard class visit of up to 35 children will include led activities and exploration in the gallery.

The session is designed to be compact and with a pace to keep a class motivated and engaged. Additional student numbers and additional activities can be discussed with the Learning Officer before your visit and will mean extending your museum day beyond lunch time.

### What will we achieve?

To gain a better understanding of the domestic lives of people in Britain nearly 2000 years ago. What did they eat? What art did they like? How did they play? Did they smell bad?

To get an understanding of how archaeologists have been able to discover more about The Romans by unearthing artefacts.

To handle Roman finds from The Salisbury Museum, along with replicas, to help your class discover Roman life for themselves.

To explore the Wessex Gallery, seeing the Roman collection on display and its place in the timeline of ancient Wessex.

To transfer this knowledge to a Roman craft, working with clay to try the skills involved in Roman art.



## The Romans

### Activities:

#### 1 Romans

What do you know?

Very brief recap of existing knowledge. What survives today and why? Discussion on decay and materials in archaeology.

#### 2 Archaeology Record Sheet

Handling real and replica Roman artefacts and completing an archaeology report sheet. Includes basic sketching and measuring.

#### 3 Make a Roman pot shard with decoration

Looking at pottery with raised features such as Samian and creating replica pieces.

If a longer visit is organised it may be possible to add the following;

#### 4 Costumes

Using character cards and costumes the class become Roman characters and work out how hierarchy worked in Roman society.



## The Romans

Pre and Post visit activities

### Pre Visit

Your visit to the museum will focus on domestic Roman finds. Pre visit activity could include the following activities.

### Post Visit

Follow on activities and research to build on what your class have learnt about the Romans.

#### Timeline

Looking at how far back the Romans were, and where objects, characters and moments from time sit in that time line.

#### Book

A Street Through Time:

A 12,000-year Journey Along the Same Street by Dorling Kindersley

#### BBC British History TimeLine

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch\\_tl\\_british.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_tl_british.shtml)

#### BBC History Romans

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/romans/>

Look at the Portable Antiquities Scheme and see how finds are recorded and what has been found near you

<http://finds.org.uk/>

Look at the Roman Collection at Salisbury Museum

<http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/collections/romans-saxons>

Activities online and off at the Young Archaeologist's Website

<http://www.yac-uk.org/funandgames>

Wessex Archaeology have a resources section on their website

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/learning/resources.html>

#### 'Rot or Not'

Make a selection of objects ranging in material and bury in various situations in the school. Try different soil types and moisture and maybe somewhere that is walked over and somewhere that is undisturbed. Record the objects before and after they are buried.