

What did the Romans use as money?

Notes for teachers

National curriculum links

- History: ancient Rome
- Mathematics
- PSHE and Citizenship

About this session

Students explore how the Romans developed a monetary system and identify similarities and differences with modern money.

Location Clore Centre for Education and galleries (Room 68)

Format group work, object handling, Q&A

Capacity 30 students

Duration 90 minutes

Price £50

Note * Students should wash their hands before the session and after handling objects.

In detail

- The session begins by exploring various items used as money before and during the Roman Empire and considers the development of Roman coinage.
- Students participate in modern money object handling drawing out key themes concerning money, such as portability, durability and value.
- The session then moves to Room 68 to explore the roles of money in society.
- Back in the Clore Centre for Education classroom the students work on an activity relating money with worth and consider the notion of saving.

After your visit

- Reflecting on the session, students could design their own Roman or modern money.
- Students could keep a diary of where they see money being used.
- Students could create a savings plan for an item they want.
- Students could collect interesting coin designs they see, for example on the reverse of 50p coins, and create a display.

Find out more

- More KS2 [resources and sessions](#)
- Related galleries: 68
- Find out more about the objects in [Room 68](#)
- Take a look at the galleries with [Google Street View](#) and search the [collection online](#)

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Key words

- Coin
- Counterfeit
- Currency
- Durability
- Money
- Obverse (coin front)
- Portability
- Reverse (coin back)
- Worth
- Value