

The Romans in Scotland

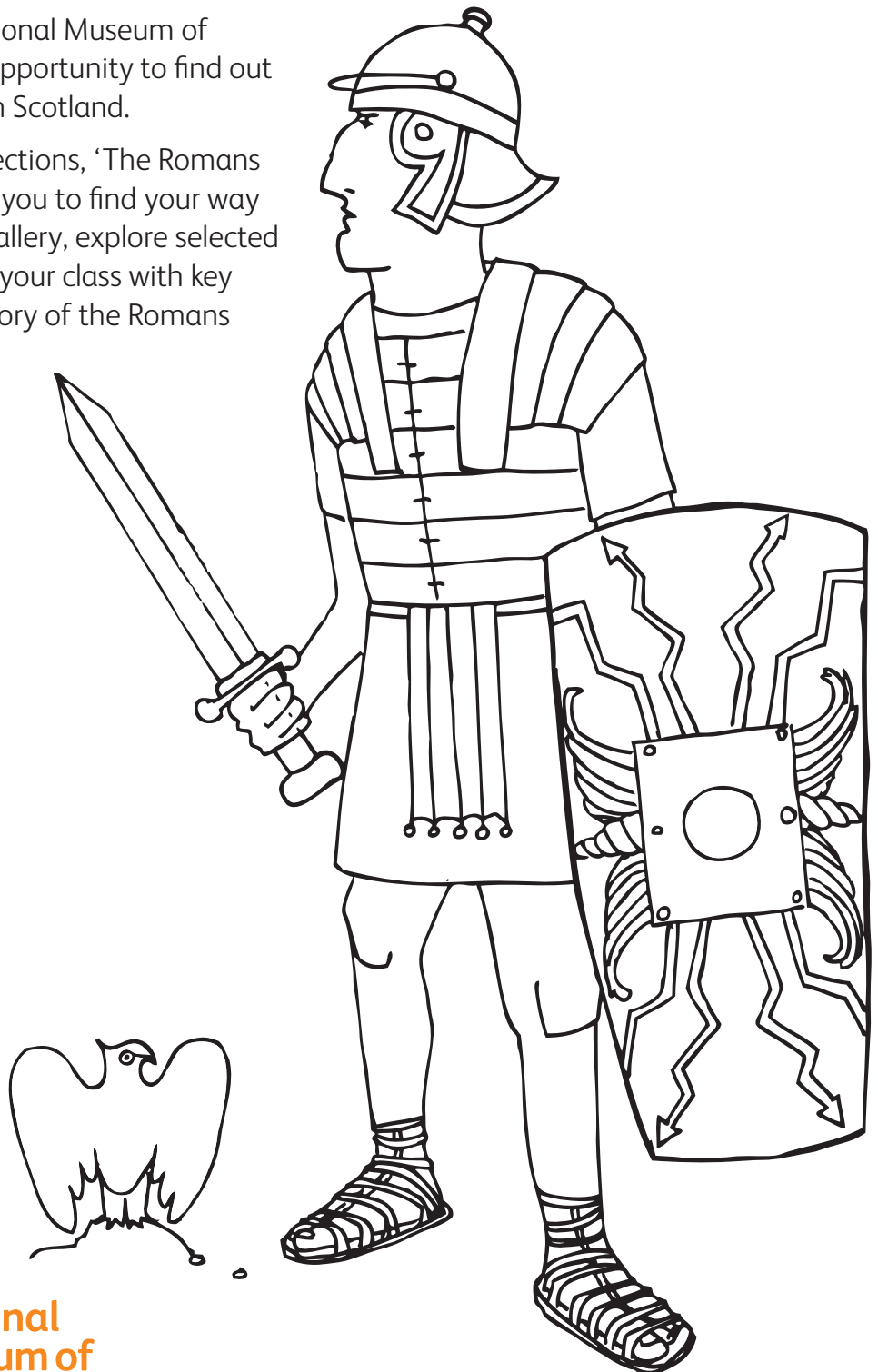
National Museum of Scotland

Teachers' Resource Pack

What was life like for the Romans in Scotland?
How did Scottish people benefit from the arrival
of the armies?

The collections of the National Museum of
Scotland offer pupils the opportunity to find out
more about the Romans in Scotland.

Linking directly to the collections, 'The Romans
in Scotland' pack will help you to find your way
around the Early People Gallery, explore selected
'star' objects and engage your class with key
artefacts that tell us the story of the Romans
in Scotland.



National
Museum of
Scotland

The Romans in Scotland

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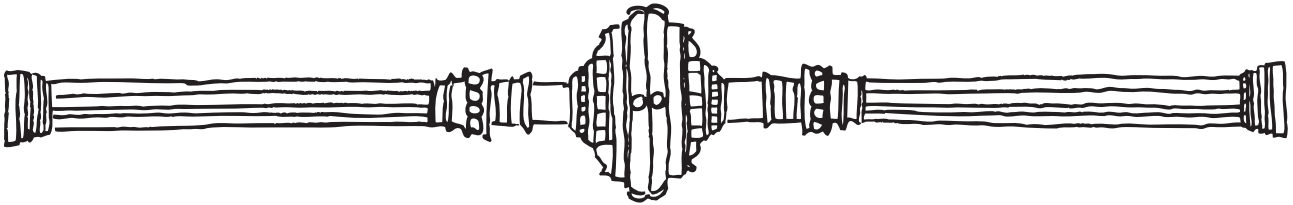
★ Star object sheet for teachers

Pupil worksheets (2)



The Romans in Scotland

Gallery Themes



The Early People gallery of the National Museum of Scotland contains a wealth of material that tells us the story of the Romans in Scotland.

The gallery explores how Scotland was changed by different invaders in early times, in particular the Romans and the Vikings. It explores key themes using a wealth of fascinating objects from Roman and Viking times. The major themes of the gallery are:

- Creating an impression
- Living with the locals
- Invading army
- Death and belief

To help you explore these themes with your class we have identified a 'star object' for each theme, together with suggestions for other exhibits to look at. Each of these is accompanied by worksheets with suggestions for activities, discussion points and follow-up work.

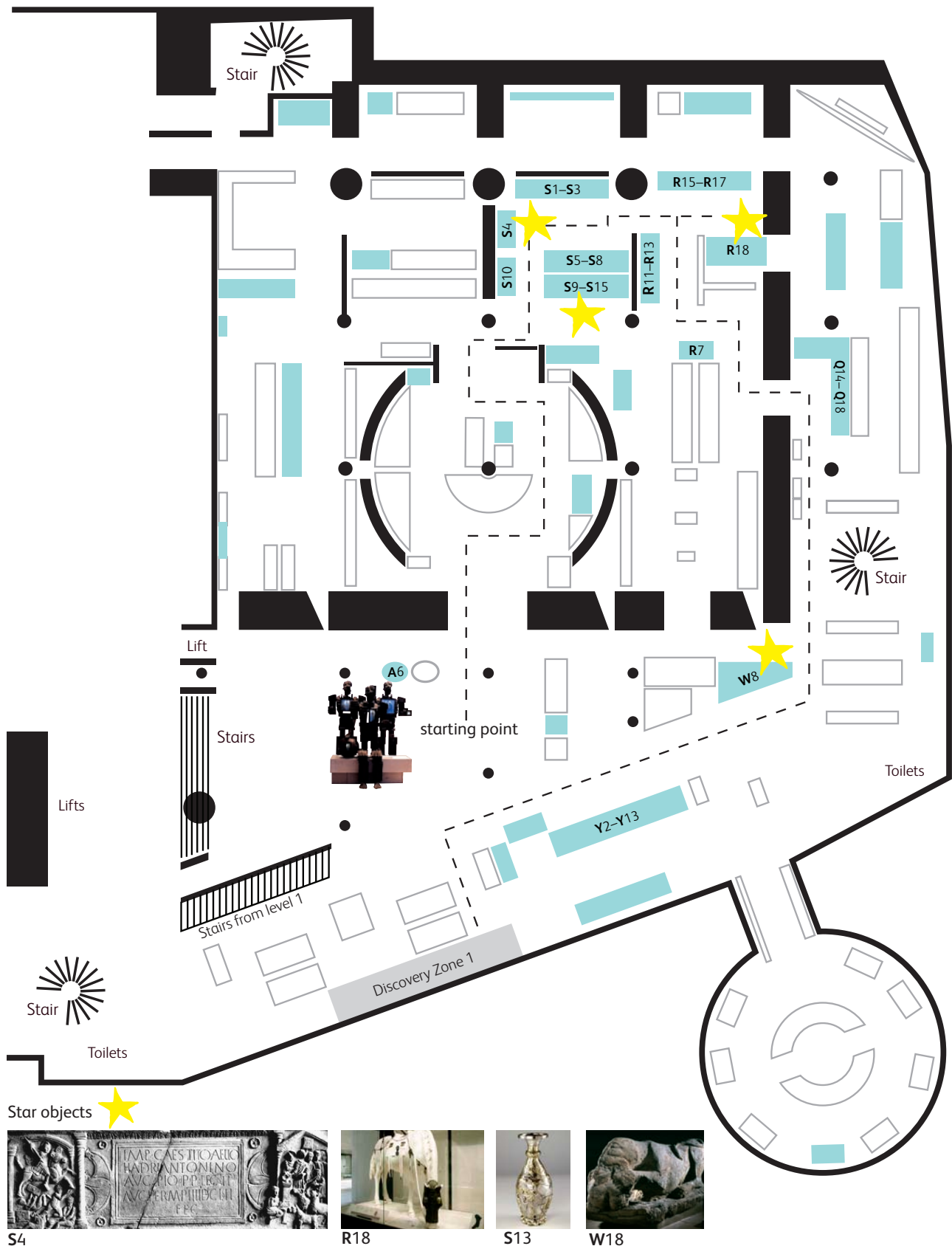
We recommend you divide your class into four smaller groups, each investigating one of the different themes included in the pack.



The Romans in Scotland

Gallery Plan

Early People gallery, Level 0



Star Object - The Roman Horse



Case
R18

Did you know?

- The Romans used local ponies because they were strong, agile and used to the terrain. In Scotland they would have ridden Highland ponies and used Shetland ponies to carry heavy loads.
- A Roman cavalryman was well armed with a lance, javelin, sword and shield. He could fire arrows accurately even whilst riding his horse.

Background

- There were two types of soldiers in the Roman army.
 - Legionaries were Roman citizens trained to be soldiers.
 - Auxiliaries were recruited from nations conquered by the Roman Empire.
- Cavalry troops were always auxiliaries
- A cavalry 'ala' (regiment) consisted of 500 men, divided into 16 troops of 32 men
- The cavalry provided support to the legions in battle and were used to support on either side.
- A cavalryman didn't use stirrups. The shape of the saddle kept him in the right position on the horse. A Roman cavalry horse also did not wear horseshoes.
- Horses were very important to the Roman army for transporting supplies.

Key questions

- Describe what you can see in the case.
- Why do you think the horse is so highly decorated?
- How would you feel if you saw a Roman soldier on this horse?
- What does this horse tell us about the Romans?

Look out for

- The Chamfron (no2) is an intricately designed face guard for the horse. The Chamfron wasn't just for show, it would have also provided protection for the horse in battle.
- Beads around the horse's neck. The Romans wanted their horses to look so good, they even gave them necklaces.

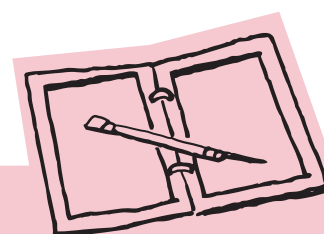
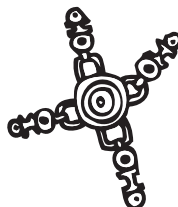
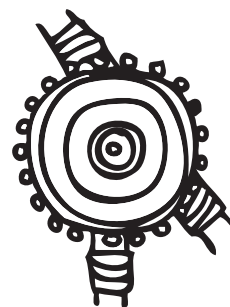
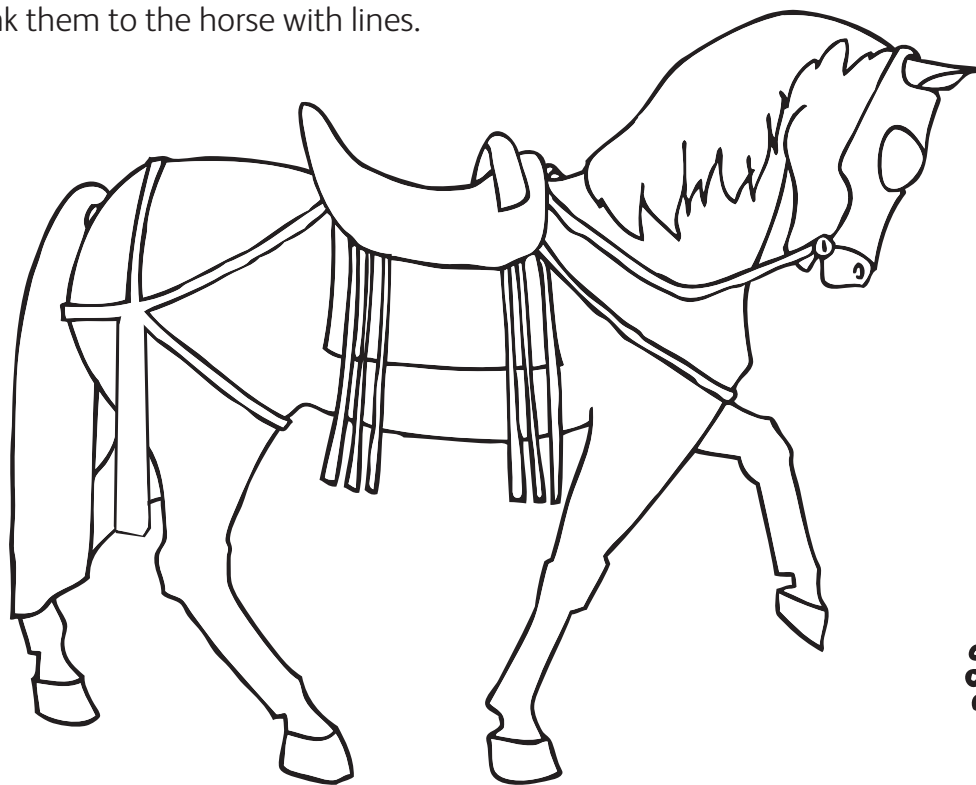
The Romans in Scotland

Creating an Impression (1)

Horses wore decorated harnesses for displays. **Can you put these pieces in the right place?** Look at the horse model in case R18 to help you.

Link them to the horse with lines.

Case R18



Talk about

Why do you think a Roman soldier would want to dress up his horse?

What might this tell us about the Romans?



Back at school

Write a story of a Roman battle from the horse's point of view.

Think about:

Preparing for battle and getting 'dressed'

How do you look when you were ready for battle?

What sights and sounds are around you?

What happens in the battle?

The Romans in Scotland

Creating an Impression (2)

The Romans used pictures and carvings to tell others about themselves. Find these carvings of Roman people. **Can you match them to the materials they are made from?**

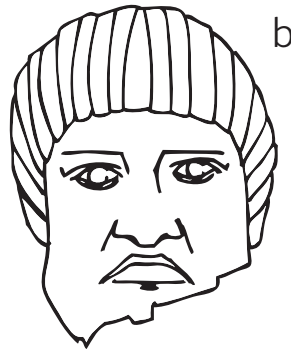
Case A6
Open display R11
Case S1
Case R17

Marble

Bronze

Sand stone

Iron



Can you match the description to the image?

"I am larger than life, a powerful Roman and here to stay" _____

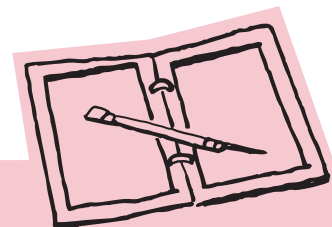
"My laurel crown tells of my victory. Carry me with you and spread the news" _____

"I served and died as a soldier. I am proud to be a hero and a Roman" _____

"I am handsome and fearless. Seen how skilfully I ride my horse" _____

Talk about

Why do you think the Romans put pictures of themselves on so many things when they came to Scotland?



Back at school

Did the Romans leave behind any evidence of themselves in your local area? See if you can find out. Perhaps you could create your own collection of Roman evidence from your area.

Star Object - The Traprain Treasure



Cases
S13-S15

Did you know?

- Although the objects are beautiful and skilfully crafted, you can see that a lot of it has been flattened and chopped up. The silver was more important than the objects themselves. It would have been used as material for making new objects or even as 'small change'.

Key questions

- What are the objects made of? Do you think these were valuable objects?
- What can the objects tell us about the lives of the people who used them?
- Why do you think the silver has been broken up into smaller pieces?
- How do you think the archaeologists who found it knew it was Roman?
- Archaeologists don't know the real reason why it was broken up and buried. Do you have any suggestions for why this might have happened?

Background information

- The Romans didn't just spend their time fighting with the native people. When the fighting was over, the two groups lived, mostly peacefully, side by side.
- Local tribes traded grain and hides in exchange for Roman goods – like pottery, glass and jewellery.
- This treasure was found at Traprain Law, East Lothian. It was probably given to a tribal chief as a bribe to keep the peace and stop other local tribes from attacking the Romans.
- The treasure was found in 1919. It had been packed tightly into a pit and had probably deliberately buried – perhaps for safe-keeping?

Look out for

- Case S13 has some tiny coins from 5AD – at the very end of the Roman times in Britain.
- Cases 14 has a selection of containers – including wine cups and flagons. They show how skilful Roman craftsmen would have been. Some have Christian images on them; others have pictures of Roman myths.

The Romans in Scotland

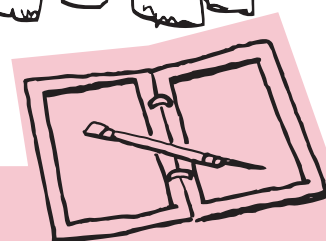
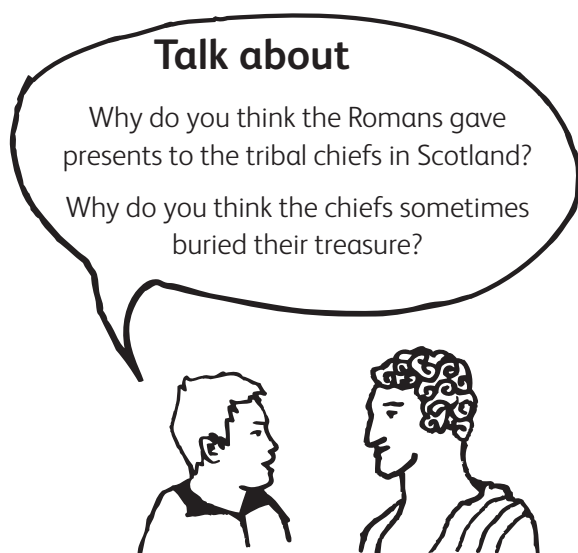
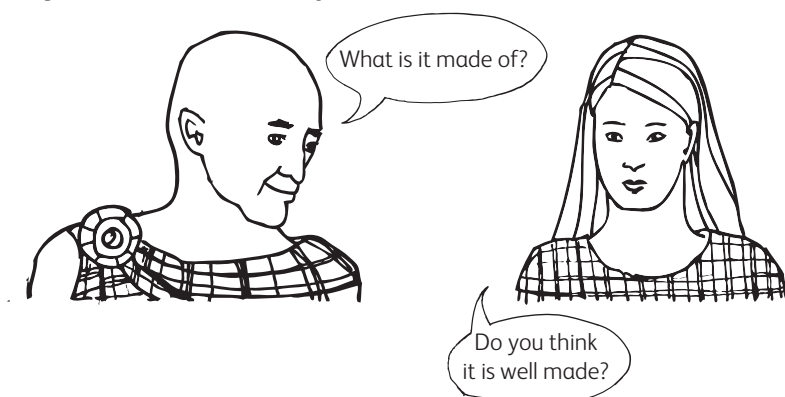
Living with the Locals (1)

You are a tribal chief and have been given a fine gift by a Roman. **Choose something from one of the cases: Traprain Treasure or Helmsdale Hoard and draw a picture of it here.**

Cases S13-S15
Case S6



**Your people have never seen anything like this before.
Can you answer their questions?**



Back at school

If you were going to bury your own treasures, what might you choose to bury?

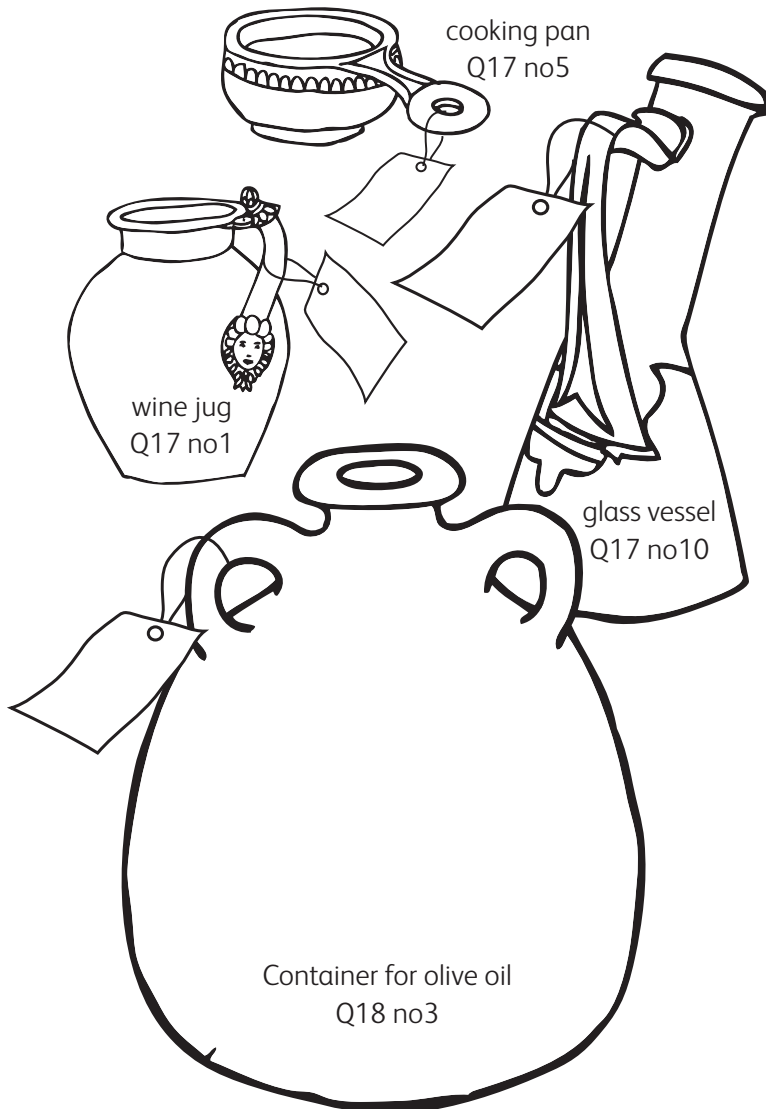
Perhaps your class could make up their own 'bury box' to dig up in a few years time. You could include photos, pieces of clothing, jewellery and other personal possessions.

The Romans in Scotland

Living with the Locals (2)

The things the army needed were brought to Scotland from all over the Roman Empire. **Find these things and draw labels to show where they came from. Use the labels at the bottom of the cases to help you.**

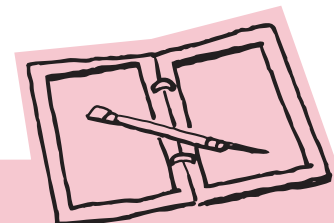
Cases Q15- Q18



Talk about

Why do you think the Romans brought some goods from across Europe to Scotland?

How do you think they brought food and containers to Scotland from different parts of Europe?



Back at school

See if you can find out more about the different types of transport the Romans used to carry goods around.

Star Object – The Bridgeness Slab



Open Display
S4

Background information

- The Bridgeness Slab was once part of the Antonine Wall, built across Scotland to provide a barrier against the locals in the north.
- Slabs were set into the wall to mark the distances that had been completed. The Bridgeness Slab is the most impressive one and marked the eastern end of the wall.
- The wall was intended to show how powerful the Romans were. The Bridgeness Slab was like a stone 'bill board' to advertise their power and terrify the local people.

Key questions

- What does the picture tell us about Roman soldiers?
- What does the picture tell us about the native soldiers?
- How would you feel if you lived at the time and saw this picture?
- The centre part of the slab is written in Latin. Local people could not read. How do you think this writing would have seemed to local people?
- What message do you think the Romans were trying to send to the local people by making this slab?

Did you know?

- Experts have found traces of paint on the slab – for example the severed head appears to have had red paint on it. This suggests that at one time it was more colourful and would have stood out even more as a warning to locals.

Look out for

- The central part is written in Latin. It explains which legion built this part of the wall, how long it was and who it was built for – Emperor Antoninus Pius. Native people couldn't understand the words at all – they must have seemed like magical symbols and would have been viewed with suspicion.
- The left hand panel shows a battle scene. The Roman cavalry man is well equipped with armour and a plumed helmet. He carries a shield and a spear and is riding over the top of the natives. The native warriors are shown with small shields and swords and are naked. One has had his head chopped off and another has a spear in his back.
- The right hand panel shows a religious ceremony typical before a battle. Animals are waiting to be sacrificed to the gods while a musician plays music and the legion commander pours wine on the altar, watched by his soldiers carrying the legion banner.

The Romans in Scotland

Marcus is an auxiliary soldier. Can you help him get ready for battle?

Find these things in the case R14.

Draw and label these on Marcus' picture

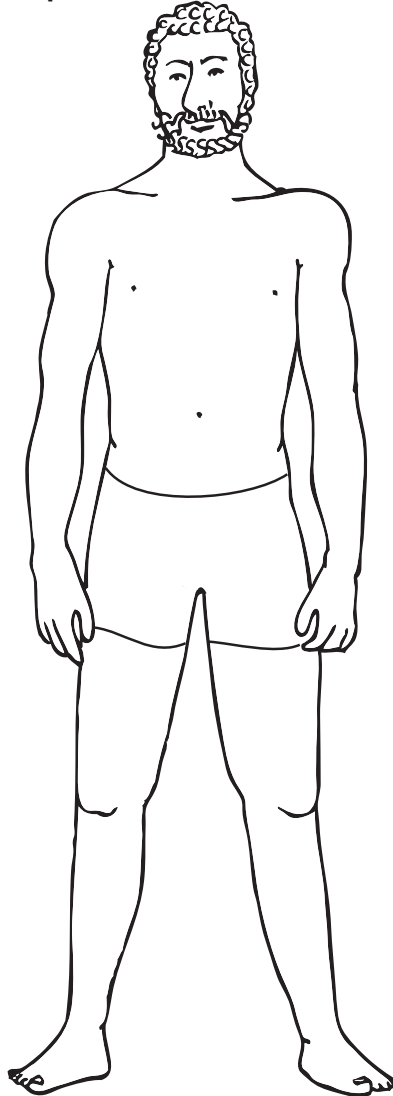
Plate armour

Gladius

Pilum

Shoe

Can you find any other objects he might need?



Talk about

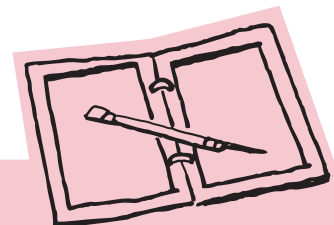
Which parts of the objects have survived?

The objects you are looking at are no longer in one piece. Why do you think this is?



Invading Army (1)

Case R14



Back at school

Imagine that you are Marcus, fighting for the Roman army in Scotland. Write a letter home describing some of your experiences. Think about:

- the jobs that you have to do
- the weather
- what you have to wear
- going into battle
- the local people

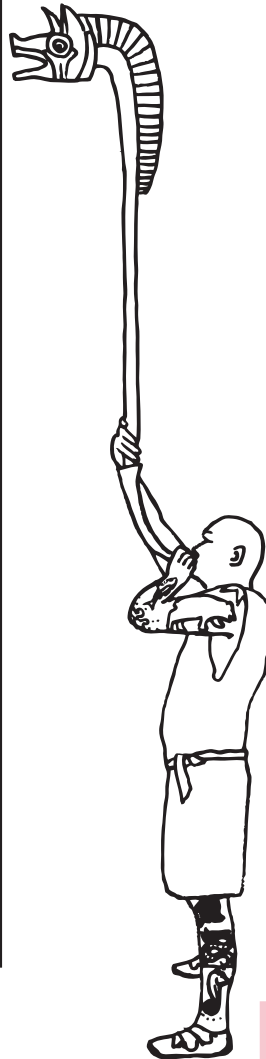
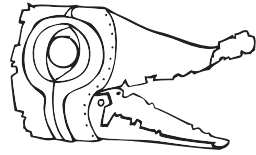
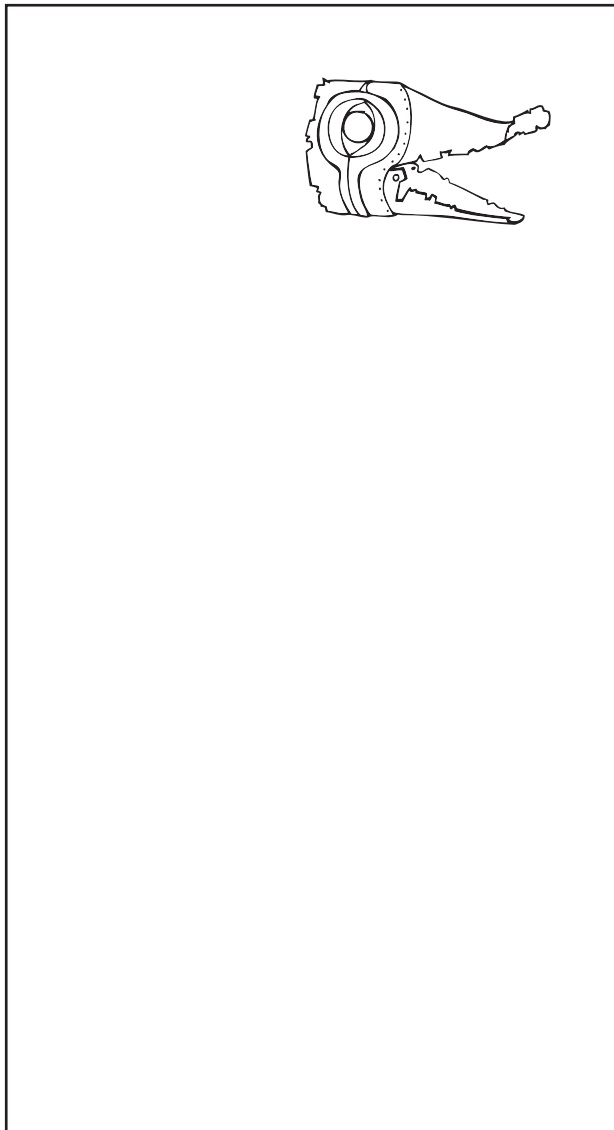
The Romans in Scotland

The carnyx was a war trumpet used by local tribes to inspire their warriors and terrify their enemies.

The Romans put pictures of the carnyx on some of their coins

Invading Army (2)

Case R7



This is the real carnyx head that was found buried in a peat bog. Experts have managed to recreate the whole trumpet.

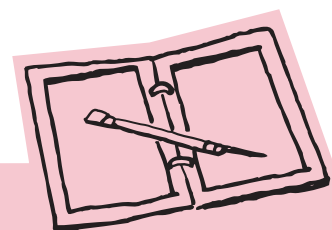
Draw the rest of the carnyx in the box.

How do you think the experts knew what the rest of the carnyx looked like? Look carefully in the case for clues.

Talk about

Why do you think the Romans put pictures of the Carnyx on their coins?

Which animal do you think the head is supposed to look like?



Back at school

Using the information that you have gathered in the museum, imagine that you are a local tribesman living in Scotland. Your tribe is under threat from the Romans and your chief has decided to attack a Roman legion.

Write a short story from your point of view.

Star Object – The Cramond Lioness



Open Display
W8

Did you know?

- The lioness was found by a ferryman as he took his boat out of the harbour at Cramond. He saw the lioness sticking out of the mud. He reported it to the Museum and received a big cash reward!
- Experts think this might be one of a pair of sculptures, and that the lion that went with the lioness could still be out there somewhere.

Background information

- The sculpture was found at Cramond, near Edinburgh in 1995. Cramond was the site of an important Roman fort.
- The Cramond Lioness is one of the most important Roman finds in recent years. We know that it would have been a tomb stone because similar sculptures have been found on tombs throughout the Roman world.
- A Roman funeral was an important social occasion. Graves were marked with anything from simple slabs to larger than life sculptures, depending on your importance. This is believed to have been the gravestone of a high-ranking Roman because of its size.
- The sculpture shows a pouncing lioness with her paws on a man's shoulders and her jaws biting into his head.

Key questions

- Look carefully at the statue. What can you see is happening?
- How can you tell she is a lioness?
- Do you think she looks fierce? Explain your answer.
- What clues suggest that this was the gravestone of an important person?
- If you were a local living in Scotland at this time, how would you feel if you saw this statue?

Look out for

- The man being eaten is naked and bearded. His arms are tied behind his back. This is a typical Roman image of a captured 'barbarian.'
- Two snakes underneath the lioness. Snakes are a Roman symbol for the power of death.
- The big muscular paws and rows of sharp teeth on the lioness were to create a picture of strength and terror.

The Romans in Scotland

Death and Belief (1)

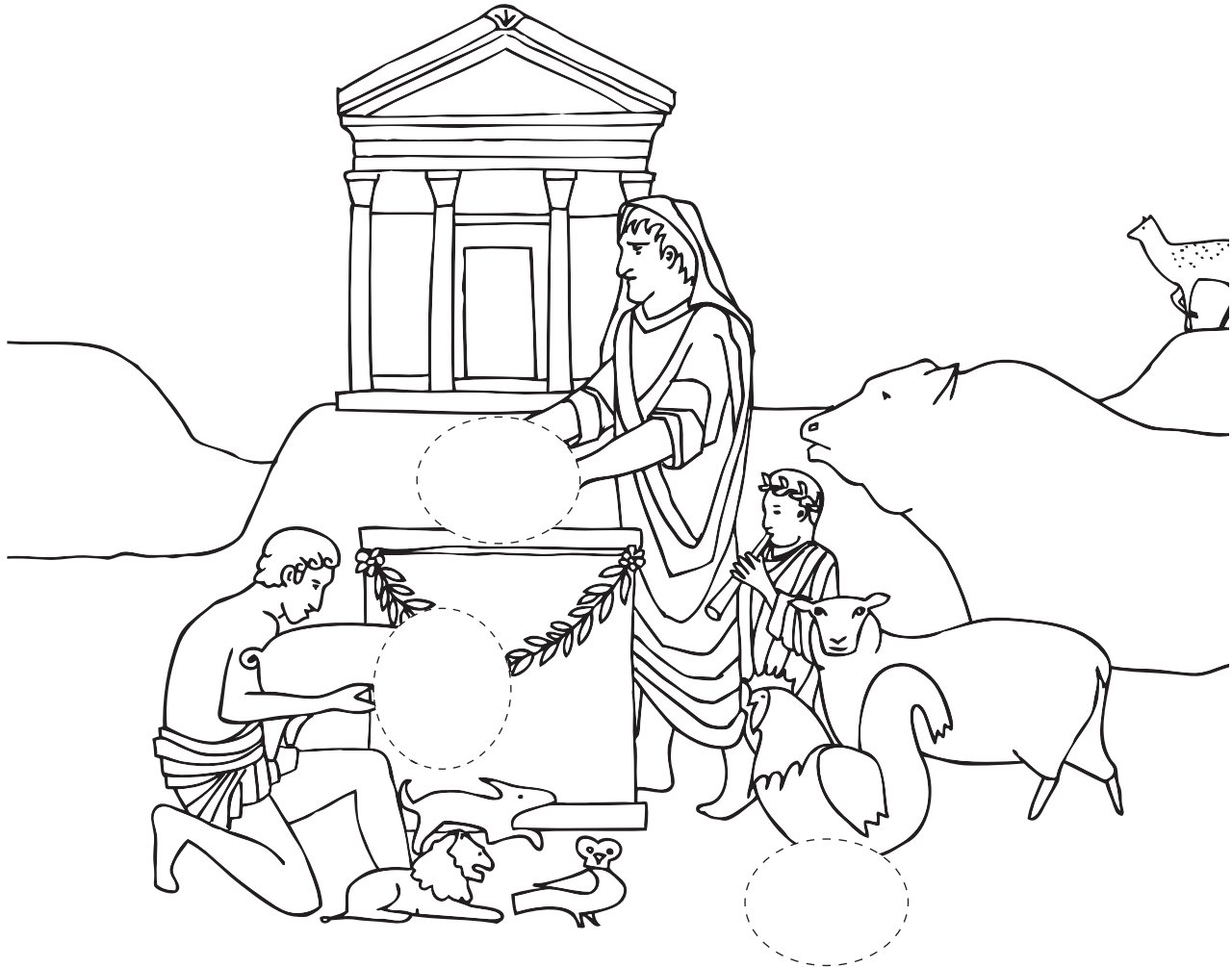
Case Y3

The Romans believed in many gods. To ask a god for help they made offerings at an altar. Look in case Y3 to help you draw the missing objects on the picture.

Object 1. What was used to pour wine on the altar?

Object 2. What was used to kill the animals?

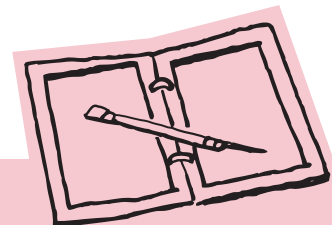
Object 3. Sometimes model animals were given instead. Add your own model animal



Talk about

If you had to give up something to keep the Gods happy, what would you choose?

In what ways do we still celebrate religious festivals?



Back at school

Find out some of the stories about the Roman gods.

Make up a short play that tells one of your favourite stories.

The Romans in Scotland

Death and Belief (2)

Sometimes the Romans would worship local gods as well as Roman ones. Brigantia was a Goddess from North Britain that the Romans army worshipped.

Case Y11

Look carefully at her sculpture and add the missing parts.

Wings

Globe

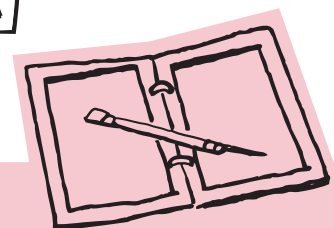
Pendant



Talk about

The Romans worshipped lots of different gods. What gods can you find?

What did these gods stand for?



Back at school

Do some research and find out about other Roman gods and goddesses.

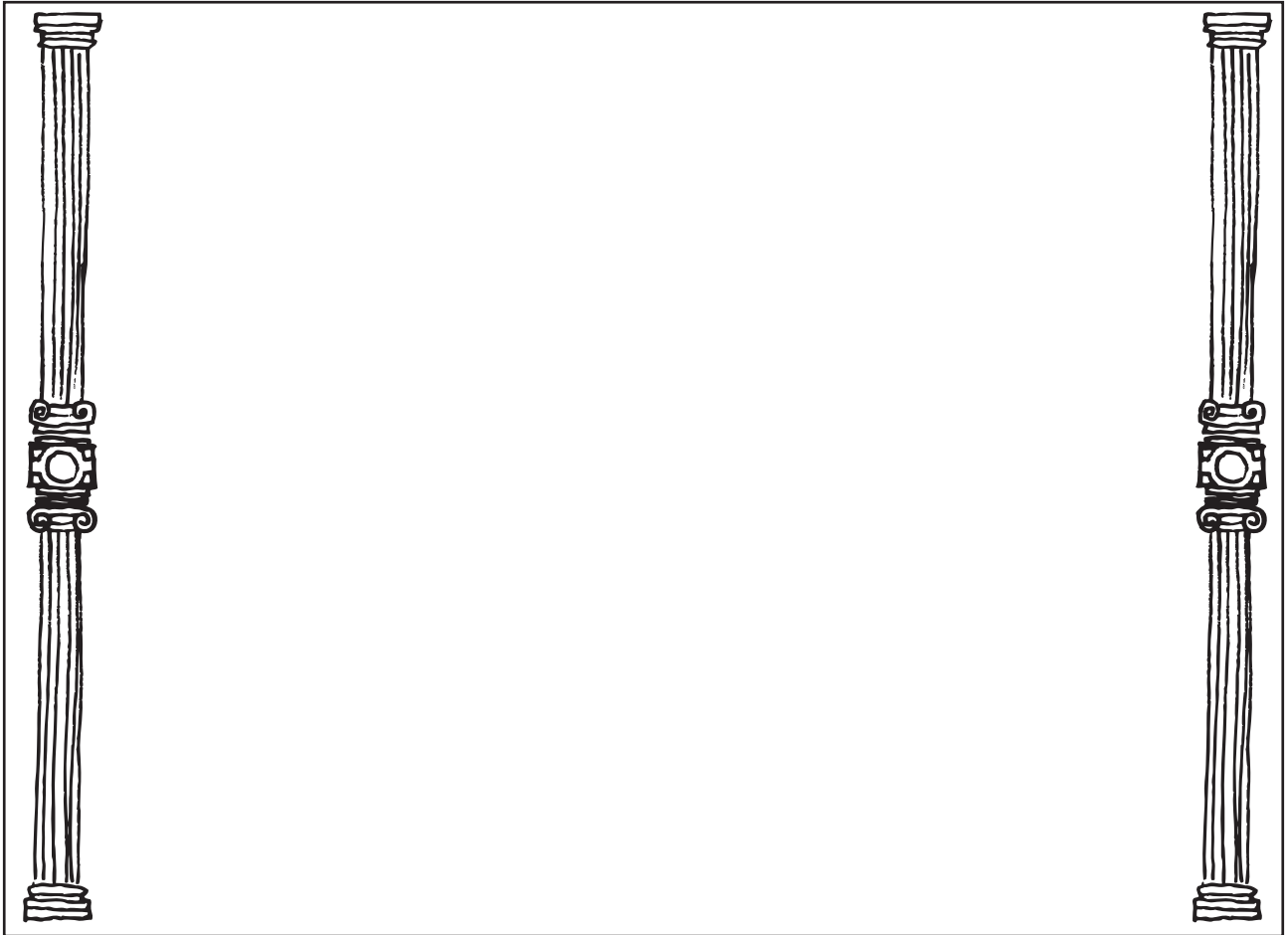
Did they carry similar objects to Brigantia? See if you can find out what all these symbols stood for.

The Romans in Scotland

A postcard for the Museum shop

You have been asked to design a new postcard to sell in the Museum shop. You must choose one Roman object that you think will make people want to visit the gallery.

Draw your chosen object in the space provided.



Write a little bit of information about the object that might make visitors want to see it.
