

BBC

Scotland Learning



The Romans in Scotland

See You See Me Autumn 2008

First/Second level (Primary)

Programme One: Friday 7 November 11.40–12.00

Programme Two: Friday 14 November 11.40–12.00

BBC 2

The Romans

Introduction to the unit

At the heart of this resource are 20 fascinating questions about the Roman occupation of the country we now know as Scotland. The questions are all asked by primary school children and the illustrated answers are given by our presenter Grant in no more than 60 seconds! But before checking out Grant's answers we would encourage teachers to hit the pause button and let their students have a stab at coming up with their own answers and ideas. Then the class can sit back and compare their findings with Grant's. A short documentary sequence about the work of a Roman re-enactment group called the Antonine Guard opens and closes each programme.

Supporting the Curriculum for Excellence

Developing an understanding of how Scotland became the nation it is today is a crucial part of the outcomes and experiences for Social Studies at all levels. The part that the Romans played in this national development allows learners to appreciate their local heritage as part of a global community, and to examine their own culture against the cultures of others. This programme will allow learners to examine their own values, activities and beliefs through learning about people, places and events of the past.

Outcomes (for Second Level)

By exploring places, investigating artefacts and discussing the past, I can interpret historical evidence to help build a picture of Scotland's heritage (SOC-201A).

I can investigate a Scottish historical theme to discover how past events or the actions of individuals or groups have shaped Scottish society (SOC-202B).

I can compare an issue which existed for a society in the past with my own society, exploring the similarities and differences to contribute to a discussion (SOC-203C).

Through researching a past conflict, I can identify possible causes of that conflict and report on the impact it has had on the lives of people at that time (SOC-205E).

The questions in this programme also lend themselves well to stimulating class discussion or activity on

- **health and wellbeing**, most notably the sections on eating and hygiene habits.
- **expressive arts**, particularly the idea of dramatic re-enactment.
- **languages and literacy**, thinking specifically about the different languages that would have been used at the time – and the use of wax tablet for communicating through written text.
- **technologies**, with a focus on the armour and equipment that the Romans carried and their inventions.
- **religious and moral education**, by examining Roman beliefs and exploring the section from Programme Two enacting a memorial.

These outcomes and possible areas for discussion are most useful when learners contextualise the historical information alongside their own practices and attitudes and reflect on the differences and similarities therein.

Questions for discussion

Here is a list of the questions that are raised in the programme. These questions are great starting points for discussion or group-work activities on the Romans. Try pausing the programme after each question and see what answers your class comes up with!

Programme One

- Where did the Romans who invaded our islands come from?
- Why did the Romans come here?
- Did the Romans invade Scotland and who was there to greet them?
- What was a typical battle between the Romans and the Caledonians like?
- Did Caledonia become part of the Roman Empire?
- Why did the Romans build long walls?
- How do you feed thousands of hungry Roman soldiers?
- Did the Romans bring their families with them to Caledonia?
- How did the Romans keep clean?
- How did the Romans go to the toilet?

Programme Two

- What did the Romans invent?
- I heard that the Roman Ninth Legion mysteriously disappeared in Caledonia.
Is that true?
- What did the Romans do for fun in Caledonia?
- What did Roman children do for fun?
- What was it like being a Roman child?
- What was everyday life as a Roman soldier like?
- What did the Caledonians do for the Romans?
- Did the Caledonians make friends with the Romans?
- Did the Romans believe in God?
- Why did the Romans leave Caledonia?