

# EXPLORING THE MITHRAS TEMPLE

## USING GOOGLE MAPS TO EXPLORE A ROMAN LOCATION IN MODERN LONDON

### Introduction activity

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Watch the 'Mithras temple' video stopping at 40 seconds into the video, showing how the temple was excavated, moved to a different location where the video was filmed, due to building works in the City and, more recently than the video, taken apart again prior to its re-display in a new building.

Explain that the remains of the Temple of Mithras were an important discovery when discovered in 1954 on Walbrook in London, during rebuilding work following World War II. The god Mithras, originally from Iran, was particularly popular with Roman soldiers and administrators who were based in Roman London. They built this temple to Mithras in AD240-50. The archaeological site was excavated by W. F. Grimes and the artefacts recovered are now on display in the Museum of London.

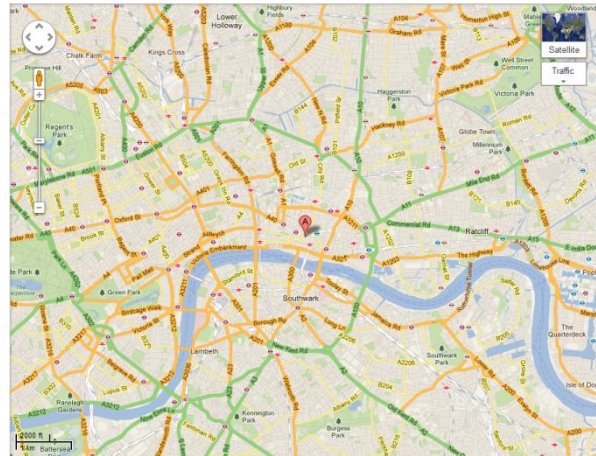
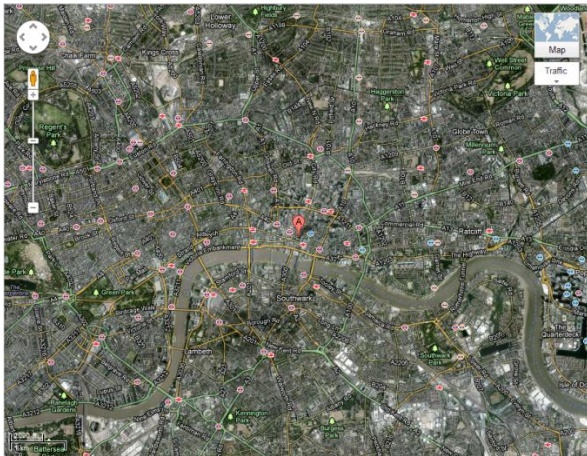
Discuss with the class the difficulty of moving such an important Roman building and the fact that it was dismantled, the material put into storage and then reconstructed, recreating the size and shape of the original building.

### Main part of the lesson

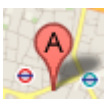
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Using Google maps ask the class to search for 'London Mithraeum, London'.

This search result will locate the actual current location of the temple where it was rebuilt.



Ask the pupils to look at both views – the map view and the satellite view.



The icon shows the location of the temple.

In this lesson, ask the pupils to explore using the zoom tool to zoom into the image to view the temple location.



As a follow up from this, ask the pupils to zoom into either view and add the street view icon so that they can view the temple from the ground view.

## Plenary

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Discuss how the tools in this Google resource are useful and can bring the world closer as we can visit places that perhaps we can't actually visit in person due to distance or cost.

Explain that there was a temple in Egypt called Abu Simbel that also had to be moved because there was a valley being flooded by the creation of a dam.

Look at the Wikipedia entry located [here](#) about Abu Simbel and its relocation.