

INVESTIGATING ROMAN ROOFS

INVESTIGATING AND MAKING ROMAN ROOF TILES

Introduction activity

Discuss with the class the types of roofs that Roman buildings might have had.

Explain that there are many things that the Romans used that we still use in modern times. One of these techniques was having tiles on roofs.

Watch the video clip that shows what the Romans would have had on their roofs and which shows two types of real clay roof tiles (the tegula & imbrex)

As a class, discuss the different designs of the two tiles, their names and the functions of the two different designs.

Look at the images of examples of roof tiling from the Romans in London site



Next watch the video clip which shows a real clay tile with a footprint on it. In this footage we learn something about the process of making the tiles.

Discuss with the class the imprints on these tiles and how these are actual hoof prints and footprints from 2000 years ago.

Show the class the 'Who walked on this tile? resource' and see if they can guess what happened to this tile.

Main part of the lesson

Explain that as a class you are going to make a model of a Roman roof working collaboratively.

Using mouldable material such as clay or plasticine, ask one half of the class to make a tegula tile (the flat one) and the other half to make the imbrex tile (the curved one) as seen on the video clip.

Show the class the images on this site to reference what the Roman tiled roof might have looked like.

Pupils create their tile ensuring that they measure accurately the size and dimensions of the individual tile they are making (size and dimension up to you as to how large you want the final roof to actually be)

When completed, the class can arrange all the tiles together to create a Roman roof.

Pupils can make a sketch of the finished roof illustrating the arrangement of the tiles and labelling the tegula and imbrex tiles.



Plenary

Once the roof has been constructed, test out whether or not it does in fact stop water leaking through by carefully pouring water onto it.

As a class, watch the video clip which shows a real clay tile with the letters 'PPBRLON' on it and discuss the markings on these tiles and how the archaeologist is able to make a guess at what these letters stand for but we cannot be totally sure.

Ask the class to find on their walk home anything that they can see that has writing on it (i.e. manhole covers, letter boxes etc) and to think about what they are telling us and whether these will still be able to be read in 2000 years as we are 'reading' the Roman inscription now.