

# DESIGN A ROMAN BROOCH

## INVESTIGATING THE TYPES OF BROOCHES WORN ON GARMENTS

### Introduction activity

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Watch the video clip of the 'Real enamelled bronze brooch and chain'.

Discuss with the class why the Romans used these on their clothing.

Explain that the brooch and chain in this example would have been highly coloured through enamelling.

Explain the term enamelling and discuss why this artefact is no longer beautifully coloured.

NB Enamelling is a smooth, durable coating made of melted and fused glass powder. Enamel powder could be produced in two ways; either through the powdering of coloured glass, or the mixing of colourless glass powder with pigments such as a metallic oxide. Designs were either painted freehand or over the top of outline incisions. Once painted the object needed to be fired at a temperature high enough to melt the applied powder, but low enough that the fabric of the vessel itself was not melted. The powder melts, flows, and then hardens to a smooth, coating on the metal, glass or ceramics.

Show the class the 'Roman family with brooch resource' and point out on this illustration where the brooch and chain would be worn as it is shown on the Roman woman in this illustration.

Or use the Roman couple wearing brooches resource located on the Romans in London site.



Look at the 'Real boat brooch' video clip and discuss why a Roman might have decided to have their brooch in the shape of a boat.

What other designs might Romans want to have?

## Main part of the lesson

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Ask the pupils to design (using their sketch books if available) a possible brooch with a chain that would represent something that is personal to them like the boat brooch was to the Roman Londoner who wore it.

As a resource bank for ideas for their design, pupils could access and use the images in the NEN gallery located [here](#).

Ask the pupils to add explanations to their initial design showing what they have included in its design and why this detail has been chosen.

When they have sketched out their design, ask them to draw an illustration of them wearing the brooch, in the style of the 'Roman family with brooch resource'. Add in explanations as if they were sketches for a designer to then take away and create.

Or you could extend this activity for pupils by getting them to save an image of themselves from the shared network, a photograph of them wearing Roman clothing if possible, so that they can import this image into a drawing or painting program and add detail to the image showing a brooch and chain.

## Plenary

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Pupils could either show and explain their sketched designs to the class explaining their choice, or ask the class to try to guess from the designs who has designed which brooch.

