

Romans in Oxford

A Local History Workshop



Workshop Outline

In this interactive workshop, pupils will explore the impact of the Romans on Oxford through hands-on activities. They'll become "Pottery Detectives" to discover local Roman pottery, learn about social status by trying on Roman clothing, investigate Tamesibugus, a notable local potter, and examine how Roman roads enabled Oxford's pottery trade.



Session Aims

Designed for KS2 pupils, this workshop supports the study of Romans in Britain, with a focus on local history. Pupils will handle artefacts, dress in Roman clothing, and explore the Museum, concluding with the question: "How did the Romans make their mark on Oxford?"

How does the day work?

This 2-hour Museum workshop is available at 10 am or 12:30 pm. After a class introduction, pupils are split into four smaller groups to rotate through four tasks in the Museum's galleries and learning spaces. The session ends with a group discussion to share discoveries about Romans in Oxford.

Outline of the Session



Welcome

We begin the session with a whole class quickfire true or false quiz about the Romans in Britain. Then we will discuss when and where the Romans were in Oxford.

Task 1 - Pottery Detective

Pupils examine Roman pots, both replicas and original fragments, to learn about their origins, uses, and importance. Through matching and categorising, they'll discover the types of pots made in Oxford, highlighting the local pottery industry and craftsmanship. The original pot pieces that can be handled were all found in the East Oxford area.



Task 2 - Toga or Tunic

In a dress-up activity, pupils explore Roman social roles by trying on tunics and togas. They'll discuss how clothing reflected different jobs and statuses in Roman Britain, connecting fashion to daily life and work.

Task 3 - Who Was Tamesibugus?

Pupils investigate Tamesibugus, a local Roman potter, by examining artefacts and inscriptions. They'll participate in a simulated dig and analyse a signed pot rim, learning about the importance of individual craftsmen in Roman Oxford.

Task 4 - Road to Market

Using maps and a cartoon, pupils explore how the Roman road supported Oxford's pottery industry. They'll see why potters placed kilns near roads to trade across Britain, highlighting the role of Roman infrastructure.

Plenary

As a whole group, we share what was discovered about the Romans in Oxford.

Supporting Resources

A pre-visit resource pack is available to download, with a post-visit pack sent after the session. Digital resources, including an introductory video and 3D scans of objects, are also available to support classroom learning.



Curriculum links

KS2 History

The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain: This session directly supports an understanding of how Roman life and industry influenced the local area.

Local History Study: The workshop emphasises the local history of Oxford, specifically how local potters influenced the Roman pottery trade.

Workshop costs and other details

The workshop is 2 hours long and costs £4 per student, with a minimum charge of £75 per session. Maximum number of pupils per session is 34. Supervising adults are free of charge.

We may be able to offer the use of a room for 30 minutes for lunch. There is a £10 fee for use of a lunchroom. Please request this on enquiry.

There is a single £5 invoice raising fee should you need an invoice. Should you wish to make multiple trips in a single booking, we will only apply this fee to the first session to cover the whole series of visits. We offer different payment methods such as card or cheque in the shop on the day.

How to book

Email the Museum: museum@oxford.gov.uk

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information: <https://museumofoxford.org/>