

The Romans - Interesting facts

I hope you are enjoying learning more about The Romans this week. Here are some interesting facts that I have found. Which fact do you think is the most interesting?

I would like you to read through the facts and try to order them from `Most Interesting` to `Least Interesting` (this will be a personal choice).

You can either print these facts out and stick them in the order in your books, or you can write out the facts in the order you think in your books.

If you have facts of your own that you wish to include, please add these in too!

Did you know.....



Wounded soldiers wore spider's webs! The sticky silk helped the skin to knit together. Tucking a bundle of herbs into the bandage was another trick - it killed germs.

Romans went to the toilet together! People could chat together in public toilets because there were several seats side by side. There was no toilet paper - people used a sponge on a stick instead!

The Romans invented central heating. Rich people's homes had heating. The warmth came from an underfloor wood-burning fire, looked after by the slaves.

The Romans made the first cement by mixing volcanic ash, lime and water. But they had to be quick using it - it set very quick!

The Romans didn't use soap to get clean. Instead they rubbed olive oil into their skin and then scraped it away with a metal strigil. Dirt and dead skin came away with the oil.

*Roman guard dogs were made of glass and stone. Mosaics of guard dogs warned burglars to steer clear. The pictures sometimes came with the words **CAVE CANEM**: 'Beware of the Dog!'*

Romans wore wedding rings. And Roman brides wore veils and carried flowers too. The bride and groom signed a contract to become man and wife, just like today.

Teachers were mostly clever Greek slaves - not native Latin speakers at all! There were few schools, so some children from rich families had live-in tutors.

Roman schoolboys practised their writing on wax tablets, using a pointed stylus. They could melt the wax to reuse the tablet again and again!

Honey-roast dormouse was a delicacy in ancient Rome. Roman cooks kept the mice in terracotta jars and fattened them up for a few weeks first, just to make sure they were extra meaty!