Why were the Romans so powerful and what did we learn from them?

HISTORY
Year 4
Autumn Term

Overview

Around 2,000 years ago, the city of Rome was at the centre of a huge empire that stretched from Scotland to Syria. At its most powerful point, Rome ruled more than 45 million people across Europe, North Africa and Asia. Its army was the most powerful in the world, and as it conquered more land, Rome grew from a town into an enormous capital.

In this unit, we will explore who the Romans were and what they did.



Knowledge & Understanding

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world, the nature of ancient civilisations, the expansion and dissolution of empires.
- Demonstrate more in-depth knowledge of a specific civilisation through a study of Ancient Rome.
- Communicate in appropriate and effective ways including written, pictorial and orally.

History skills

In this unit, the pupils will:

- Use historical terminology and concepts.
- Use primary and secondary sources as evidence when answering questions.
- Compare and contrast different themes, periods and people.
- Use historical concepts to make connections, contrasts and frame historically valid questions.

Home – school link project

During this topic, pupils can choose to:

- Design a Roman soldier's armour or a weapon.
- Design and make a model of an amphitheatre.
-Draw a poster advertising a form of Roman entertainment – gladiators, chariot racing or theatre.
- Choose your favourite times table and convert into Roman Numerals

Topic Vocabulary

Amphitheatre - *a circular or oval building without a roof, which has rows of seats around a central area*

armour - *a metal covering to protect people or things in battle*

chariot - *a horse-drawn vehicle with two wheels, used in ancient times for fighting and racing*

conquer - *to defeat and take over people or a country*

Empire - *a large area with many people ruled by one strong leader, called an emperor*

Gladiator - *a man who fought at public shows in Ancient Rome*

myth - *an old story about gods and heroes in ancient times*

shield - *a large piece of armour held on the arm for protection in battle*

soldier - *a member of an army*

Working Historically

AD (Anno Domini) - *after Jesus was born*

ancient – *belonging to times that were long ago*

artefact - *an object made by a human being, typically of historical interest*

BC (Before Christ) - *before Jesus was born*

century – *a 100-year- long period of time*

chronology - *in time order*

historical evidence -*a piece of information that can help us understand the past*

source - *a piece of writing or an object that historians can use to find out about the past*