

## Information for Teachers

# Building the Roman Empire

### KS2 Session at Flag Fen



**Our Building the Roman Empire session covers three elements of a successful Roman Empire; citizenship, industrialisation and strong military tactics. But will Boudica spoil the plans for expansion?**

Flag Fen is recognised as the finest Bronze Age archaeological site in northern Europe. The Fen Causeway, a Roman Road, runs through the site. The road proved a strategic route leading up to the uprising against the Roman Empire in 60AD.

The 'Building the Roman Empire' day explores the significant elements needed to build the Roman Empire and celebrates the role of Archaeology as a way of finding out about the past and understanding a different way of life. With the combination of Living History, meeting characters from the past, children will be also be considering the impact of the rise of the Roman Empire on local people.

A short timeline activity is at the beginning of the day, putting prehistory, the Roman period and modern times into context.

### It's 60 AD...



#### Meet a Roman:

Pupils will meet the Roman governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, by the original Roman road at that crosses Flag Fen and will hear his account of the story and of the events that led up to this rebellion. More recruits to the Roman army are needed. Pupils will handle real and replica Roman artefacts as the soldier describes what it is like to live in these times and will take part in some essential training drills.

## Meet Boudica:

Pupils will meet Boudica in the roundhouse and will hear her account of the story and how the Roman occupation is impacting on the local community. They will be told of her plans to fight back and that she is after new recruits to the Iceni army. Pupils will handle real and replica Iron Age and Roman artefacts as Boudica describes what it is like to live in these times.

Back at school, why not continue and extend this line of enquiry? Pupils could choose which army they would have joined, stating why. Would their combined decision have been enough to change the course of history?



## Be a Roman detective

Pupils will examine real and replica Roman artefacts. During the enquiry-based activity, they will discover what these objects tell us about the past. Pupils will also develop their understanding of citizenship and how it contributed to a successful Roman Empire through group discussions and analysis of the artefacts. Experiencing this activity is a great way of getting up close to genuine archaeological artefacts and to learn more about what everyday life was like in the past. In their discoveries they will learn how to interpret evidence, make connections and develop their understanding of chronology.

## Be a Roman Potter

Pupils will have hands-on experience at making a replica Roman pot inspired by our Roman pottery collection. They will develop an understanding of how industrialisation, with a particular focus on the pottery industry, contributed to the success of the Roman Empire. Pupils will also learn about the significance of the Roman pottery industry to the local area and what it tells us about Roman life.

**National curriculum links:** History, English, Science, Art.

## Learning objectives:

**Participating in this 'Building The Roman Empire' day, pupils will:**

- Develop a chronological understanding of the changes in Britain from the Iron Age to Roman period.
- Consider the impact of the spread of the Roman Empire in Britain.
- Understand the importance of strong military tactics, citizenship and industrialisation in Building the Roman Empire.
- Learn about Boudica and her role in British resistance.
- Gain historical understanding in relation to how we find out about the past through experimental archaeology and the use of primary sources.
- Understand historical concepts such as significance; continuity and change; cause and consequence and similarity and difference.
- Deduct statements and inferences from evidence.
- Improve mastery in sculpture techniques using clay.



*"Many of the things covered were reinforcements for the learning and activities in the classroom." (Teacher at Holme Court School)*

*"The involvement of the children and practical elements gave a perspective that is difficult to achieve in the classroom" (Teacher at Mareham Primary)*



## Other information:

<b>Duration:</b>	Full day: 10 am–2 pm.
<b>Cost:</b>	£270.38 + VAT per group of 26- 35 pupils £241.50 + VAT per group of 21-25 pupils £216.30 + VAT per group of up to 20 pupils This cost includes supporting adults and a pre-visit.
<b>Maximum group size:</b>	Maximum number per group is 35 and the site can accommodate up to four groups at any one time.
<b>Recommended ratio:</b>	Minimum 1 adult to 10 students.
<b>What to bring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A box or some classroom trays to transport the clay craft back to school.</li> <li>• Suitable outdoor clothing for predicted weather, including enough layers and a spare pair of shoes/wellington boots if visiting during the Autumn/Winter.</li> </ul>
<b>Information for coach driver/s</b>	Coach drivers are welcome to use the toilet facilities in the Visitor Centre. Please note, the café in the Visitor Centre is open <i>Wednesday to Sunday</i> between March and October or <i>Friday to Sunday</i> between November and February. Coach parking is available for up to three coaches per day. Parking is free of charge.
<b>Booking information:</b>	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.
<b>A note about behaviour:</b>	Members of the school staff have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Flag Fen staff with this where necessary. As you know, pupils benefit significantly when school adults also get involved in the workshops so please join in where appropriate.
<b>Pre-visits:</b>	We welcome and encourage pre-visits as it will give you an opportunity to meet a member of the Flag Fen Education Team; familiarise yourself with the site; go through the risk assessment, format of the day and activities and discuss any further needs. Please advise us in advance if you need to bring along dependent children. If the site is open to the general public, then you are welcome to pay the entrance fee to stay on site – only the pre-visit part of your visit is free.
<b>Queries?</b>	Contact us at: <a href="mailto:flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk">flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk</a> or telephone: 07920160296