

LEATHER SHOES

HOW SOME ROMAN ARTEFACTS HAVE SURVIVED AND ROMAN SHOE DESIGNS

Introduction activity

As a class, begin to watch the 'Real leather unfinished shoe' video clip, stop it before the narration begins and explain to the class that this is a real leather shoe from Roman London.

Ask the class to think about how this artefact has managed to survive in such good condition since the Roman period.

Show them the introduction part of the video clip 'to clarify' how it did, in fact, survive. It had lain in water and stayed wet over time.

As a class, watch the rest of the video clip and discuss all the different trades mentioned that were probably working in Roman London. (The video mentions potters, carpenters, labourers, shoe-makers (cobbler) and clothing makers).

Discuss the leather shoe and the fact that this was constructed from one piece of leather, cut carefully by the Roman cobbler using no modern machinery.

Ask the class to think about how the cobbler would have felt having to discard this shoe after all the hard work designing and cutting it. Show the 'Roman shoe resource' as an example of a replica.

Ask the class what this cobbler would think if he or she knew that we can see this shoe over 2000 years after it was thrown away.

Main part of the lesson

Explain to the class that they are going to imagine that they are designing a Roman shoe using the design from the one seen in the video as their inspiration.

Explain that they are going to be using a very different method from the Roman cobbler, as they are going to use a computer program to help them design the shoe. (Hopefully the class will be well aware there was no such technology in the Roman period).

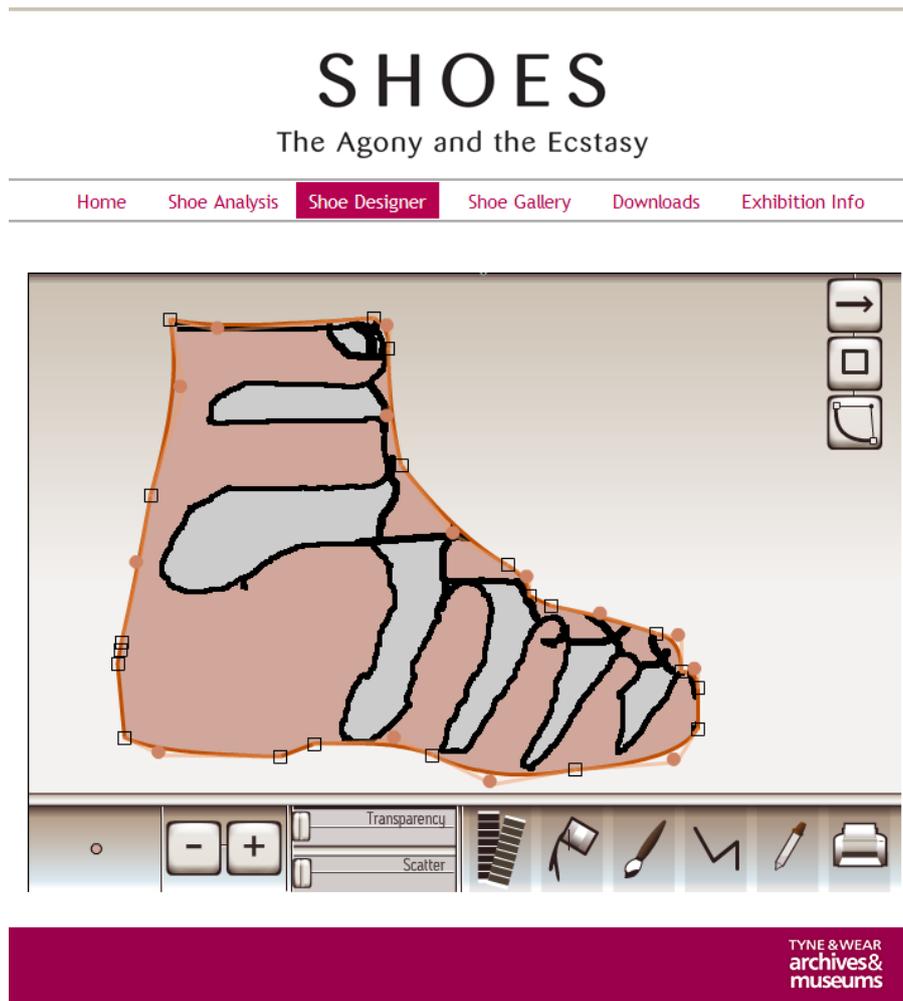
Demonstrate the activity that is located here: <http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/shoes/designer/>.

The pupils must think about the elements of a Roman shoe - it will be a flat shoe and fastened using laces or straps etc.



Clicking on this icon will take the class through different shoe outlines and explain that they should work through finding the style most similar to a Roman shoe.

Pupils can use the program to explore all the options and design their own shoe.



This program enables the design to be annotated once the outline has been created to add details.

Ask the class to print off their completed designs.

Plenary

The class can share their designs and explain their decision-making in coming up with their particular finished design.

Watch together the 'Real shoe' video clip which shows a lady's shoe that has been worn down by the wearer.

Ask the class to tell you some differences between the two shoes they have looked at.