

## How Roman was Roman Britain?

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### Notes for teachers

#### National curriculum links

- History: the Roman empire and its influence on Britain.

#### About this session

Students learn how objects can help to explore aspects of change and continuity in the past in order to decide just how 'Roman' was Roman Britain.

**Location** lecture theatre

**Format** students view images projected on a screen and participate through a Q&A

**Capacity** up to 120 students, usually from different schools

**Duration** 45 minutes

**Price** £1 per student

#### In detail

- Students are introduced the concepts of continuity and change.
- The session then considers a number of themes, such as rulers, writing, religion and money which can be investigated using objects from Iron Age and Roman Britain.
- It concludes with a recap of the role of change and continuity in history.

#### Before your visit

- Locate the ancient Roman Empire on an atlas and identify the modern countries which lay within the border of the ancient Roman Empire.
- Introduce/revise the key themes and key vocabulary listed below.
- Revise Iron Age Britain with the students, in particular key aspects such as social organisation, farming, communication tools and belief and ritual.

#### After your visit

- Create a chart comparing a number of aspects of life in Iron Age and Roman Britain. Populate the chart with examples of objects which provide evidence of change and continuity across the two periods. Examples can be drawn from [britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org) and online collections of regional museums.
- Imagine you lived in late Iron Age Britain. Write a first person account of the arrival of the Romans in your area.
- Explore aspects of cultural fusion in modern Britain. For example, compile a list of different foodstuffs and cooking styles which have been introduced from other parts of the world.

#### Find out more

- More ancient Rome [resources and sessions](#)
- Related galleries: 50, 49, 69, 70
- Take a look at the galleries with [Google Street View](#) and search the [collection online](#)

A question for the people: Notes for teachers

## Visit notes for students and adult helpers

You can print this summary sheet and take it with you during your visit.

### Learning objectives

- To find out how the Romans influenced life in Britain.
- To identify examples of what changed and what stayed the same.

### Key words

Iron Age Britain

Roman Britain

Change – things changing

Continuity – things staying the same

Empire, ruler, king/queen, emperor

Language, writing, religion, coins, road

### Change and continuity

You will find out about the ideas of change and continuity and how they help us to understand what happened in the past.

### Iron Age and Roman Britain

- Using a range of objects from the past, you will think about how the Romans influenced life after Britain became part of the Roman Empire in AD 43.
- You will think about how objects help us to understand what changed and what stayed the same for the people living in Roman Britain.

### As a group

You will decide how 'Roman' you think life was in Roman Britain.