

Teacher Notes

Society and culture

Synopsis

Julia uncovers a wolf mosaic and explains the story of Romulus and Remus, before exploring how people lived in Ancient Rome.

Resources:

Comprehension:

Seven questions testing a variety of skills (retrieval, summarising, etc.) to check and reinforce learning from the animation.

So Many Sources:

Children rank sources in terms of their usefulness for answering certain historical questions, then explain the order they have chosen.

Mosaic Art:

Children create Roman mosaic art. They have the option to complete a mirror image or recreate a mosaic in its entirety from a source image.

Key questions to consider:

How are we able to find out so much about Ancient Rome?

How was life in Ancient Rome similar/different to our lives now?

How was the city of Rome founded?

How did Ancient Rome compare to other ancient cities, and our modern cities?

History curriculum objectives:

- Continue to develop chronologically secure knowledge of history.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- NI: Some of the characteristics of past societies and distinctive features of life in the past.
- NI: How the world has changed over time.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can use appropriate methods to gather information related to my enquiries and I am able to interpret the information obtained in the context of the enquiry question.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can understand the difference between facts, opinions and beliefs, and consider how this may affect the importance and usefulness of evidence.
- SOC 2-01a: I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- Art: To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials.
- Maths (Year 4): Complete a simple symmetric figure with respect to a specific line of symmetry.

Comprehension

Which modern country is Rome the capital city of?

Is the legend of Romulus and Remus likely to be a true story?

Summarise how, in the legend, Romulus went from a lost baby to the founder and sole leader of Rome.

Explain a difference between the two types of home mentioned in the animation (*domus* and *insulae*).

Ancient Rome had lots of things we have in modern cities. Which one most surprised you? Why?

Which Roman entertainment would you have enjoyed the most? Why?

List three things that help historians to understand what life was like in Ancient Rome.



Comprehension

Which modern country is Rome the capital city of?

Italy

Is the legend of Romulus and Remus likely to be a true story?

No

Summarise how, in the legend, Romulus went from a lost baby to the founder and sole leader of Rome.

Various answers, for example: Romulus and his brother Remus were abandoned but fed by a wolf. A shepherd called Faustulus found them and raised them. They founded Rome but then argued and Romulus killed Remus.

Explain a difference between the two types of home mentioned in the animation (*domus* and *insulae*).

Various answers, for example: A *domus* was spacious and occupied by one wealthy family, whereas *insulae* were housing blocks occupied by many poorer families in smaller rooms.

Ancient Rome had lots of things we have in modern cities. Which one most surprised you? Why?

Various answers, for example: I was most surprised that they had sewers, because lots of people and places did not have them for hundreds of years after the Romans had disappeared. I thought they were a modern invention.

Which Roman entertainment would you have enjoyed the most? Why?

Various answers, for example: Chariot races at the Circus Maximus, because it sounds exciting but not too scary and I would like to hear 200,000 people cheering all around me.

List three things that help historians to understand what life was like in Ancient Rome.

Any three of the following: The writings of Roman scholars / Items archaeologists have found / Roman buildings that remain today / Mosaics



So Many Sources



"There are so many sources we can use to find the answers to questions about Roman history. Some are more useful than others. Some are more reliable. For each research idea below, put its three sources in order from least to most useful and explain your choices. Your teacher may want you to do this alone or as part of a group."

1. You want to find out about the Roman army at the time of Julius Caesar. Here are three sources you could use:

Polybius's *Histories*

Books written a hundred or more years before Caesar. Detailed, likely accurate descriptions of the Roman army, its weapons and tactics.

Caesar's *Commentarii*

Books written by Julius Caesar about his wars in Gaul, at a time when it was important that he and his army seemed powerful.

Artefacts

Weapons, bones and other artefacts dug up from a Roman fort in Britain. Pottery at the site comes from Caesar's time.

Put the sources in order of usefulness and explain your choices.

2. You want to find out how popular gladiator fights were in Roman times. Here are three sources you could use:

Mosaics Mosaics from all over the Roman world showing different gladiator types, their weapons, armour and how contests were fought.	Ruins Arenas discovered in hundreds of Roman towns. The Colosseum in Rome is the largest and would have seated 50,000 people.	Pompeii graffiti Opinions, adverts and fighting records of gladiators written by normal people on walls in the city of Pompeii. Well-preserved.
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Put the sources in order of usefulness and explain your choices.

3. You want to find out what life was like for Roman women. Here are three sources you could use:

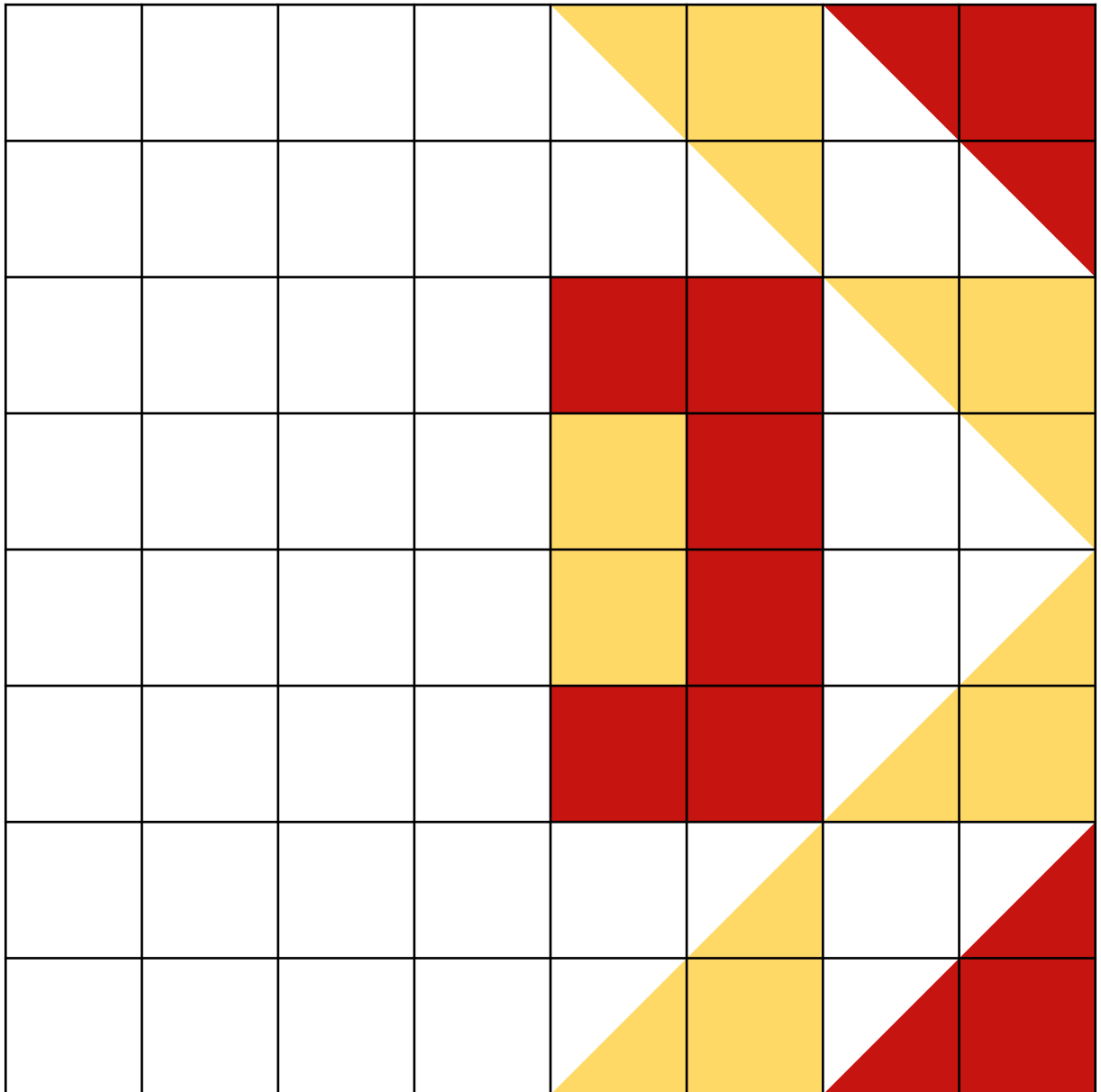
Art Pictures on vases and walls, as well as some statues, showing women in various roles: at home, at work, and with their families.	Tombstones Tombstones with messages praising mothers, wives, sisters and daughters for their good values and character.	Literature Poems and books written by men, often describing ideal women or women they saw as 'bad'. Some of the women were real; others were made up.
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Put the sources in order of usefulness and explain your choices.

Mosaic Art



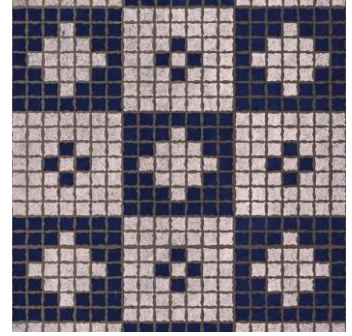
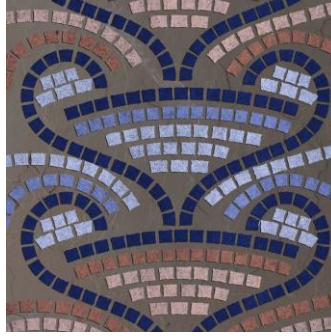
"The Romans often made mosaics showing scenes from myths, events and everyday life, but they also made beautiful patterns. Complete the mirror image of the pattern below. You can cut out pieces of coloured paper and stick them down to finish the pattern, or draw the tiles and colour them in."



Mosaic Art



"The Romans loved a mosaic! They have been found on walls and floors across the Roman Empire. Below are some examples of beautiful mosaics the Romans made. Recreate one of them, either by cutting out pieces of coloured paper and sticking them down, or drawing the tiles and colouring them in."



A large dashed rectangular box intended for students to recreate a mosaic.