

General Overview and Teacher Notes

This is an interactive project for the children to work on in groups with a degree of independence. They will be guided through a series of tasks, which will result in a final presentation. The project is aimed primarily at seven to eight year-olds, but could be adapted for use by older children. The aim of the project is to enhance history skills through the use of ICT.

In addition to being a general classroom resource, it provides support to the study of the Fortress Baths at Caerleon and the use of the Roman Legionary Museum collections.

Children are presented with a scenario of preparing a day visit to the baths for a British chieftain and his family. The idea is to give the family a favourable taste of Roman life, in the hope that their tribe will become friends of Rome. The challenge for the children will be to complete the tasks and to evaluate their own work.

Teacher Notes

A book list is provided for teachers, together with a dedicated multimedia resource bank supplied by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and Cadw. Within each specific task, hyperlinks are provided for the children to take them to selected websites and the multimedia resource bank. Many excellent books are available to support this challenge, together with a wide variety of websites. Teachers will have to make their own choices on book selection.

This challenge can stand as an independent classroom resource. Schools in Wales also have access to Roman artefacts and replicas to support task 2, through the National Museums and Galleries of Wales Outreach Service.

Task 2

To organise a visit to Roman Caerleon, contact the Education Officer at the Roman Legionary Museum, High St, Caerleon, Newport. NP18 1AE.

For information about loan boxes, contact the Outreach Service Manager at National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff. CF10 3NP

Task 5

It should be made clear to the children that evidence does not exist about the exact cost of each item. However, for the purposes of this exercise the values given are educated guesses.

A Roman Legionary soldier in the 2nd century AD would have been paid about 75 Denarii four times a year before tax. Two thirds would then be deducted, leaving 25 Denarii, or about 2 Denarii per week.

Roman coinage was broken down into four denominations: the Denarius (the highest), the Sestertius, the Dupondius and the As (Asses – Plural). The As being the lowest denomination.

1 Dupondius = 2 Asses
1 Sestertius = 4 Asses
1 Denarius = 16 Asses

In our scenario, the guide has been given rather more than this for each person because they are members of a royal family. Children should remember that each member of the family should come out clean, fed and relaxed.

For the sake of simplicity, we have used Asses in all our prices.

Teachers can however, prepare a worksheet, which requires children to convert the cost of certain items into different denominations.

Task 6

The presentation may take any number of forms, such as a:-

- Written report including text and images from a wide range of resources.
- A class presentation using
 - ICT Presentation Package
 - Flip Chart
 - Interactive White Board
 - OHP