



Invaders and Settlers: Romans



Learning Objective:

To find out about life in Roman Britain

After Boudica's failed revolt, the Romans were careful to make sure that the Celts never had the opportunity to rise against them again. As time went on, the Celts gradually adopted the Roman customs and ways of life. They began to think of themselves as Romans too.



What do you think daily life
would have been like
in Roman Britain?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.

Back

Next



In groups, look at and discuss
the set of **Picture Cards**.

What do they tell you about
daily life in Roman Britain?

The Romans built Britain's first towns. Streets were created in orderly, straight lines. In the middle was a square called the **forum**. Here, news was announced, markets selling fruits, vegetables and other goods were set up and business deals were made.



Roman towns had two main roads: one running north-south, the other east-west.



Back

Next

Roman roads, just like their streets, were as straight as possible, so that they could travel to wherever they were going to quickly.

They made slopes on either side of the road so that when it rained, the water could drain away and not make the road too muddy to travel.

The Romans built around 9000km of roads throughout Britain!



Back

Next

They built aqueducts that were able to transport water around towns and cities. These were powered by gravity and were the only system of its kind until modern times. They built secure walls, bridges and dams. They were also the first people to create central heating and indoor plumbing.



The Romans even had flushing toilets, although they didn't have toilet paper – they used a sponge on a stick instead.



Back

Next

The Romans built public baths all over Britain. People went to wash and bathe there, but they were also popular places to spend leisure time and meet friends. They were very luxurious – there were mirrors on the walls, the pools were lined with marble, and the floor was decorated with detailed mosaics.

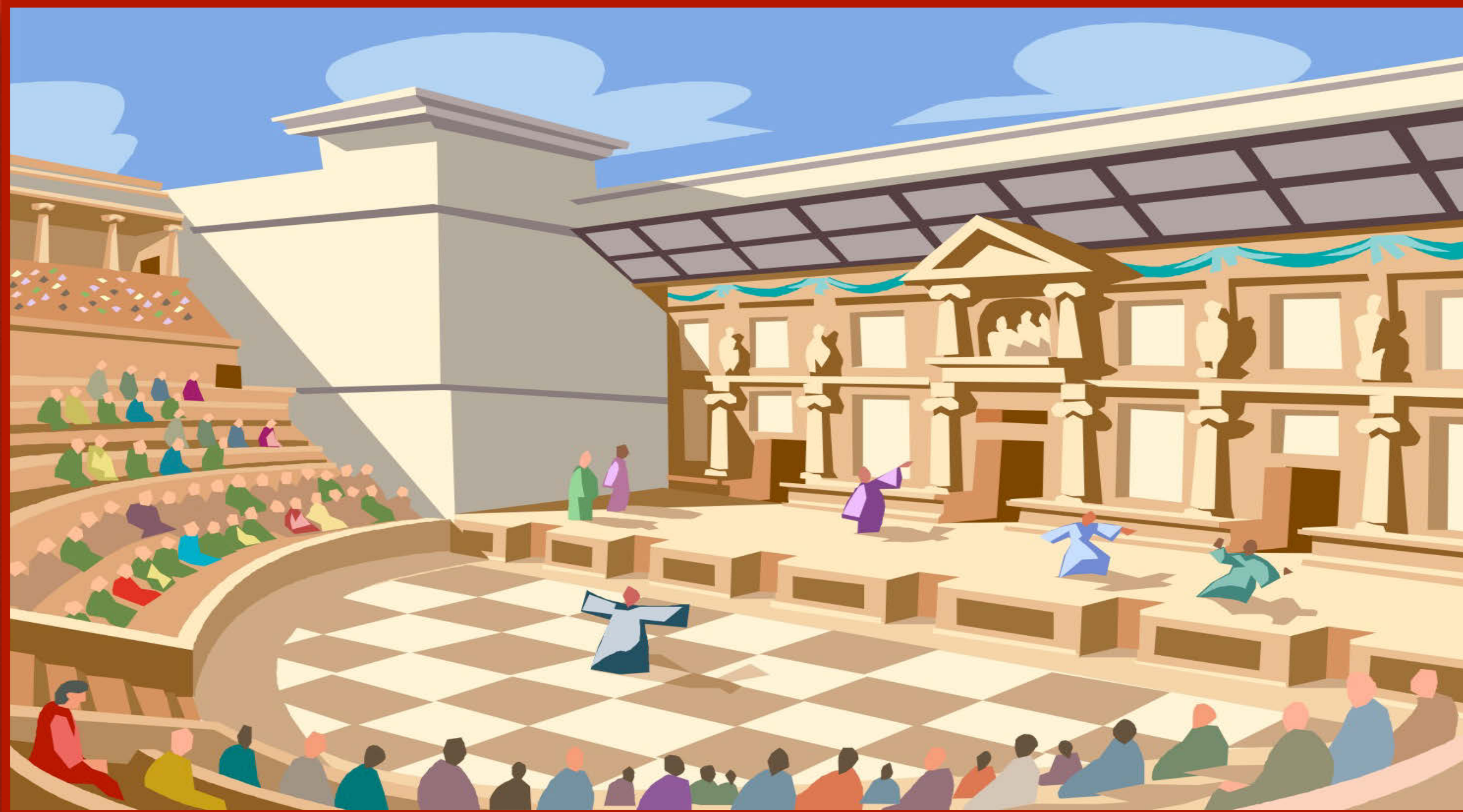
Some of the larger public baths had restaurants, games rooms and even libraries!



Back

Next

The Romans enjoyed being entertained, and most cities had a theatre. Performances were often part of religious festivals to honour the Roman gods. All actors were men, who often played several different roles in each play. They had different coloured costumes and wigs for different characters.



To help the audience understand the mood the actor was portraying in the play, the actors would hold up happy or sad faces.



Back

Next

Amphitheatres were circular or oval buildings, with a large space in the centre. Here, Romans would watch fights between **gladiators** and wild animals. Deaths were extremely common. Slaves and criminals were often forced to fight. If they were very good, they might win their freedom.

The word 'gladiator' comes from the latin word for sword, 'gladius'. It literally means swordsman.



Back

Next

Most Romans lived in small, wooden houses with thatched roofs. However, very wealthy Romans lived in **villas**. Villas were large farms with a big house for the owners. They would have had lots of servants and farm workers to help run the villa.



The villas were so well-built that we are still finding remains of them today.



Back

Next

Now that you have learnt a bit about what Britain was like under Roman rule, do you think you would like to have lived during that time? Why? Explain your answer.





Now it's your turn to
find out more about
life in Roman Britain!

Back

Next

Plenary:

What is the most fascinating fact you have learnt today about life in Roman Britain?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Back

Next