

Roman Settlements

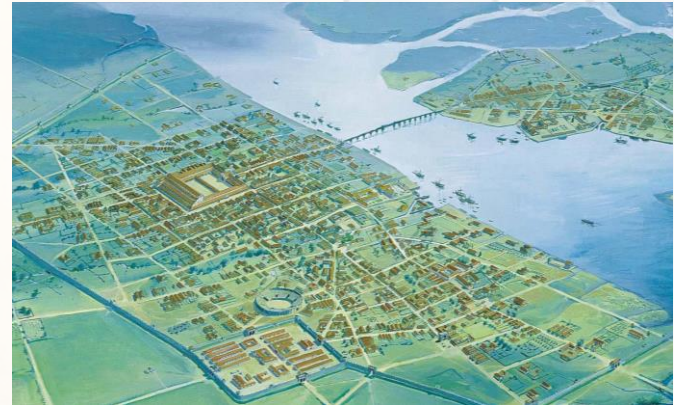


Londinium

The Romans built settlements all over Britain, however they chose to build a settlement by the River Thames because they knew that this would be a quick way to transport goods between Britain and Europe. This settlement was called Londinium.

Did you know:

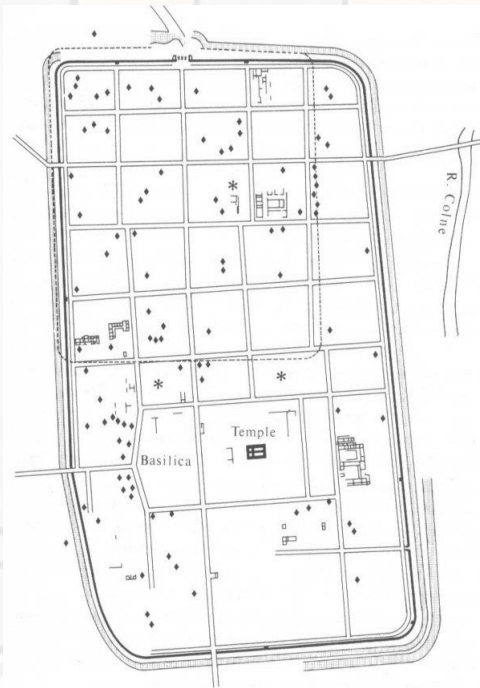
The Romans also built the first London Bridge.



Settlement Layout



Throughout their empire, the Romans built settlements in exactly the same style. The streets were around six metres wide, but their depth depended on their importance.



Each settlement had two main roads, one heading North-South and the other East-West. The town centre was at the point where these two roads met, here you would find a large square, called the forum.

Citizens lived towards the edges of the town.

What were Roman settlements like?

The Roman settlements were full of fine buildings and temples. Streets were built in neat, straight lines because the Romans liked everything to be organised.

Many towns had running water and underground sewers, however only the rich could afford to have water piped to their houses, everyone else used a water fountain. People did not have private toilets, they had to go to public lavatories that were connected to underground sewers. Fresh water and sewers were important, without them people risk catching diseases.

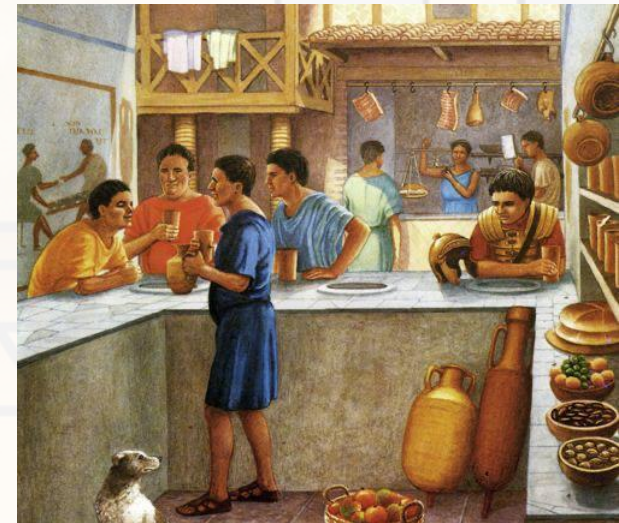


What would you find in a Roman Settlement?

At one end of the forum, there would be a large building called the basilica. There were also temples, where the Roman gods were worshipped.



As well as the forum, most towns would also have shops, meeting spaces and workshops.



Some towns also had public baths, an open-air theatre and huge monumental arches.

What were the settlements made from?



Buildings were often made from stone and brick.

Poor people mainly lived in small villages of wooden houses with thatched roofs.

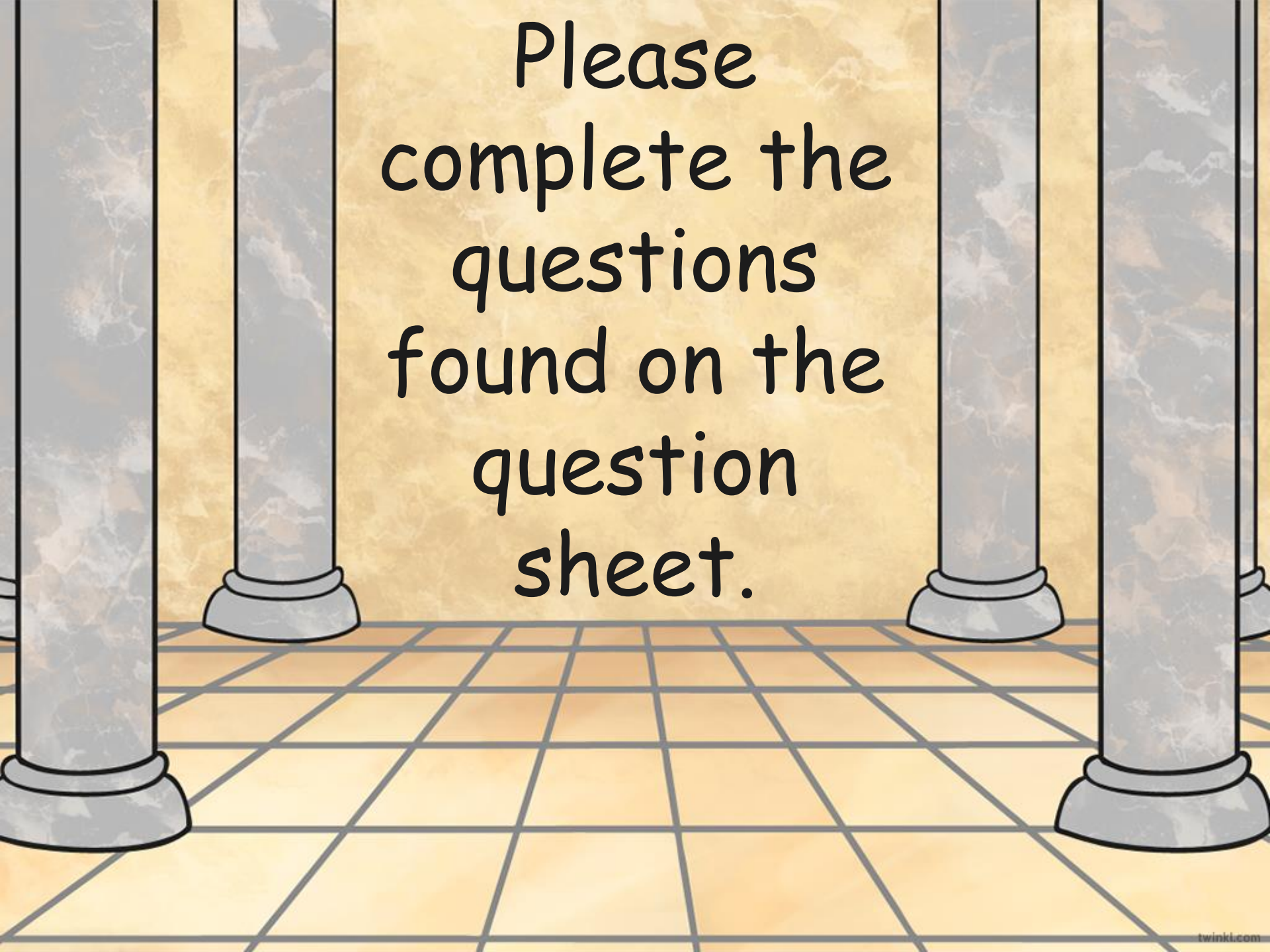


The Romans also built grand country houses, called 'villas', for the wealthy people. These had many rooms, some with beautifully painted walls, mosaic floors and even central heating.

How did the Romans use land?

The romans used land in many ways:

- They built towns and settlements on the land.
- They built roads on the land to connect their largest settlements. These connections increased trade within the country and between Britain and its surrounding countries.
- They used the rivers and the channel to trade with other countries.
- They used the land to create underground sewer systems for their settlements.
- They mined for minerals, such as lead, tin, copper, iron and gold. The Romans would then trade the minerals or use them for weaponry and armour.



Please
complete the
questions
found on the
question
sheet.