

TICKLE YOUR BRAIN FACTS AND JOKES

Roman Riot!



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THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The great Roman Empire started in 753 BC and lasted for over 1,000 years. During that time, Rome grew to rule much of Europe, Western Asia and Northern Africa. The Romans had a lasting impact across the world, where Roman remains, objects and buildings are still being uncovered.

Rome first emerged as a powerhouse whilst it was still a Republic. This meant that Rome was ruled by elected officials that served for a limited amount of time – unlike kings who inherited power.

This all changed in 45 BC when Julius Caesar took over and declared himself supreme dictator, ending the Republic. After his assassination, Caesar Augustus would take control in 27 BC and become the very first Emperor. As the Empire grew, it sprawled across the globe and eventually split in two: the Western Empire and the Eastern (or Byzantine) Empire.

The Roman Empire finally fell in 476 AD when the final Emperor (Romulus Augustus) was defeated by the German Goth Odoacer – and ‘the Dark Ages’ in Europe began...





ROMAN HUMOUR

Teacher: Who can tell me where Hadrian's Wall is?

Pupil: Probably somewhere around Hadrian's garden, miss.



Teacher: The Celts had to choose their leaders carefully.

Pupil: They must have been hand-Pict.



Teacher: Archaeologists say that Roman cement was stronger in ancient times, than it is today.

Pupil: I'm yet to see any concrete evidence!

Q: What did the Roman workers say once they had completed another road?

A: We came, we saw, we concreted!



Q: What is the problem with Roman Lego?

A: You can't build it in a day!



Q: What was Emperor Hadrian's favourite brand of ice cream?

A: Walls!



BATH

The city of Bath in Somerset is famous for its – you guessed it! – Roman baths! Here, the hot spring water still bubbles naturally from the ground at 46°C (114°F). Back in the day, there was nothing the Romans liked better than hot water, taking a dip with friends and having a good scrub together. The Romans built bathhouses above Bath's three natural hot springs, beside a temple dedicated to the healing goddess Sulis-Minerva. The baths are now one of the best-preserved ancient Roman spas in the world.



Q: Why did the doctor tell the Roman soldier to go and take a bath?

A: He said he was feeling drained!

Bathtime at the Bath baths



A million litres of hot spring water burst each day from red-stained holes in the stone walls. Wafting up from the turquoise waters would be clouds of steam and sulphur fog. The sound of plunging soldiers, some cheering, some singing, would swirl in the hot, sticky mist. Other bathers were busy talking, laughing or scrubbing, some wrestling, and at the water's edge stalls sold sausages, oysters and roasted dormice. This type of scene attracted hordes of visitors to the famous baths, including emperors, soldiers, traders, housewives and children.

After a good scrape with a curved, metal tool called a *strigil*, used to scrub dirt and sweat from the body, bathers could have a warm bath in the tepidarium or plunge into a cold bath called the frigidarium. The cold water closed up the skin's pores again and got the blood flowing – to give a pleasant tingling feeling afterwards. Would you be tempted to try it?



- Q:** Why did the Romans finally wash their hands of the Celts?
- A:** They were a revolting lot!
- Q:** What temperature did Julius Caesar like his bath water?
- A:** Not too hot or cold – ROME temperature!

ROTTEN ROMANS

Despite their love for baths, Romans weren't always as clean as you'd think. Scientists have found evidence of roundworms that lived inside Roman bodies, as well as parasites that lived outside the body – lice, fleas and bed bugs. This suggests that the Romans' bathhouses weren't keeping them much cleaner than Britons still living in their tribes in the forests. Yuck!

