

Primary History: Romans

Extension Activity - Families and Children

What were Roman homes like?

- What was a Roman party or banquet like?
- Did they use knives and forks?
- How was food cooked in a Roman kitchen?
- What was the Romans' favourite sauce?

We know about some Roman food from Roman cookery books. Two (one on sauces, one on food in general) were written by a man called Apicius. Some of his recipes (roast chicken, cucumber salad, for instance) sound quite modern. Others sound rather odd. Would you like to eat calves' brains with roses? **Make up your own menu for a Roman birthday party.**

Many Roman families had slaves. A slave could be bought or sold like a sheep or a clay pot. They were never paid for their work, and sometimes beaten by cruel owners. However some slaves were treated well. Some were freed by their owners. Slave women might marry rich men, and become rich themselves. **Find out about slaves in Roman times.** Who do you think would end up as a slave?

- Many slaves were criminals. They were punished by being made slaves. Was this better or worse than going to prison?
- Could the Roman Empire have existed without slaves?

Discuss the answers to these questions with the rest of your class. Do you all agree with each other?

Imagine your library full of scrolls instead of books. Here's how you can make a scroll:

You will need:

A roll of sticky tape

A large sheet of paper, or several sheets taped together into a strip

Two wooden spoons, or thin cardboard tubes (from inside foil wraps)

1. First write something on your scroll!
 2. Stick one edge of the sheet of paper to the handle of a wooden spoon, using sticky tape. Then do the same with the opposite end, sticking it to the other spoon.
 3. Starting at one end, roll the paper around one spoon.
 4. To read the scroll, hold one spoon in each hand. Twist the spoons to unwind the scroll.
- Do you think scrolls are easier to read than books? Do scrolls take up more space than books? Are they easier to look after?