

## Roman Settlements

*Please read the information on the PowerPoint and then answer the questions below.*

1. Why did the Romans choose to settle near the River Thames?

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2. What was the traditional layout of a Roman settlement?

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3. Where were the citizens' houses built in the settlements?

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4. Why were the streets built in straight lines?

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5. What could only the rich people afford to have in their homes?

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6. Why do you think the Romans were described as clean people?

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7. Name four things that could be found in a Roman settlement.

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8. What would you find in a Roman villa?

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9. What do you think was the most important use of land for the Romans?

Explain why.

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10. Do you think the British land has changed much since the Roman era?

Hint: Think about some of the ways that the Romans used the land.

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Answers:

1. Why did the Romans choose to settle near the River Thames?

*The Romans chose to settle near the River Thames because they knew that they would be able to easily transport goods between Britain and Europe. The river was also a good source of water for their citizens and animals.*

2. What was the traditional layout of a Roman settlement?

*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.*

3. Where were the citizens' houses built in the settlements?

*The citizens houses were built towards the edges of the town.*

4. Why were the streets built in straight lines?

*The streets were built in straight lines because the Romans liked everything to be organised.*

5. What could only the rich people afford to have in their homes?

*Only the rich people could afford to have water piped to their houses, everyone else had to use a water fountain.*

Other answers include:

- *Central heating*
- *Mosaic floors*
- *Painted walls*

6. Why do you think the Romans were described as clean people?

*I think that the Romans were described as clean people because they built an underground sewer system under their settlements. They also built water fountains because they knew it was important to supply their citizens with fresh water. Fresh water and sewers reduced the risk of people catching disease.*

7. Name four things that could be found in a Roman settlement.

Any of these are acceptable answers:

- *Shops*
- *Workshops*
- *Meeting places*
- *Public baths*
- *An open-air theatre*
- *Monumental arches*
- *The forum*
- *The basilica*
- *Temples*
- *Water fountains*
- *Underground sewer systems*
- *Wooden houses*
- *Roman villas*

8. What would you find in a Roman villa?

*Roman villas had many rooms, some with beautifully painted walls, mosaic floors and even central heating.*

9. What do you think was the most important use of land for the Romans?

Explain why.

**Any appropriately justified answer is accepted.**

**Example answers include:**

- *I think the most important use of land for the Romans was to mine minerals, such as lead, because these minerals could be used for weapons and armour. These items were important for the survival of Roman soldiers. The mined minerals could also be traded for other items that the Roman Empire might have needed.*
- *I think the most important use of land for the Romans was to build an underground sewer system. This prevented the spread of disease and, therefore, helped to keep Roman soldiers and citizens alive.*
- *I think that building roads on the land was the most important use of land for the Romans because these roads meant that people could travel much quicker. This meant that trading within Britain, and with Europe, increased and perishable items could also be traded.*

10. Do you think the British land has changed much since the Roman era?

Hint: Think about some of the ways that the Romans used the land.

**Any appropriately justified answer is accepted.**

**Example answers include:**

- *I think that the land has not changed much since the Romans because there are still lots of roads connecting the towns and cities in Britain.*
- *I think that the land has not changed much since the Romans because minerals in the land are still being mined today.*
- *I think that the land has changed a lot since the Romans because there are far more towns and cities now, compared to the number of settlements back then.*
- *I think that the land has changed a lot since the Romans because our roads are much larger than those that the Romans built.*