

How did the Romans change life in Britain?

How successful were these changes?

What materials did the Celts use to build their houses? What did they use to make the roof?

Wood Brick Straw
Glass Animal poo Stone

**Roundhouses were made by building a ring of wooden (oak) posts and then making a “wattle” woven fence between them (usually using willow or hazel). The walls were then packed with a “daub” made from dirt, water, and animal poo. Roofs were thatched with straw, hay, and plants like bracken.*

What do you think it would have been like to live in these roundhouses?

Warm Crowded Noisy
Cozy Smoky Dark

*** We don’t know for certain what it would be like to live in roundhouses so there are no right or wrong answers to this question.** *Roundhouses were usually a single room where people and animals often lived together. However, in some large roundhouses, cattle and other animals may have been kept on the ground floor, while the people lived on a timber floor above them. They had no windows so were quite dark, and a fire inside would have made them quite smoky. But they held heat well so would have been warm in winter, and the shape gives them very good acoustics when telling stories.*

What materials did the Romans make their buildings and roofs from?

Stone Wood Brick
Metal Tiles Glass

**The main NEW building materials are stone (like sandstone), and clay bricks and tiles. However, wood, metal nails, and glass windows would also have been used in most Roman buildings. The Roman Army would have enough men to be able to transport and manufacture large amounts of things like stone and tiles hence why they were able to build their buildings from these resources.*

Where does the wall start and where does it end?

The wall starts at Bowness in the West and ends at Wallsend in the East.

How high is the wall?

The wall was approximately 15 feet high (4.6 metres).

Find the replica of Hadrian's wall in the gallery. Can you find the 5 original stones? How can you tell they are original stones?

The five original stones are the ones at the bottom of the wall. You can tell as they are slightly darker in colour.

The Britons and Romans used different materials to make their buildings and structures like Hadrian's Wall. Both ways had good points and bad points. **Can you think of some good and bad points for both?**

Which do you think was quicker to make- a Celtic house or a Roman one?

**Usually a roundhouse is quicker- skilled builders could make one in about a month, compared to the several years it could take to make a Roman villa. Also, roundhouses used lighter materials that were naturally occurring locally and readily accessible. They didn't need to fire clay or shape stone.*

Which materials are stronger?

**Stone, brick, metal*

Which building might last longer?

**Roman ones, especially in archaeological contexts. Roundhouses very rarely survive because the wood and hay/straw rot away. Instead we find post holes that show where the buildings would have been.*

Message game

What happened when you passed the message? Did the message stay the same?

**Usually the message will change, even slightly, from the original one as people mishear or forget sections.*

Which do you think works better- writing messages down or telling them person to person? Why do you think this?

**It should be that the written one is more reliable because even though it has been passed around, the writing itself is still directly from a single person.*

Medicine

Can you find some Surgeon's tools? What might they be used for?

Here the children just need to guess what the surgeon's tools might have been used for but if they want some real answers to what they were used for then see below.

Scalpels and a wide variety of medical scissors were used. **Intricate and varying hooks or probes** were used in moving light tissues and for making the negotiation of the inner workings of the human body more manageable. **Bone drills**, resembling the modern corkscrew, were used to remove diseased bone tissue from various bones, or to drill holes to allow access to blocked parts of the body. **Metal forceps** were used to extract small pieces of bone or other objects that would be otherwise difficult to remove with fingers. **Catheters**, or long metal tubes, very much like those in use today were used to open blocked passages such as the urinary tract. Other similar devices were used to open spaces such as the nasal cavity in order to insert various medicinal treatments. The **bone saw** was used in amputation, which the Romans knew prevented gangrene. **Bone levers** were used to put fractures back in place, or to remove teeth.

They also used different herbs and plants to make cures and medicines. **Can you find some of the plants they used?**

Circle all of the correct answers

Poppy White mandrake Lemon
Tomato Cardamom Saffron

How would a Roman doctor fix someone's broken ribs? What special seed did they use?

They used cardamom to make a plaster to hold the broken bone in place.

The Romans only had hospitals at Forts- everyone else got treated at home. **Can you find a soldier's injury? What caused it?**

One of the soldier's injuries is to their head: they have a cut in their head from a sword blow.

Religion

Can you find the god and goddess of Healing- what are their names?

God is Asclepius and Goddess is Hygeia

Trade

Have a look at a **map** of the Roman Empire. **Can you name some countries that were part of the Empire?**

Italy

England

Sweden

France

Syria

Australia

Spain

Scotland

Why might the Romans have needed to import these foods? Do you think the Celts had them?

They needed to import them as the Britons did not have any of these foods before the Romans came to Britain, as they are non-native. These type of foods did not grow here because of the climate. People grew spelt, wheat and barley and raised cattle, sheep and occasionally pigs. Chickens were extremely rare. They grew vegetables such as cabbages, peas and beans and fruits such as apples, pears and sloes. People would gather wild foods too, such as hazelnuts, brambles and blackberries. Fish traps could be set in streams and rivers could also supply fish. Some animals may have been hunted for food, such as hare, deer and wild boar, although hunting was probably more for entertainment than a regular way of providing meals.

Who are the people on the coins?

Emperors of the Roman Empire

Which countries do some of these coins come from?

France and Germany

Do they look like our coins today? What is similar about them? What might be different?

Similarities: Round, metal, writing on them, depict the ruler at the time, different picture on each side

Differences: No date, don't just show emperor but sometimes other important figures (ours just have the Queen on them - soon to be the King), worth different amounts to ours, most likely made from different metals