

# DESIGN A ROMAN COIN

## INVESTIGATING WHAT ROMAN COINS CAN TELL US ABOUT THE PAST

### Introduction activity

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Have a look at some of the coins that we use today and discuss what images they have on them.

The Royal Mint website located [here](#) provides details of all our coinage with clear images that look at the designs in detail.

Watch the 'Coins' video clip on the Romans in London site and explain that these are actual Roman coins that have been discovered.

Ask the class to think about why these artefacts have survived so well and found intact, whereas some Roman artefacts we look at are only pieces or are broken.

Discuss with the class what similarities there are with the coins that we use today. Are they similar or different?

Watch the 'Bronze coin (sestertius) of the Emperor Domitian' video which gives us more information about the coins and their importance.

### Main part of the lesson

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Use the zoom tool within the bronze coins image to really investigate the details of these roman coins.



Discuss the fact that coins in Roman times, as well as being used for trading, were a way of providing news to others around the Roman Empire. This was because a coin would have the head of the current emperor on one side, so that everybody knew who was in power; on the other side, there might be perhaps some news of a battle victory or the completion of a new important building.

Explain that in this lesson you would like the class to design their own coin, as if they were the emperor.

Explain that they should make a design with their head on one side of the coin with a sentence including their name (or an abbreviated part of it) surrounding it and, on the other side, a drawing of either an important event or building.

## **Plenary**

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Ask pupils to share their coin designs and explain what they have incorporated in their design and why they have incorporated this particular design element.

Or alternatively, show a selection of the coin designs without naming the pupil and ask the rest of the class to guess whose design it was from the illustration of the head and from the sentence surrounding this design feature.