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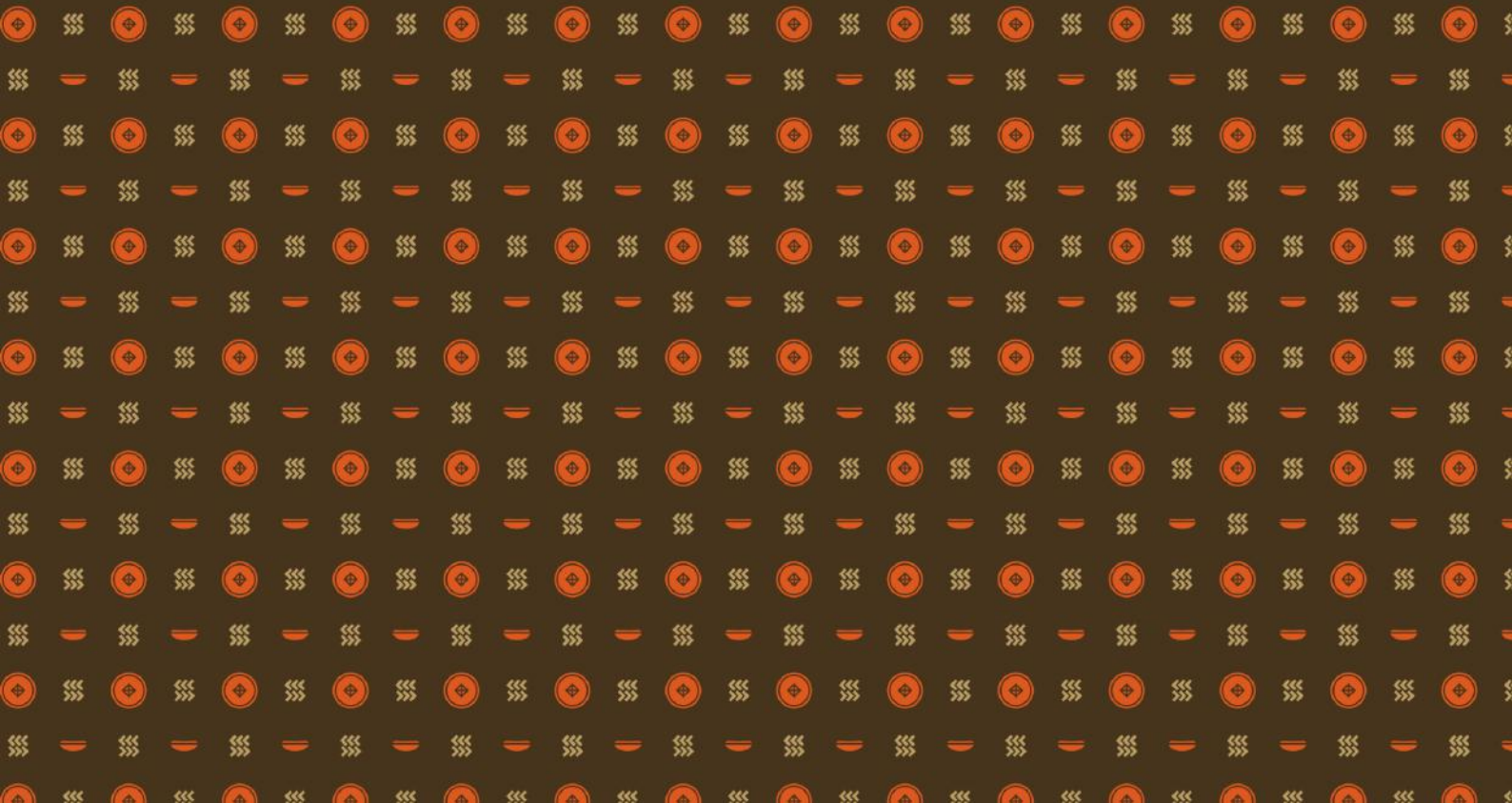
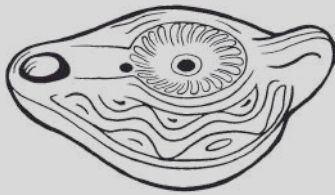
Museum of **Oxford**

www.oxford.gov.uk



THE ROMANS IN OXFORD

PRE-VISIT RESOURCES



Teacher Information

Welcome to the Romans in Oxford pre-visit information pack for teachers.

This will support your visit to the Museum of Oxford.

In this pack, you will find:

- Pre- visit information about the Romans in Oxford.
- Links to 3D scanned artefacts for your pupils to virtually handle.
- Information and questions for each of the 3D artefacts to support your pupil's knowledge and understanding of Anglo-Saxon life in Oxford.

These sheets have been designed for pupils use in classroom.

National Curriculum KS2 Links:

The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain

- Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BC.
- The Roman Empire by AD 42 and the power of its army.
- Successful invasion by Claudius and conquest, including Hadrian's Wall.
- 'Romanisation' of Britain and the impact of technology, culture and beliefs, including early Christianity

A local history study

- A depth study linked to The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.

What do we know about Roman Oxford?

The Romans in Italy had been interested in Britain's precious metals such as gold and silver and other useful metals including tin and copper.

The Romans had tried unsuccessfully to conquer Britain in 54 and 55 CE but retreated back to build a stronger army.



In 43 CE, Emperor Claudius and his troop of 50,000 soldiers came back for Britain!

Roman influences

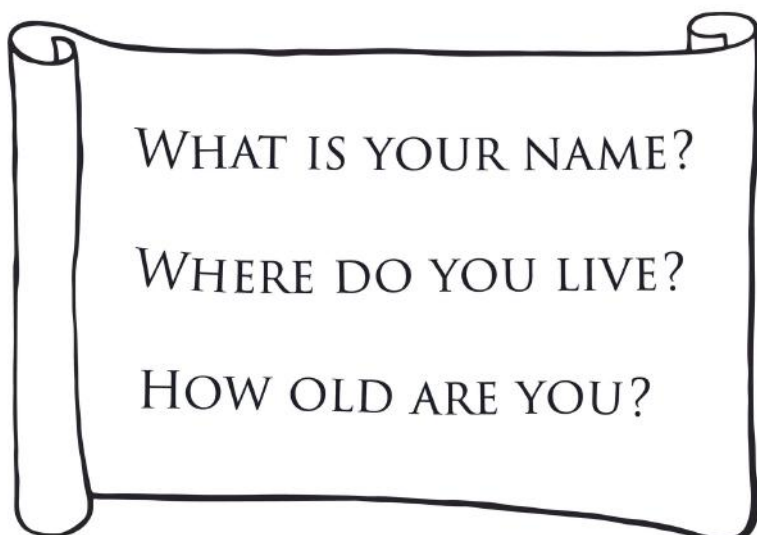
They invaded the country and spread their ways of life, culture, laws and inventions.

They survived in Britain until the year 410 CE, when their homes in Italy were under attack and every soldier was ordered to go back home.

During this time, they spread their influence throughout the country.

They introduced roads linking towns and cities which meant food, spices and wine could be distributed across the country more easily, as well as the calendar, the census and aqueducts carrying water from town to town.

Census



Calendar

DECEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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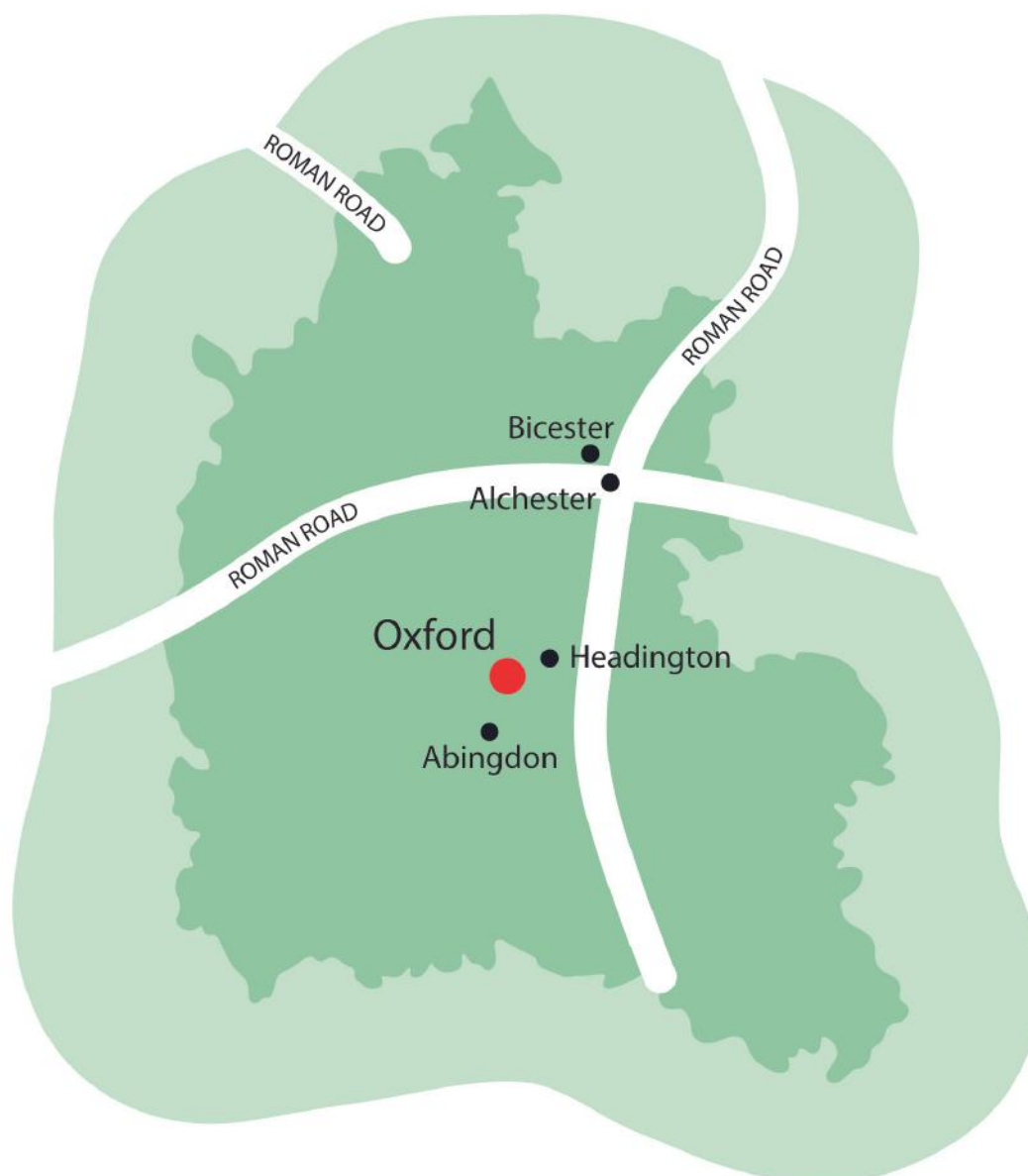
Were the Romans interested in Oxford?

Oxford was largely ignored by the Romans who instead chose to establish popular settlements like London and Colchester.

Instead, there were small Roman settlements, villas and farms here. However, archaeologists have discovered evidence of Roman pottery kilns that suggest pottery production here was of a big importance. They discovered that these kilns would have made important vessels for the Roman rulers, for the rest of Britain and Europe.

These vessels might have been used to store food while it was being transported to other countries like France.

There was a Roman road running through Oxfordshire, connecting it to other larger towns such as London. It might have been on these roads that the pots and vessels were transported.



Recently, archaeologists have been making some interesting discoveries. These discoveries were found when new homes were being built.

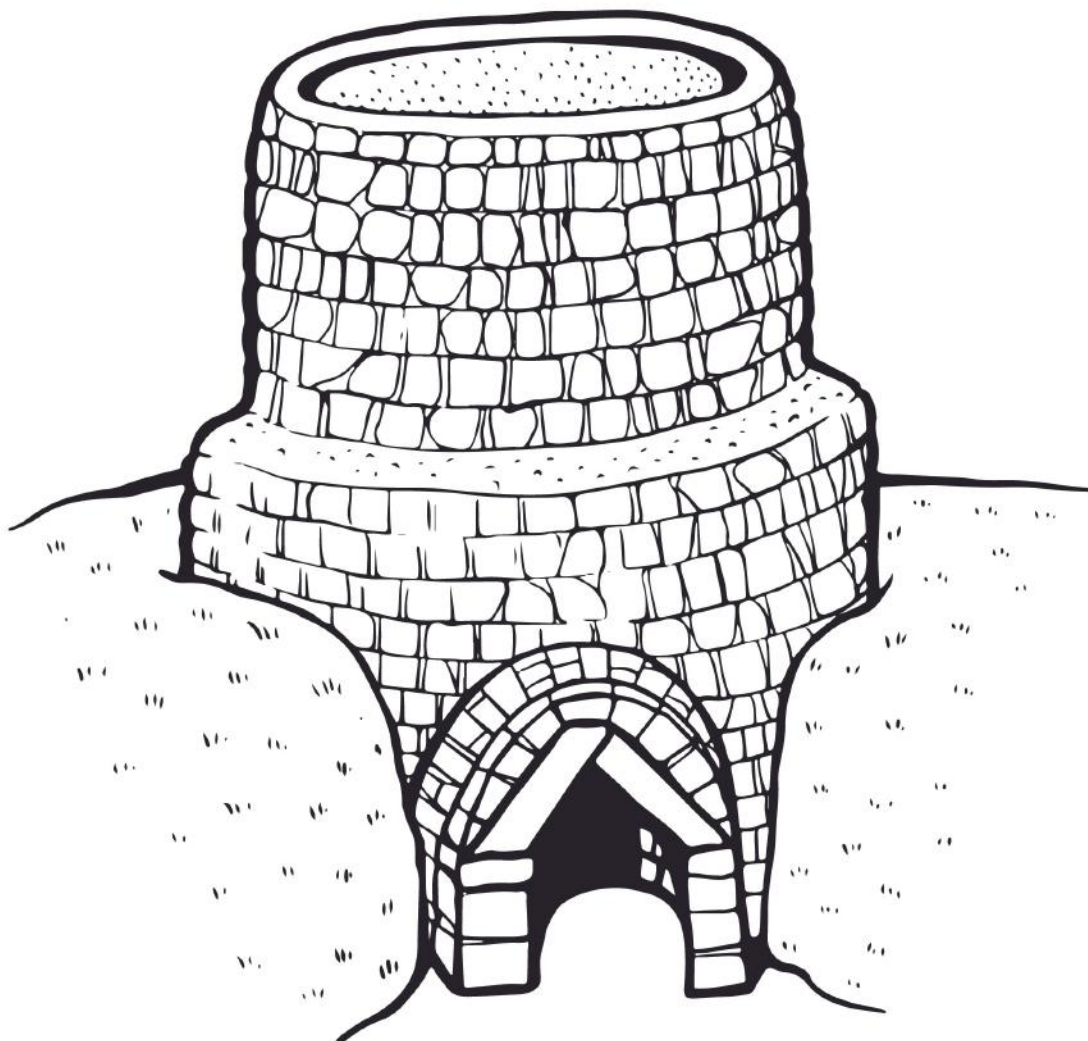
One of these sites, was in Blackbird Leys.

In the 1960's during the development of the housing estate, archaeologists discovered 11 kilns.

A kiln is a hot oven lit by a fire which is used for drying and hardening clay. The Romans used these to make their vessels and people still use them today.

This is extremely important- as vessels and pots were used every day in Roman Britain for cooking, eating, drinking and decoration. Could most of the pots and vessels used in Britain have been made in Oxford?

Another of these sites was the Churchill Hospital site in Headington where they discovered a kiln along with different vessels and pottery.



The kilns would have been built with thick walls of clay which allowed heat to be trapped inside and the heat could reach temperatures of 1000 °C.

Roman kilns might also be built underground for better insulation which would keep more heat inside.

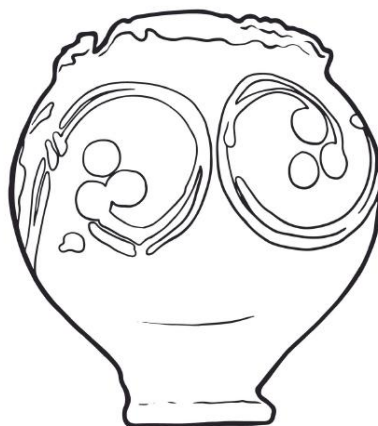
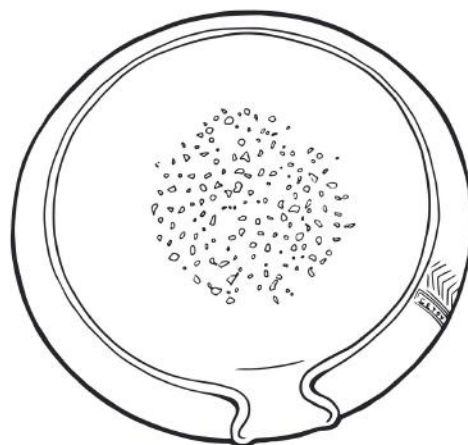
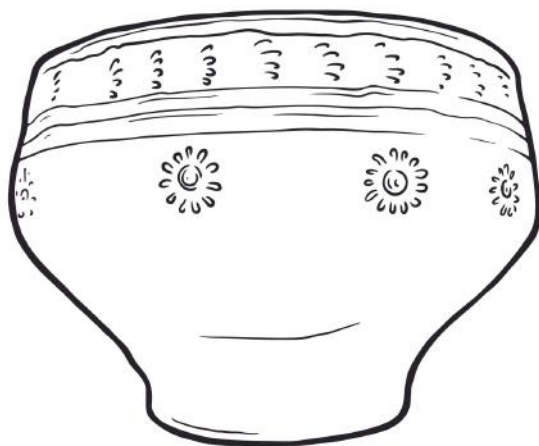
There would have been the stakehole pit where the fire was started and the firing chamber where the pots were fired.

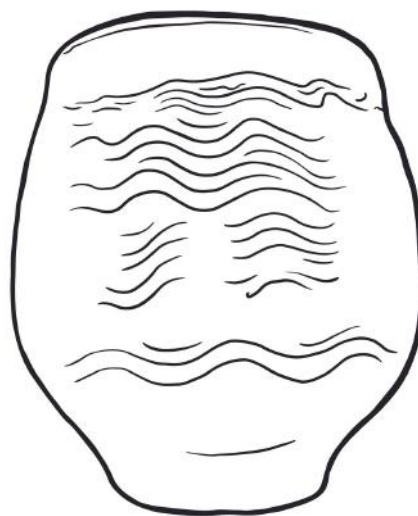
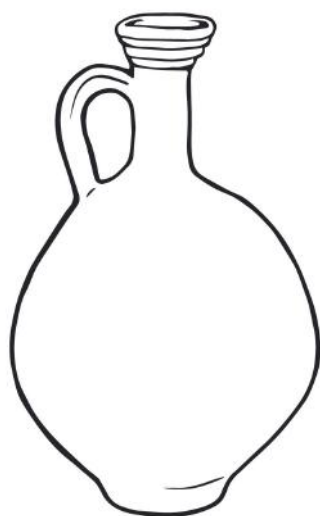
Usually, a potter might choose a section of the ground to make their kiln, make all their pots and then fire them in the same area.

There is one thing that has confused archaeologists in Oxford. They know that there was a large number of kilns making Roman vessels and they know that potters worked at these kilns. Yet they have never found homes where these potters would have lived.



- Would these potters have lived further away and travelled to work?
- Or have archaeologists simply not found their homes yet?





These larger kilns allowed the Romans to make vessels quicker at a larger scale.

But why was Oxford the centre of Roman Britain's pottery industry?

Historians think this might be for a number of reasons:

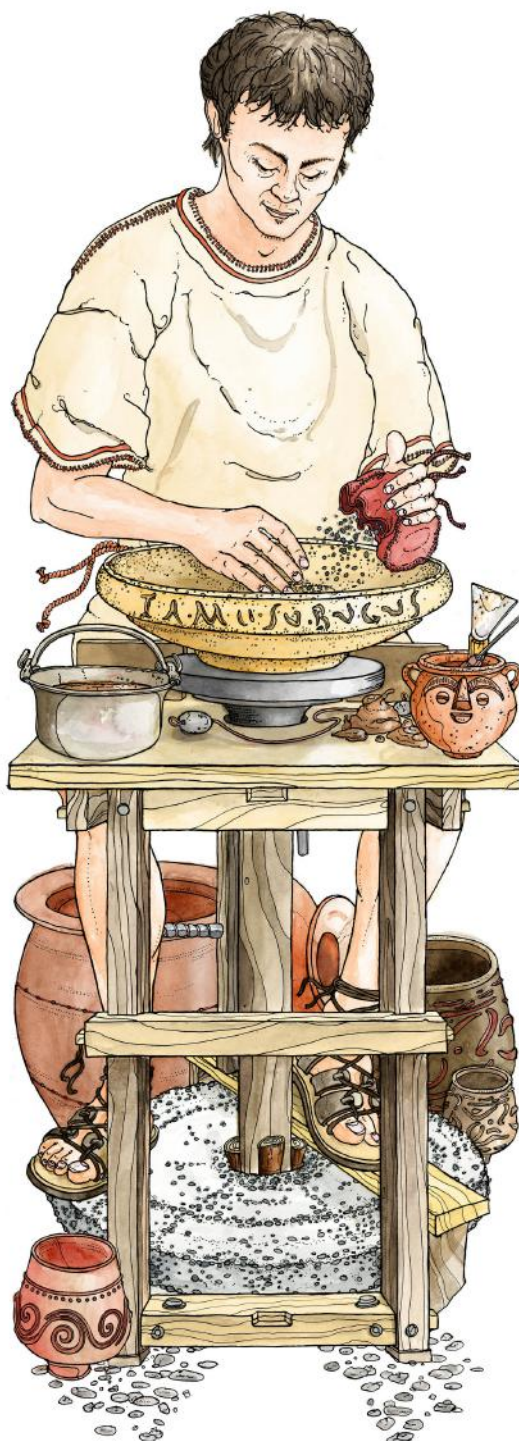
1. How close it was to materials like clay, sand and stone.
2. How close it was to wood- a kiln needed a large, hot fire in the entrance to bake the pots and harden them, so nearby wood was needed to make the fires.
3. How close it was to main roads- evidence of roman roads in Oxford.

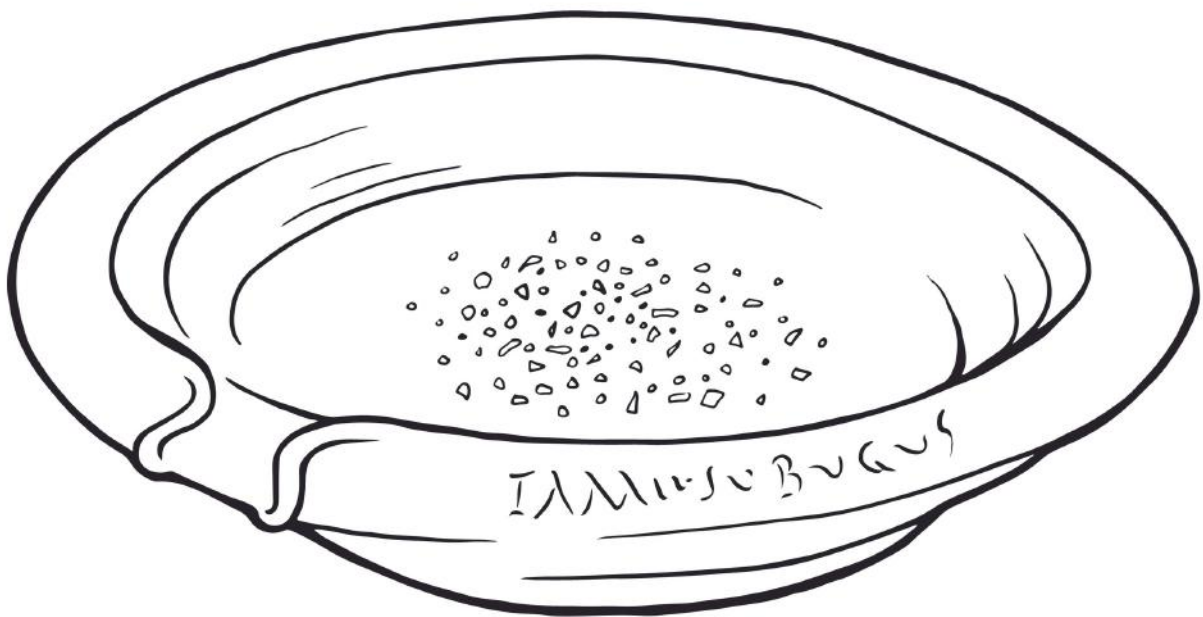
We even know a little bit about a man who worked at the pottery site in Headington.

His name was Tamesibugus. Can you read his name?

Archaeologists think that Tamesibugus, a Roman potter, made this pot called a mortarium and scratched his name on it.

You can see part of it in the museum on your trip.





Watch our 2 minute video about Tamesibugus and help us discover more about him through his mortarium.

3D artefact handling

Your pupils can now spend some time developing their object handling and historical enquiry skills through our 3D scans of Roman artefacts.

The sheets below have been designed to be used in conjunction with the 3D scans and have additional information and tailored questions to support.

You can use these links to load the scans onto your pupil's tablets.

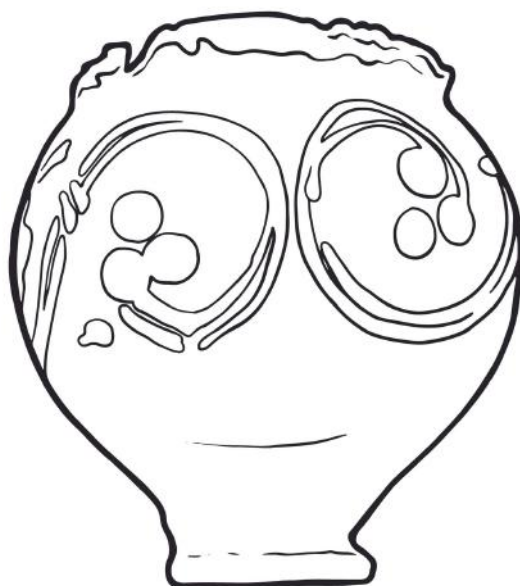
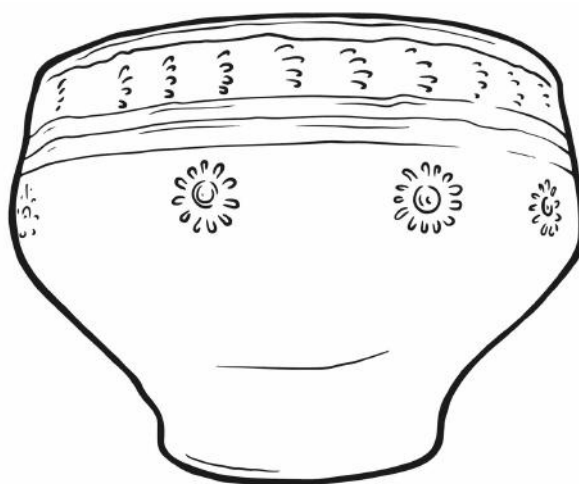
- Vessel 1
- Vessel 2
- Vessel 3
- Vessel 4
- Vessel 5
- Mortarium
- Pouring vessel
- Oil lamp 1
- Oil lamp 2

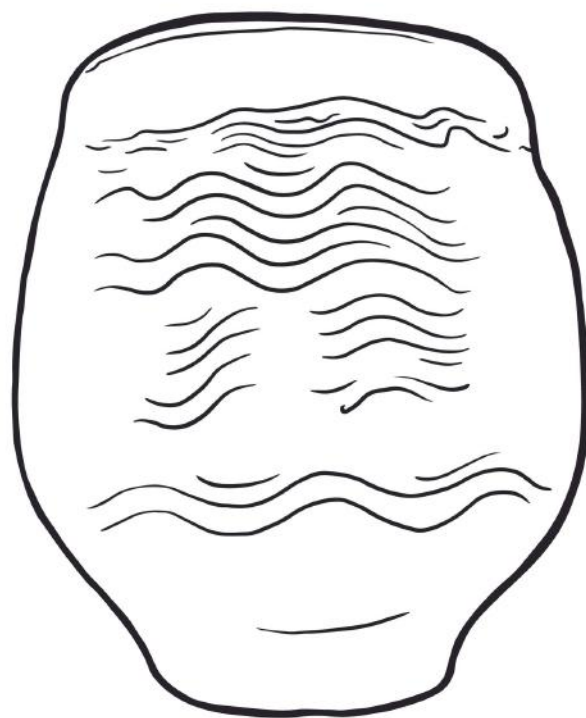
5 vessels

Spend some time exploring these Roman vessels.

They would have been made in a kiln which uses fire and heat to harden the clay.

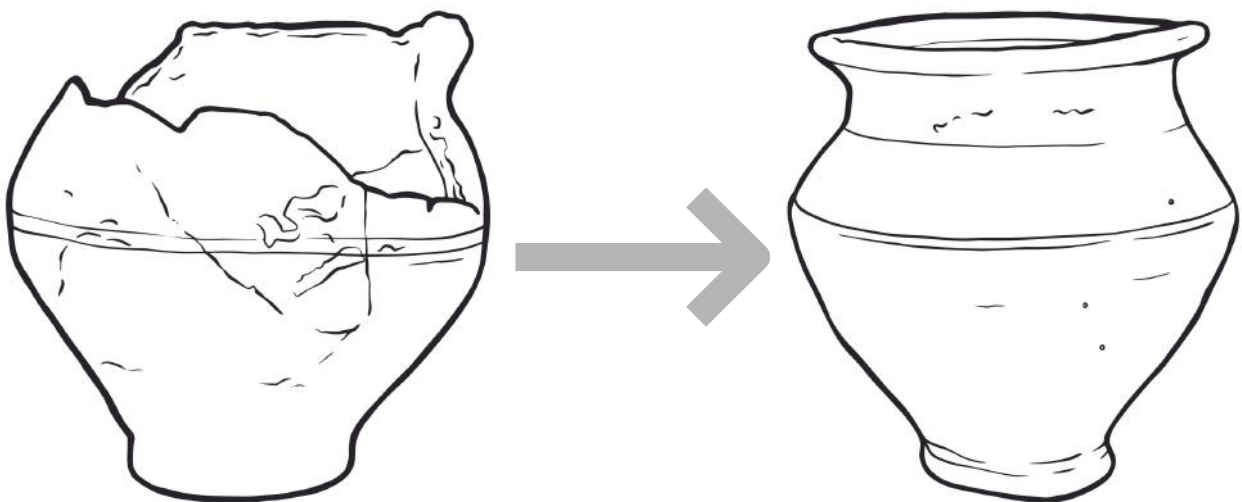
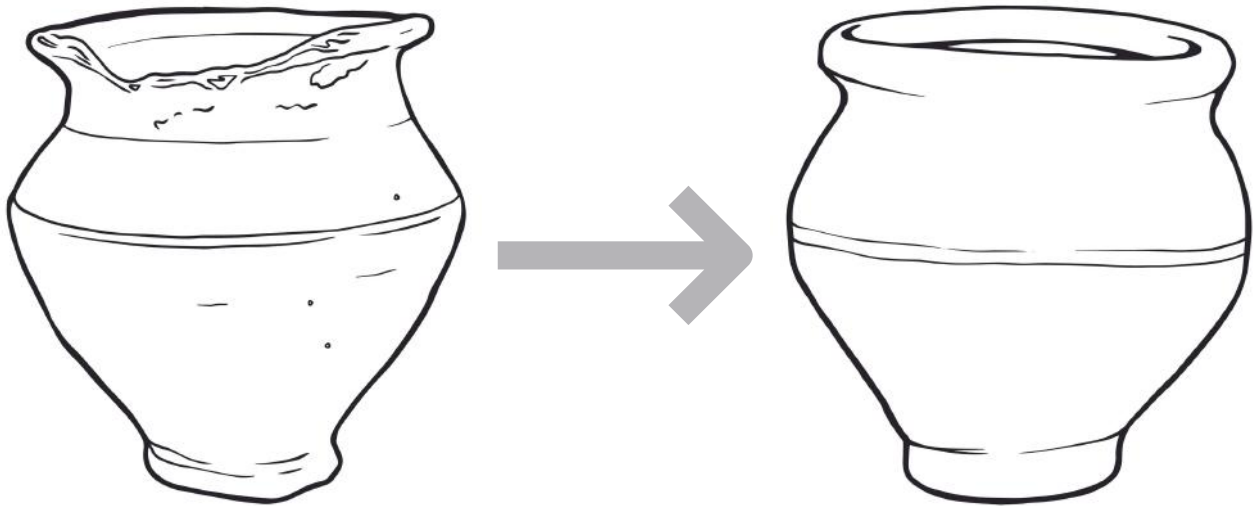
Most of what we know about the Romans in Britain, comes from our investigations into Roman pots and vessels. We can understand how they lived, ate, drank, stored food and understand trade routes. This is because archaeologists can investigate where the vessels were made and then where they were discovered.





- What do you think each of these pots might have carried?
- How might you decorate a Roman pot?
- What do we use in the present day instead?
- Have a think about how you store food, liquid and other objects in your home?
- How is it different to what the Romans used?

These two Roman pots were discovered by archaeologists broken. You can explore their 3D scans and see what they look like now and then look at the drawings below to see what we think they used to look like.



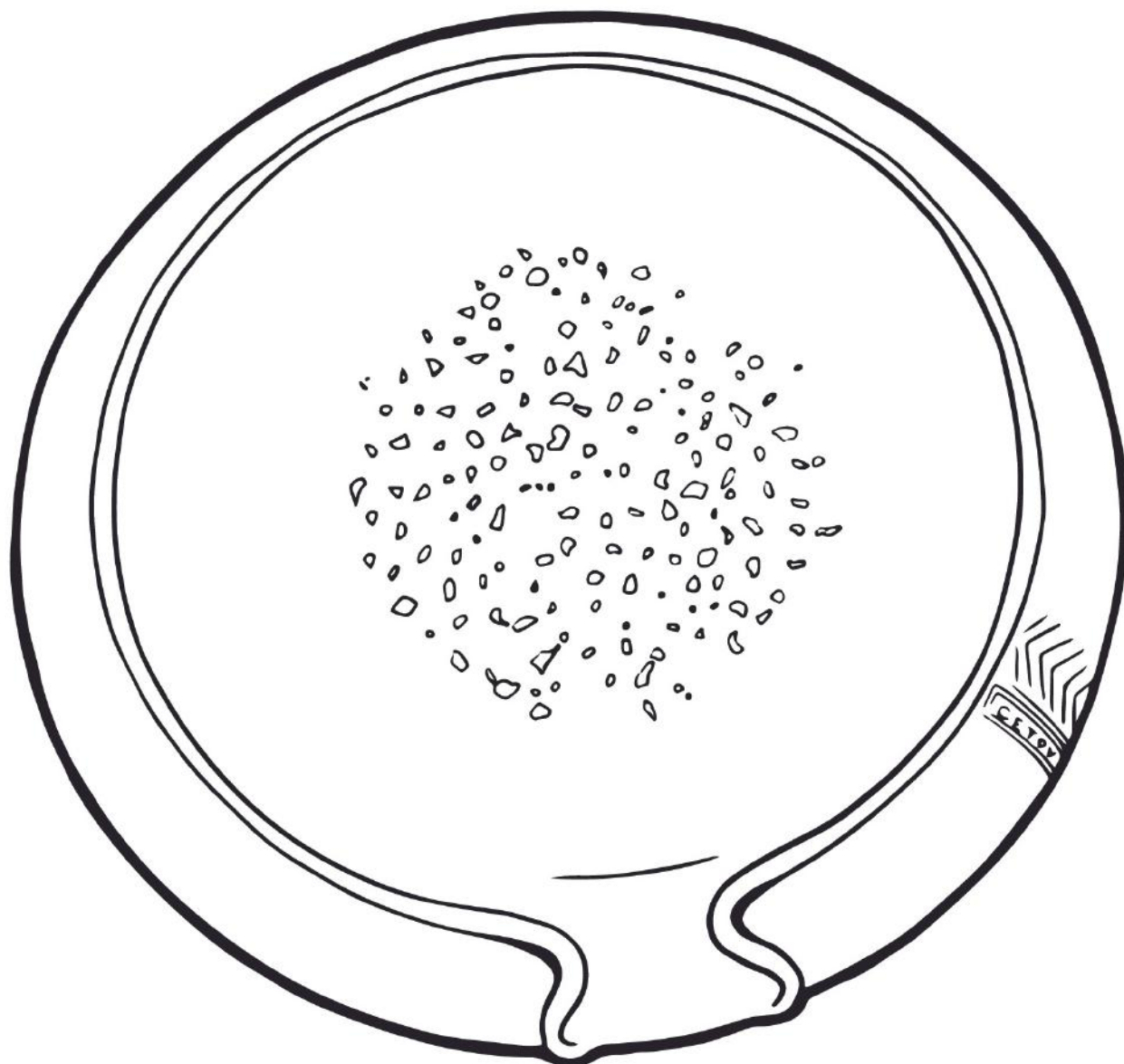
Mortarium

Kilns like these in Oxfordshire mainly produced a specific type of vessel called a mortarium.

This would have been a round bowl with sand or grit embedded into the bottom of it.

This would have been used to mix foods and grind spices easily. This sand might have come from Boars Hill.

Mortarium were only made in the Roman period.



Pouring vessel

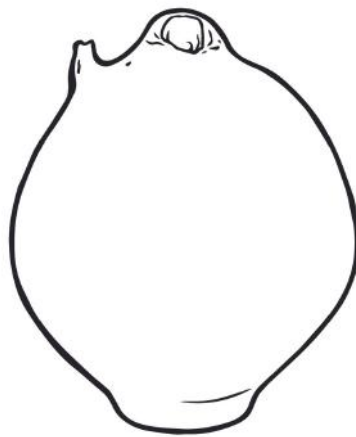
This is a pouring vessel from Roman Britain. It would have been used to store and pour different drinks.

These types of vessels can tell us a lot about what people in Roman Britain used to eat and drink.

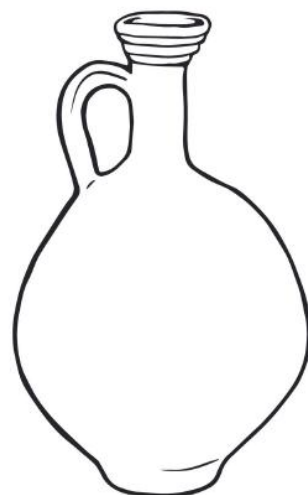
Historians think that people in Roman Britain drank wine and water mainly. They might have added spices (ground up in a mortarium) or honey to sweeten their wine or they might have drunk wine and water mixed together.

They wouldn't have drunk milk! It was considered uncivilised!

In the scan, you can see what the vessel looks like now broken. Then take a look at the drawing below to see what archaeologists think it would have looked like.



- What would you like to drink from this Roman pouring vessel?
- What are your drinks stored in at home?
- What material are they made from?



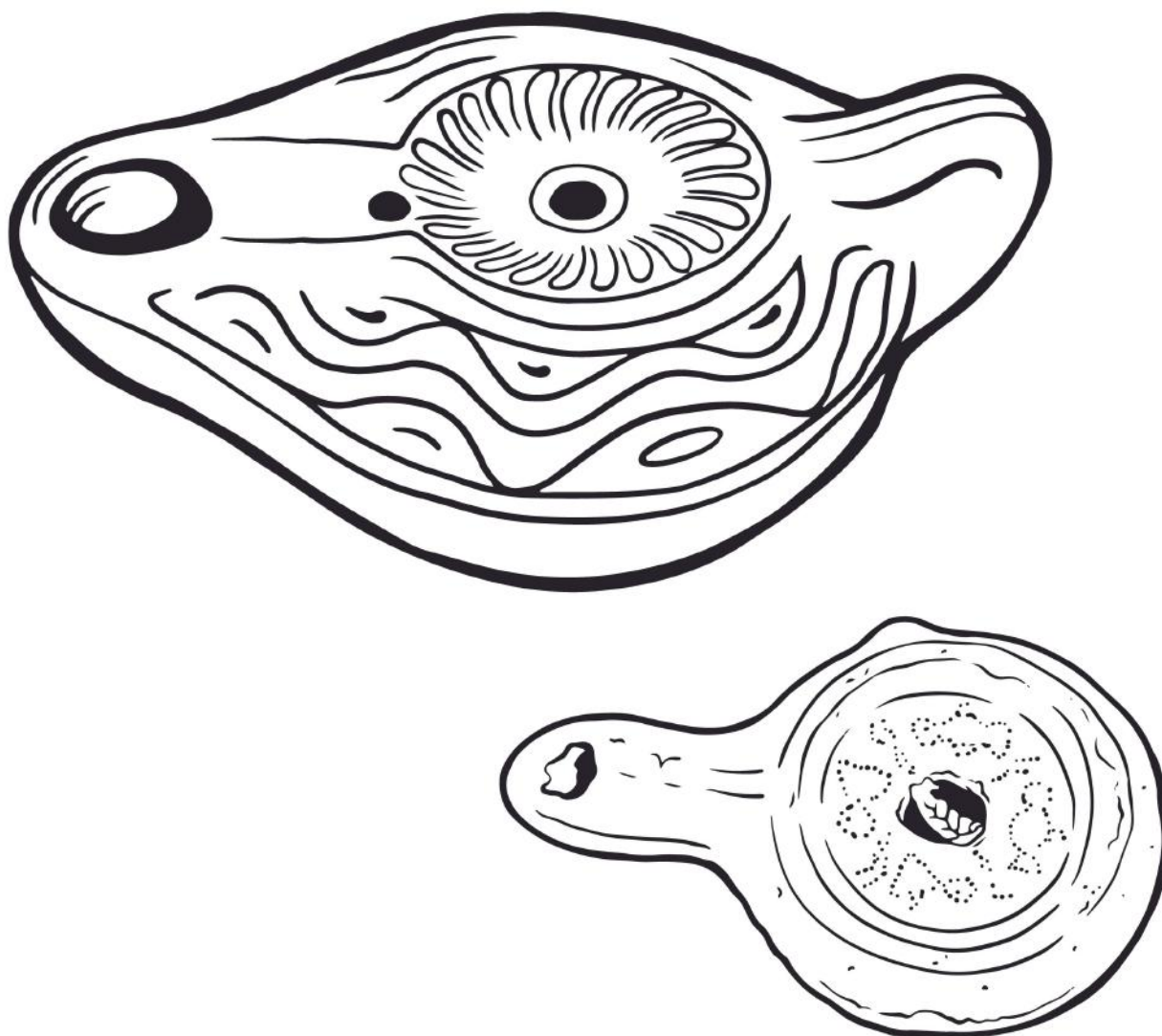
2 oil lamps

These are Roman oil lamps.

They might have been used both indoors and outdoors by different people. Maybe by someone coming home late at night or to provide lighting in the winter nights.

The oil of choice would probably have been olive oil. The wick inside might have been made from linen.

The oil would have been poured inside and the wick would have been placed inside to soak it up. They would have lit the wick making the oil burn and the flame would have come out of the hole in the middle, giving off light.



- What do you use to get light now?
- How easy is it to get this light?

Images

Below you can find all images used in this resource pack.

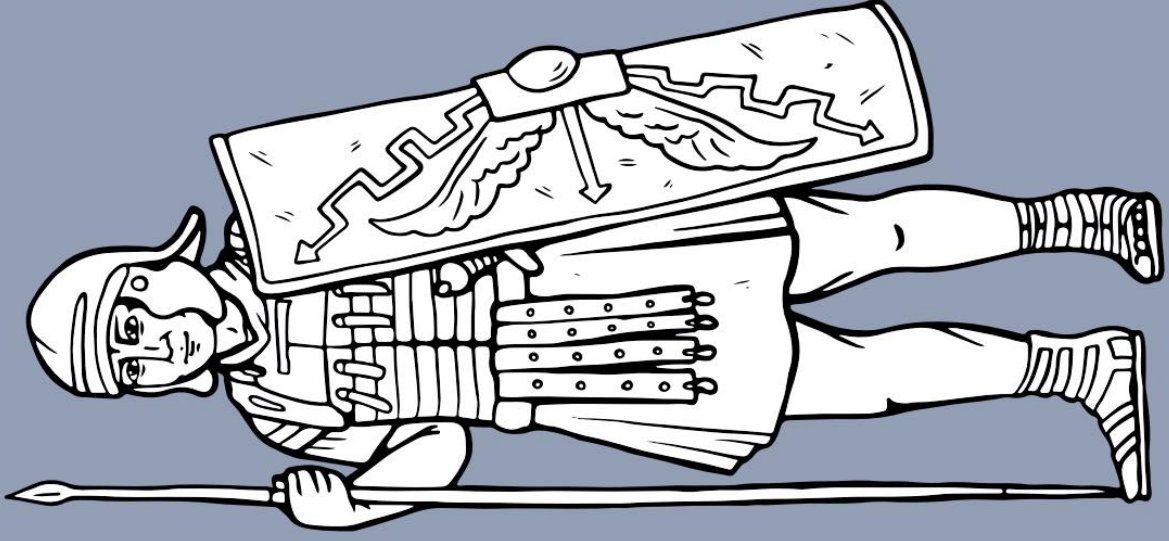


IMAGE 2: SOLDIER

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DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

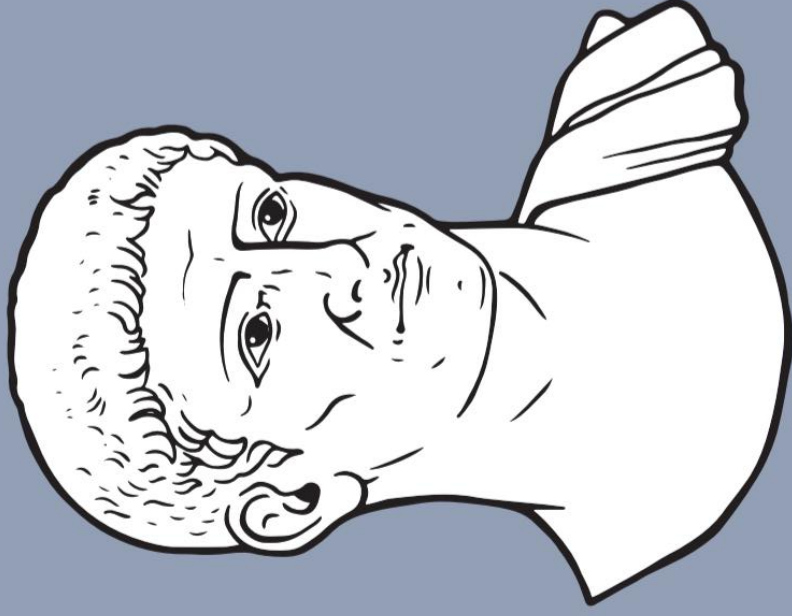


IMAGE 1: EMPEROR CLAUDIUS

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WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

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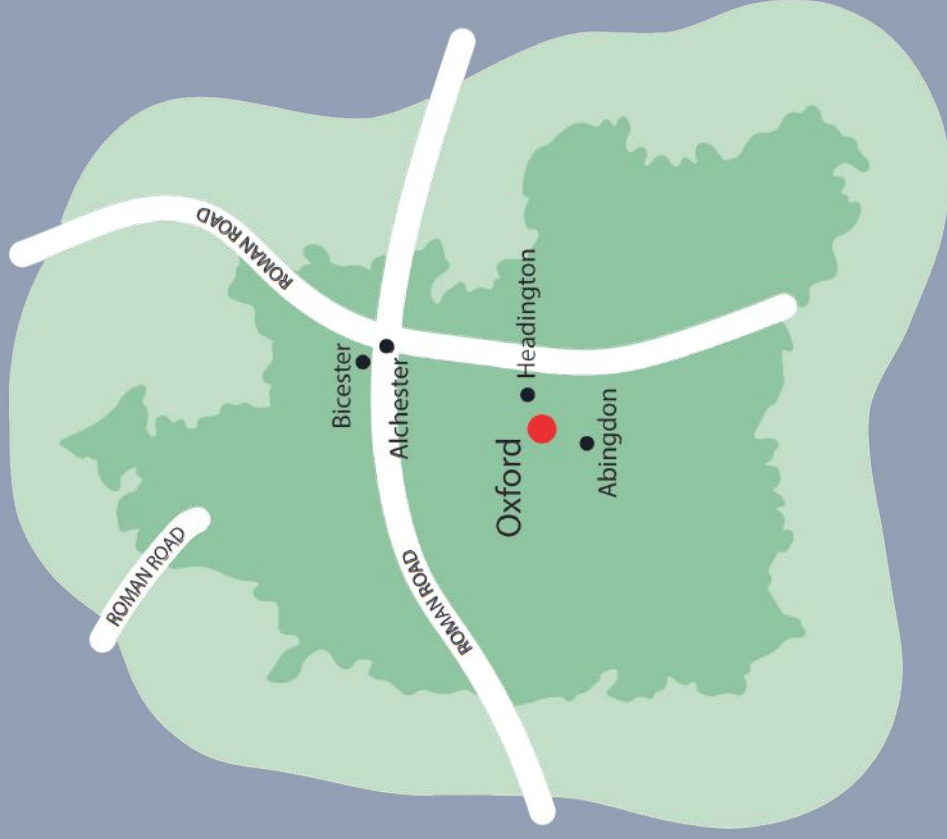
IMAGE 3: CENSUS

DECEMBER

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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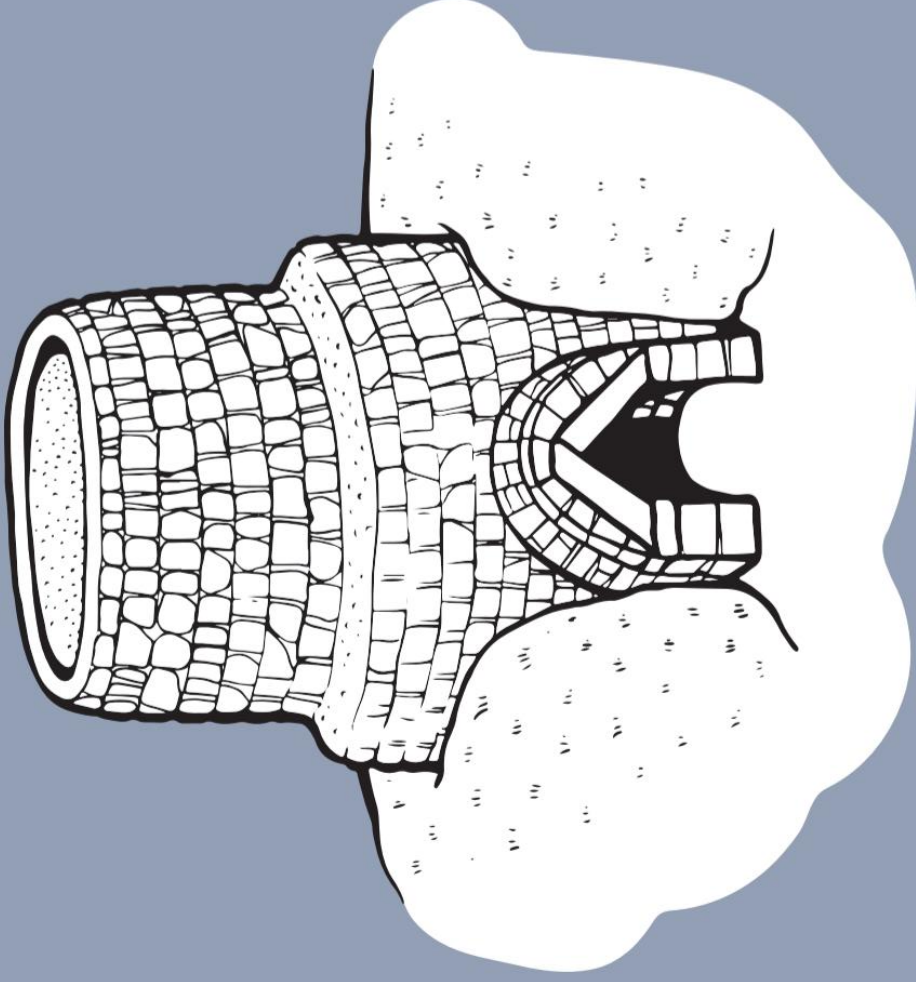
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IMAGE 4: CALENDAR



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IMAGE 5: ROMAN ROADS MAP



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IMAGE 7: ROMAN KILN

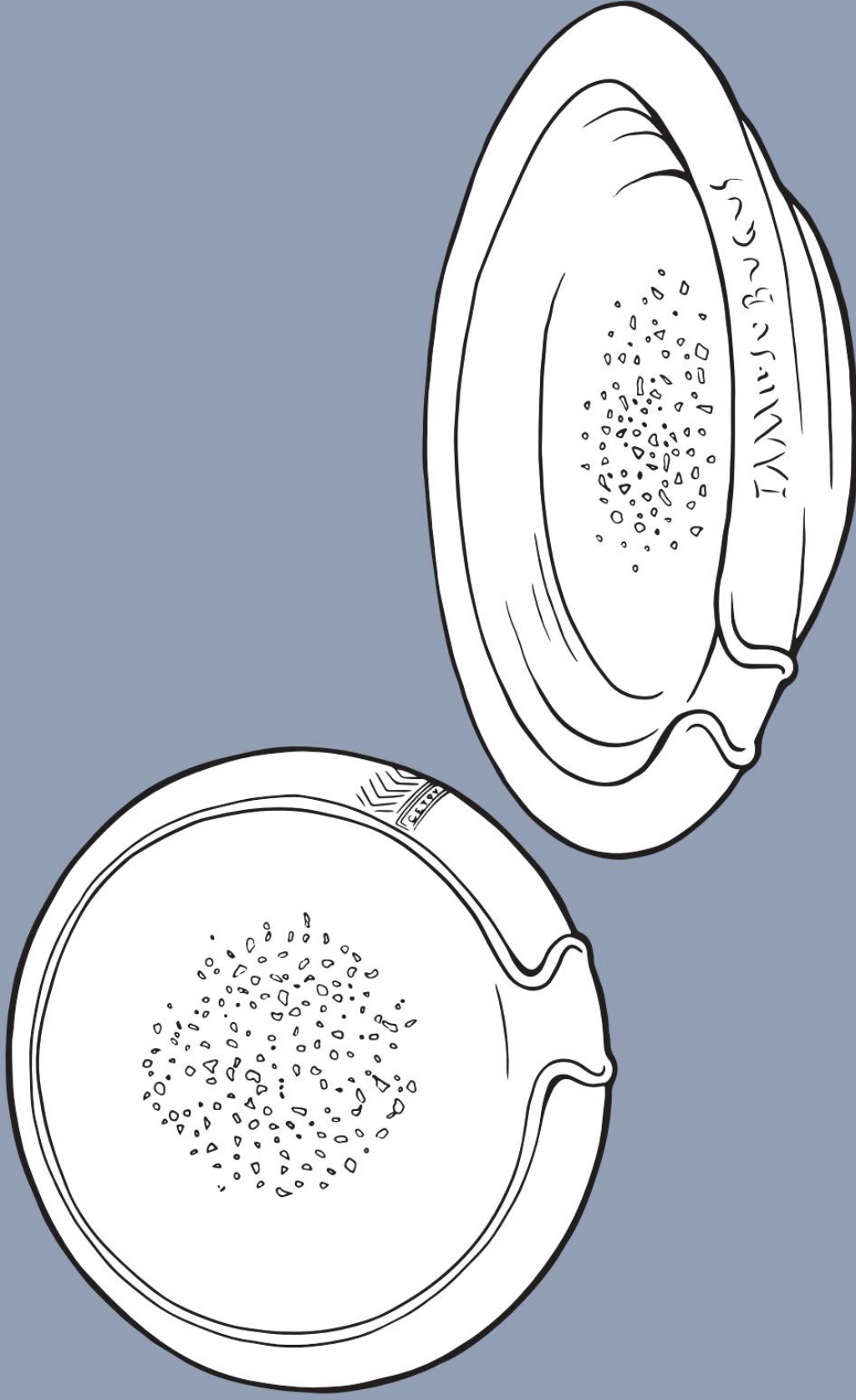


IMAGE 6: MORTARIUM

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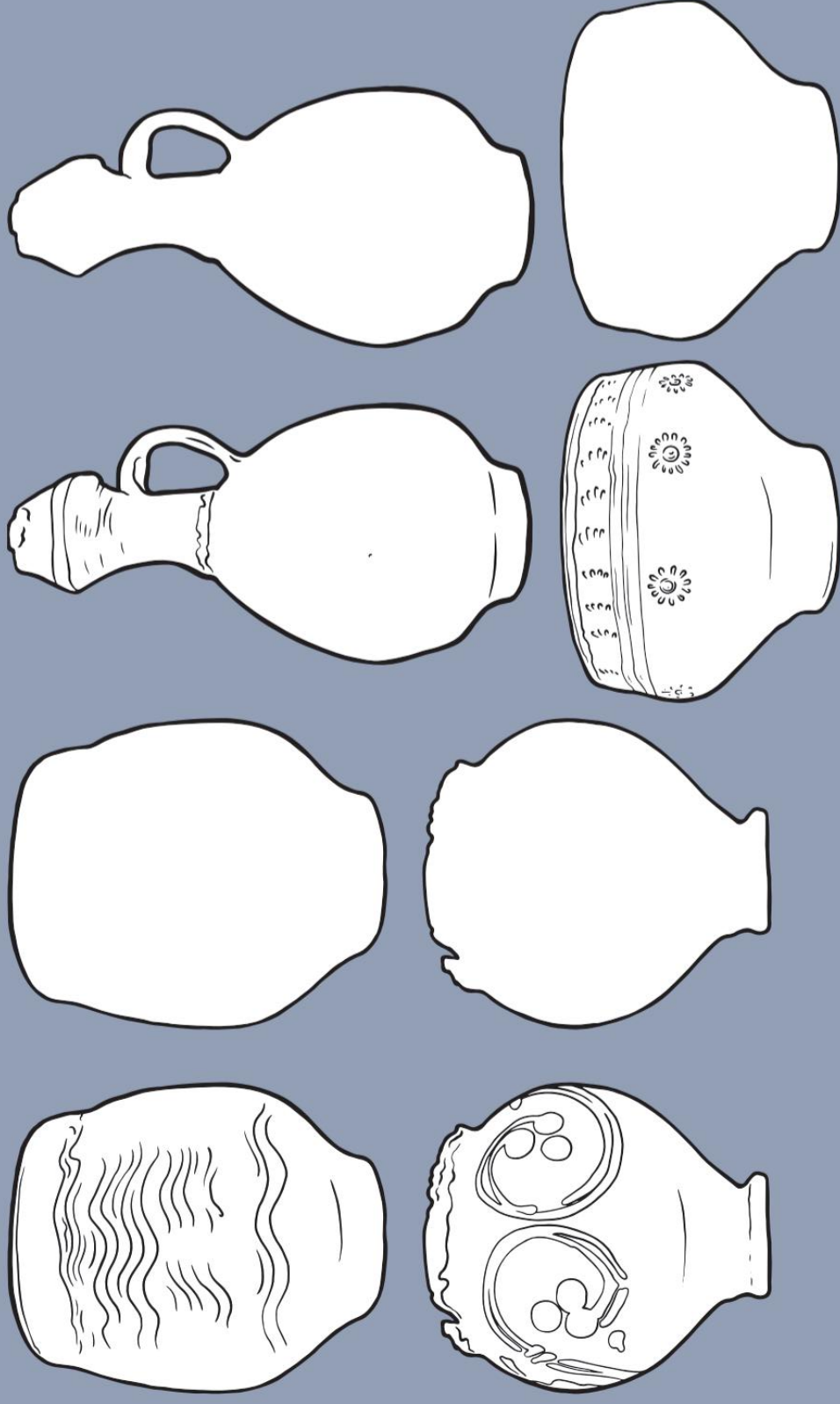
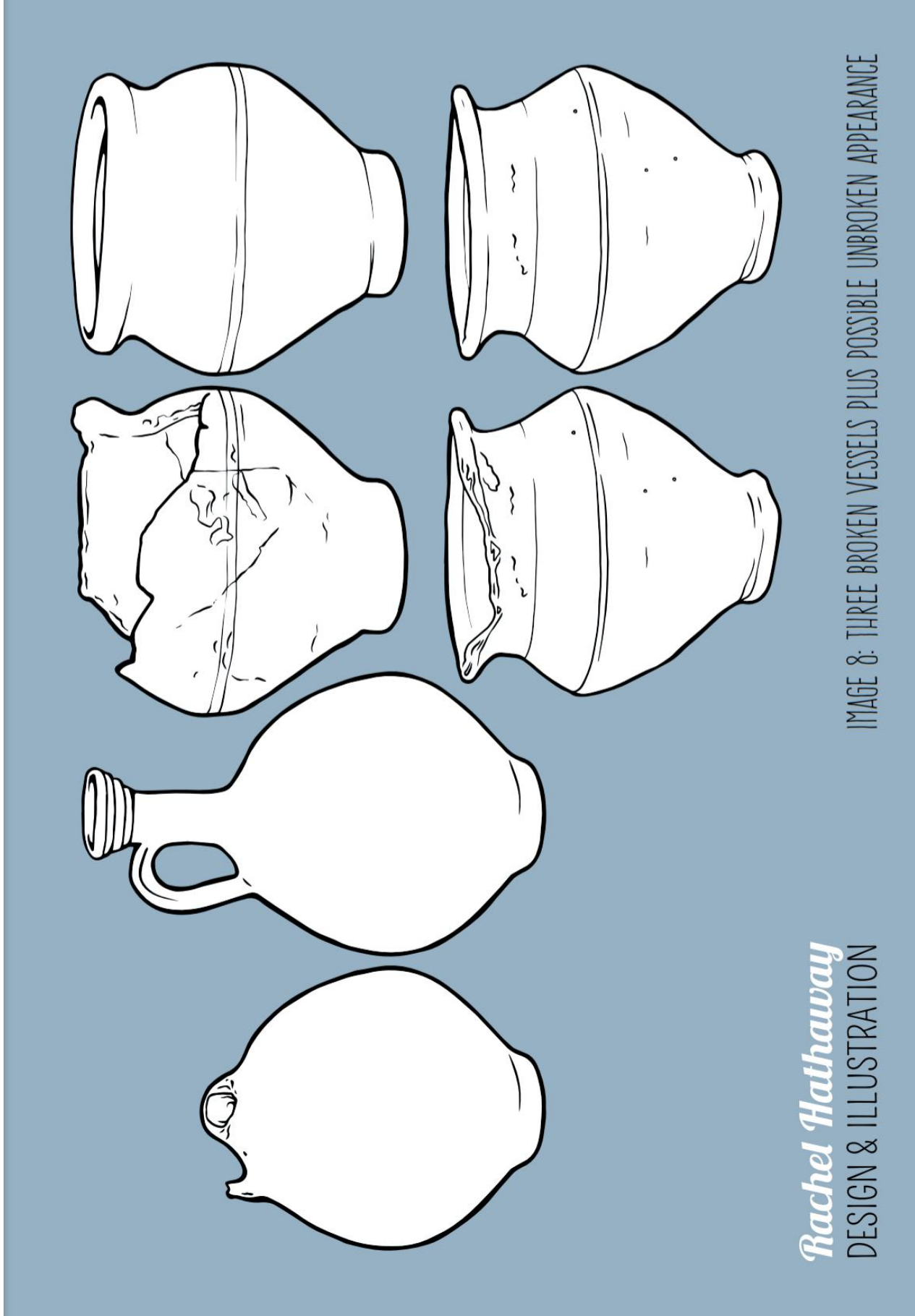


IMAGE 9: VESSELS WITH AND WITHOUT PATTERN DETAIL

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IMAGE 8: THREE BROKEN VESSELS PLUS POSSIBLE UNBROKEN APPEARANCE

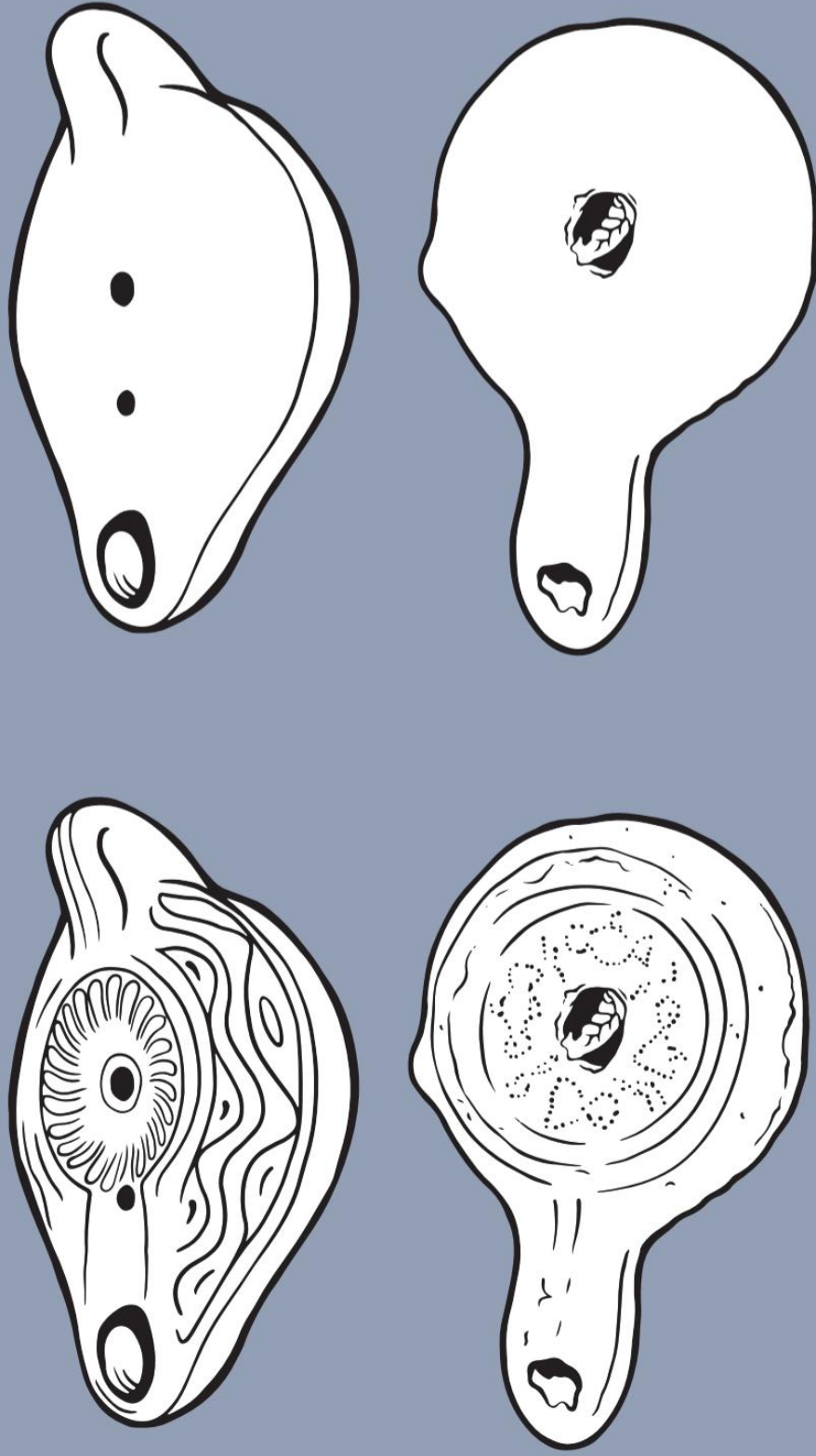


IMAGE 9 (CONTINUED): ROMAN LAMPS WITH AND WITHOUT PATTERN DETAIL

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