

# Primary History: Romans

## Extension Activity - Technology

The Romans were interested in science and medicine. Some people made maps of the world and other scientists studied plants, animals and natural things like volcanoes. A writer called Pliny the Younger described the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius that destroyed the Italian seaside town of Pompeii in AD 79.

Find out more about some of the amazing inventions the Romans created. Things like public baths, aqueducts, un roofs on theatres and domes... Describe your favourite inventions in a book of 'Roman Science and Technology'

An arch is much stronger than a rectangular opening in a wall with a straight stone across it (like a doorway). The most important stone in an arch is at the top in the middle. It is called the 'keystone'. If the keystone slips, the arch falls down. Find some examples of modern arches to draw. You could try building your own arch.

When the Romans left Britain in the 400s AD, the Roman towns began to empty of people. New settlers came, the Anglo-Saxons, and they lived in villages, not towns. The Anglo-Saxons were amazed to see such big stone buildings. They imagined giants or gods must have built them. An Anglo-Saxon poem called 'The Ruin' is all about an abandoned Roman town.

Find out about Roman ruins near you. Are they just grassy bumps in a field? Or can you see the ruined walls of buildings, or even the remains of mosaic floors, hypocausts and drains? Use the evidence of the ruins to find out what sort of buildings they were, how they were built and what they were made of.