

TOPIC PACKS · YEAR 3-4 / GRADE 2-4

Topic Immersion Week: The Romans

5-day Y3-4 collapsed timetable

About this pack

An immersion week is when the normal timetable is collapsed for one whole week so the class can immerse in a single topic. It is NOT a normal week with 'Romans' worksheets in the gaps — it is a transformed week: classroom decorated, costume optional, all subjects connected, an end-of-week event. The Romans are a popular Y3-4 history unit (NC: 'The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain'). This pack provides a ready-to-deliver 5-day plan. You can use it as a kick-off for the half-term unit, OR as a consolidation week at the end. PLAN AHEAD: Some materials need a day or two to source. The end-of-week banquet works best if children dress as Romans on Friday — a parent letter the week before is included.

The 5-day plan at a glance

Day	Theme	Highlights
Mon	Welcome to Rome (history + geography)	Hook: 'A Roman messenger arrives'. Map of empire. Why Rome mattered.
Tue	Roman writing day (English)	Latin alphabet, scroll-making, news report from a Roman messenger's POV
Wed	Roman maths and engineering (maths)	Roman numerals, aqueduct calculations, building a model arch
Thu	Roman art and culture day (art)	Mosaics, helmet-making, design a shield, Roman recipes



Day	Theme	Highlights
Fri	Banquet day (everything)	Costume day. Dressed-up Roman feast. Children present what they've learned.

MONDAY — Welcome to Rome

BEFORE: Decorate the classroom. Roman columns on the door (cardboard). 'SPQR' banners. Latin numerals on the board. Music: traditional Roman/early-music playlist on quietly as children arrive. 9:00 — **HOOK** (15 mins) The teacher arrives 'in role' as a Roman messenger (or shows a video / has the headteacher knock on the door). 'I bring news from Rome — tomorrow you become Romans for one week.' 9:15 — **Why Rome?** (45 mins) Who were the Romans? When did they live? Why are they remembered? Class discussion + key vocab on the board: empire, senate, citizen, legion, gladiator, emperor. 10:30 — **BREAK** 11:00 — **Map of the Empire** (60 mins) Project a map of the Roman Empire at its largest. Children work in pairs to mark on a printed copy: Rome, Britannia, Gaul, Hispania, Egypt, North Africa, the Mediterranean. Discuss: how did they rule so much land? How long did it take messages to travel? 12:00 — **LUNCH** 13:00 — **How did the Romans live?** (60 mins) Introduce daily life through 4 stations: • Rich Roman family • Roman soldier • Roman slave • Roman child Children rotate through (15 min each). Each station has 3 facts and 1 artefact-style image. Children take notes for tomorrow's writing. 14:00 — **End-of-day reflection** (15 mins) 3 things you've learned. Tomorrow we **BECOME** Romans.

TUESDAY — Roman Writing Day

9:00 — **The Latin alphabet** (30 mins) Display Latin alphabet (no J, U, W). Teach how to write Latin-style with serifs. Children write their name in Roman style — capitals, square serifs. 9:30 — **Make a scroll** (45 mins) Using brown paper, tea-stained for effect (do this Monday afternoon if possible). Children prepare their scroll with margins. 10:30 — **BREAK** 11:00 — **News from the messenger** (90 mins) Writing task: 'You are a Roman messenger reporting back to Rome about Britannia. Describe what you have seen.' Learning objectives: descriptive writing, fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases (NC Y3-4). Writing goes **ON THE SCROLL**. Best handwriting. 12:30 — **LUNCH** 13:30 — **Performance reading** (60 mins) In groups of 4-5, children share their messenger reports as if delivering them to Caesar. Children take 'Caesar' role in turn — listening, asking one question. 14:30 — **Display gallery** (45 mins) Scrolls displayed around the room. Gallery walk — children leave one positive sticky note on each other's scroll. 15:15 — **Reflection**.

WEDNESDAY — Roman Maths and Engineering



9:00 — Roman numerals (60 mins) Recap: I, V, X, L, C, D, M. Children work through: • Read these numerals: VII, XIV, XL, XC, MMXXVI • Convert these numbers to Roman: 9, 23, 44, 99, current year • What's the largest number you can make using each numeral once? 10:00 — BREAK 10:30 — Aqueduct maths (60 mins) Introduction to aqueducts (5 mins) — they brought water to cities, sometimes from 50+ miles away. • Maths task: an aqueduct drops 1m every 100m of length. Over 50km, how much does it drop? (500m) • If a city of 1000 people each uses 100 litres of water per day, how much water does the aqueduct need to deliver per day? (100,000 litres) • Multi-step problems calibrated to ability level. 11:30 — Roman engineering (45 mins) Introduce the arch — Romans' key engineering innovation. Why is an arch strong? 12:15 — LUNCH 13:15 — Build a model arch (75 mins) In pairs, children build a Roman arch using sugar cubes (or play-doh balls or similar) over a paper tube as scaffolding. Remove the tube. Does the arch stand? Discussion: which arches stood, which fell? Why? 14:30 — Reflection (15 mins) What made the Romans good engineers? What can we still see today? (Roads, walls, baths, a few aqueducts.)

THURSDAY — Roman Art and Culture

9:00 — Mosaics (90 mins) Look at examples of real Roman mosaics. Discuss: tesserae (the small tiles), patterns, animals, geometric borders. Children design their own mosaic using small squares of coloured paper or printable mosaic templates. KS1 do simple geometric. Y3 do animal/object. Y4 attempt borders + central image. 10:30 — BREAK 11:00 — Roman shield design (60 mins) Introduce the scutum (curved Roman shield). Children design their own shield: family crest, a Roman-style symbol (eagle, wolf, sun, lightning), motto in Latin-style capitals. 12:00 — LUNCH 13:00 — Roman helmets (60 mins) Using card and paper, children construct simple Roman-style helmets (galea). Crest along the top — red strips of paper or card. Adult-supervised cutting. 14:00 — Roman recipes (45 mins) With parent helpers if possible. Children make simple Roman snacks: • Honey-and-nut cakes (no-bake) • Bread with olive oil dipping • Stuffed dates What was different about Roman food vs ours? (No tomatoes, no potatoes, no chocolate.) 14:45 — Costume reminder for Friday Teacher reminds children to wear toga-style outfits tomorrow (white sheet over t-shirt, belted).

FRIDAY — Banquet Day

Children arrive in costume. Classroom decorated for a feast. 9:00 — Final preparations (60 mins) • Children prepare their final piece: a 1-minute presentation of one thing they've learned this week. • Final touches to scrolls, helmets, shields, mosaics. • Set up the room as a Roman banquet — long tables, food platters arranged. 10:00 — BREAK 10:30 — Visit from a 'Roman' (60 mins) Ideally — invite a parent, governor, secondary teacher, or a costumed guest who knows about Romans. They speak in role for 20 minutes, then take questions. 11:30 — Children's presentations (45 mins) Each child gives their 1-minute presentation. Audience: each other + invited guests. 12:15 — THE BANQUET (60 mins) Lunch is the Roman feast. Children eat the food they made yesterday + any provisions from home (parent letter sent the week



before). Music. Roman vocabulary used at the table. 13:30 — Gladiator games (45 mins)
NON-VIOLENT. Children compete in: • Roman numeral races (whoever solves theirs fastest) •
Tug-of-war (quintus team vs sextus team) • Aqueduct-building speed challenge 14:30 —
Reflection (30 mins) The full week. What did you love? What was hard? What will you remember
in 5 years? • Each child writes one sentence on a 'memory tile'. Tiles arranged into a class
mosaic on display.

Parent letter template

Adapting / scaling down

