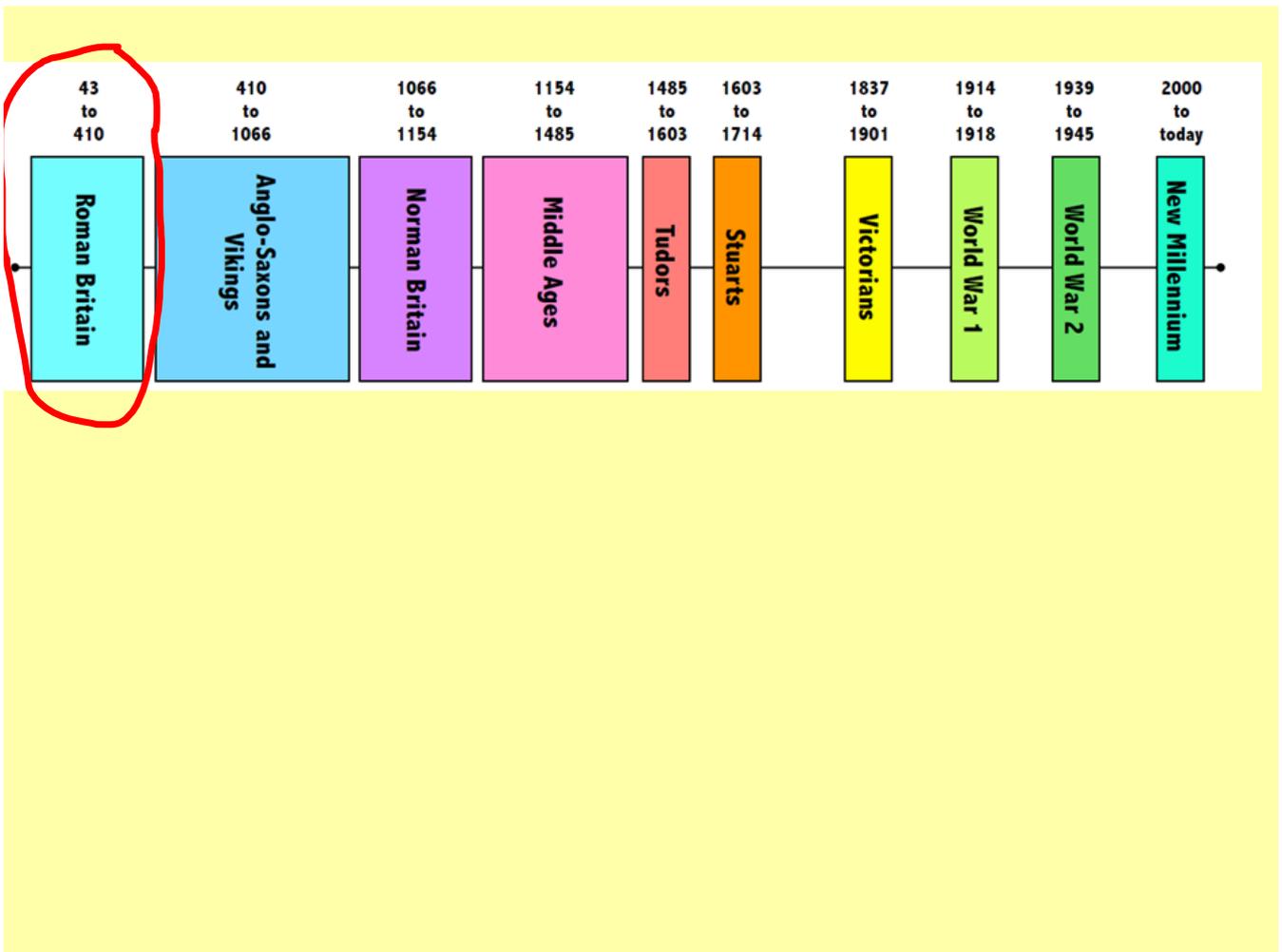


L.O I can explore crime and punishment in the Roman period





### Who founded Rome?

According to the Roman legend, **Romulus** was the founder of Rome. Romulus and his twin brother Remus were the sons of the God Mars. When they were very young they were abandoned by the banks of the River Tiber and left to fend for themselves. Luckily for them they were found by a she-wolf who took pity on them and fed them with her milk.

The boys were later found by a shepherd who raised them. The boys grew up to be very strong and clever and they decided to build a town on the spot where the Shepherd had found them. They named their town Rome.



When did the Romans invade Britain?

**First invasion - Caesar's first raid**

In August 55 B.C. (55 years before Jesus was born) the Roman general, **Emperor Julius Caesar** invaded Britain. He took with him two Roman legions. After winning several battles against the Celtic tribes (Britons) in south-east England he returned to France.



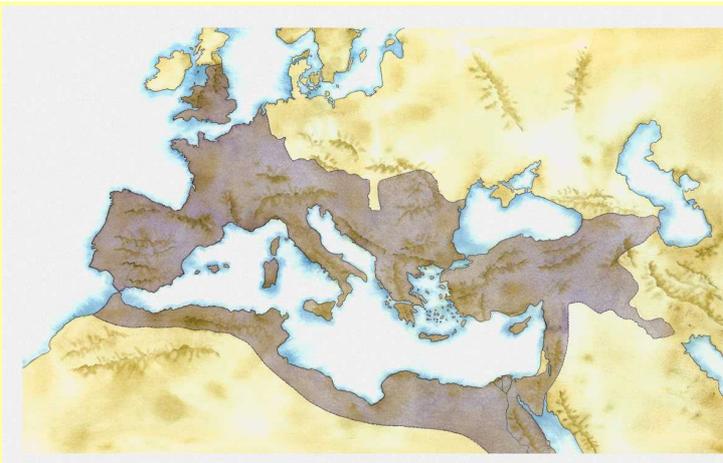
**Second invasion - Caesar's second raid**

The following summer (in 54 B.C.) Caesar came to Britain again landing at Walmer near Deal in Kent. This time he brought with him no fewer than five legions (30,000 foot soldiers) and 2,000 cavalrymen (horse riders). This time the Romans crossed the River Thames. After more fighting, the British tribes promised to pay tribute to Rome and were then left in peace for nearly a century.



**Third and final invasion**

Nearly one hundred years later, in 43 A.D. (43 years after Jesus was born), **Emperor Claudius** organised the final and successful Roman invasion of Britain. General Aulus Plautius led four legions with 25,000 men, plus an equal number of auxiliary soldiers. They crossed the Channel in three divisions, landing at Richborough, Dover, and Lympne.



- > At its height, under Emperor Trajan in 117AD, Rome ruled more than 45 million people in countries across Europe, North Africa and Asia.
- > Its army was the most powerful in the world. As it conquered more countries, the city of Rome grew from a town into an enormous capital.

What is the legacy of the Romans  
in our country today?

<https://vimeo.com/228623158>

## Hadrian's Wall



The Romans gave us

## What is still in our world today?

### > **Language**

The language we used today was developed from the Romans. The Romans spoke and wrote in Latin and many of our words are based on Latin words.

### > **The Calendar**

Did you know that the calendar we use today is more than 2,000 years old? It was started by Julius Caesar, a Roman ruler. It is based on the movement of the earth around the sun, and so is called the 'solar calendar.' The solar calendar has 365 days a year, and 366 days every leap year, or every fourth year. The names of our months are taken from the names of Roman gods and rulers. The month 'July,' in fact, is named after Julius Caesar himself!

### > **Laws and a legal system**

The laws and ways we determine what to do with someone who is accused of breaking a law came originally from the Roman Empire.

### > **The Census**

The Roman Empire was huge and included millions of people living over a large area. How did they keep track of all these people? Easy! They counted them! The Roman Empire began the practice of taking a census, or a 'count,' of all the people within its boundaries every so often. Today, many countries like ours take a census every 10 years.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/ztqg4wx>



## What was life in Rome like?

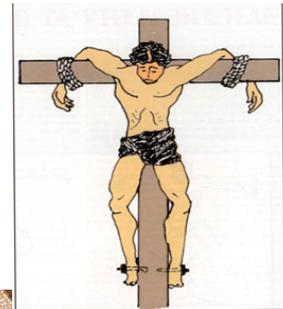
- With over one million people living there, Rome was a dirty and dangerous place, with a maze of side-streets and slums.
- They had many of the same crimes that we have today, such as murder and theft.
- The Roman Empire had many slaves, as well as citizens who were free men and women. They were often treated differently if they broke the law.



By the time the Romans reached Britain, they already had a very detailed legal process. Citizens were covered by Roman law, whilst non-citizens (most of the population) were covered by local law.

The Romans had laws to cover every possible crime, from assassinating the Emperor to polluting the streets.

In groups, look at the pictures. What can we learn about punishment in Roman times?



- There was no police force in Roman times but they did have a group called the Vigiles. There were about 7000 Vigiles, who dealt with criminals like thieves and runaway slaves. They also acted as the fire brigade and put out fires!
- If the Vigiles couldn't deal with some crimes, such as riots (angry groups of people), then they would call in Roman guards to help.



- If there was ever a risk to the Emperor, his special protectors, the Praetorian Guard, would be called in.
- The Roman God of Justice was called Justitia and she holds the scales of justice - *where did we see her last lesson?*

The Romans believed that if you punished crimes harshly, people would be deterred from committing crimes in the first place. However, how you were punished depended on how important you were.

The worst punishment in Roman law was crucifixion. This involved being nailed to a cross through your wrists and heels. Crucifixion wasn't just intended to execute someone, but to cause them the maximum pain, humiliation and disgrace.



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- > The Romans designed their punishments to discourage potential criminals.
- > How you were punished depended on who you were and your position in Roman society.
- > Whipping and fines were the most common punishments.
- > Wooden shoes were sometimes placed on the feet of prisoners, making escape difficult.
- > A slave could be forced to carry a piece of wood around their neck that stated their crime.
- > For very serious crimes you could be killed by crucifixion, thrown from a cliff, into a river or even buried alive. Crucifixion was saved for serious crimes such as revolts against the empire.
- > Over time Roman punishments became more and more violent.
- > Wearing purple was against the law unless you were super rich!

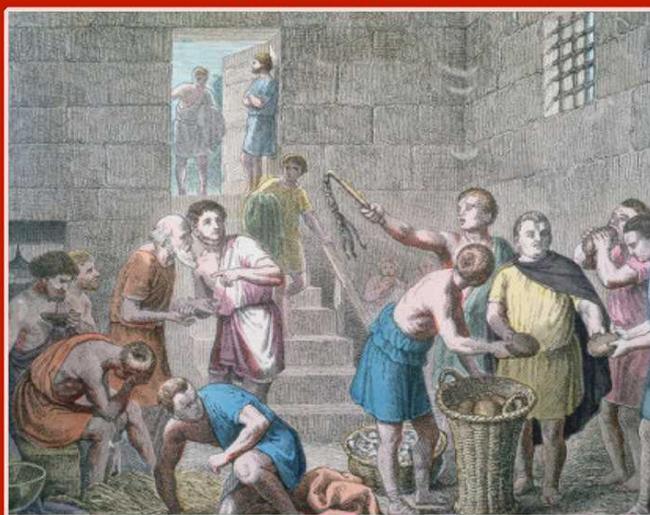
For crimes like burglary, citizens were expected to catch the criminal and bring him to the magistrate. A judge would then decide the case. For more serious crimes, a jury would decide if someone was guilty or not.



Under Roman law, any citizen could bring a case to court. Just like today, the defendant was innocent until proven guilty and they were allowed to present evidence in their defence.

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Prison was not used as a punishment in Roman times. They were simply used to hold those awaiting trial or execution.



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Can you guess which punishment Romans would have given for each of these crimes?

## Stealing from a temple

A fine

Sold into slavery

Death



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If you were caught stealing from a temple, you were sentenced to death. Now try this one...



## Refusing to worship the Emperor as a god

Being shot at with arrows

Being thrown down a well

Execution in the Colosseum

If you refused to worship the Emperor as a god, you were executed in the Colosseum. What do you think the punishment for this crime was?



Selling bread that was  
underweight

Being whipped

Being tickled

Being crucified



If you sold underweight bread, you were whipped. Did you get that right? Try this last one...



## Committing patricide (killing your father)

Being branded with hot coals

Being tied in a sack of snakes and being thrown in the river to drown

Being burned at the stake



Because there were no police in Roman times, lots of criminals got away without being punished. People asked their friends to help them catch criminals to take them to trial. However, if this wasn't possible they would ask the gods for help.



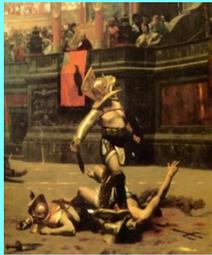
This picture shows the remains of a Roman curse tablet. People would write the name of the person who committed the crime on the tablet, then describe what they wanted the gods to do to them to punish them for their crime.

I curse Tretia Maria and her life and mind and memory and liver and lungs mixed up together, and her words, thoughts and memory; thus may she be unable to speak what things are concealed [...]

Read the translation under the picture...



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## Situation Task

Can you decide the punishment for the crime?



 Activity Sheet Roman Crime and Punishment Poster - BW.pdf

 Activity Sheet Roman Crime and Punishment Poster.pdf

## Roman Story board

Choose one of the crimes and  
create a storyboard with  
illustrations.

 Crime and Punishment Work2.pdf

## Attachments

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Activity Sheet Roman Crime and Punishment Poster - BW.pdf

Activity Sheet Roman Crime and Punishment Poster.pdf

Crime and Punishment Work2.pdf