

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

ACT LIKE A ROMAN



Recommended for

KS2 (History, Drama)

Learning objectives

- Identify the clothing worn by the Romans and understand that this was linked to their status.
- Imagine what it would have been like to be a Roman living at Wroxeter Roman City.

Time to complete

Approx. 30 minutes



A student dressed up as a Roman town council member in Wroxeter's education room.

SUMMARY

When you get to Wroxeter, ask a member of site staff about the activity box which supports this activity. It contains a copy of these activity instructions and eight sets of Roman character cards (enough for a class of 32 working in groups of four).

To ensure everything is available on the day of your visit, please book this activity box with our Education Bookings Team.

To set up this activity, put students into groups of four. Unpack the activity box and hand out one set of Roman character cards to each group. Each student should take one character card and find out their character's age, gender, status and job.

Next, use the character cards as a stimulus for role-play. Ask four students, each playing a different character, to come to the front of the room with their character card. Interview them one at a time, to find out their age, their job and some other facts about them. At the end of each interview, ask the rest of the class to give the interviewee some tips on how this character should walk and talk to show their character's status.

Now ask students to get into pairs and, based on their characters, create a short dialogue. For example, the town council member might order the cart driver to go and get some more logs for the bath house.

Finally, you could select a few pairs to get into costume, using the costumes hanging on the rail in the education room, and perform their role-play to the rest of the group. Please note: there are only four costumes available to help with this activity, so students will need to share.

When you have finished doing the activity, please put the character cards and costumes back as you found them, for others to enjoy.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Back in the classroom, students could apply their understanding of Roman fashion, by designing a costume for a high- and low-status Roman man or woman, with labels.

CART DRIVER

Age

23

Job

I'm a cart driver. I bring logs from the countryside into Wroxeter town. I load the logs onto a wooden cart, which is pulled along by oxen.

More About Me

The wood I bring into the town will be burnt to provide heat for rooms in the bath house.

It's hard work travelling in the wind and rain all day. I get nasty splinters on my hands from carrying the logs.

I'm a slave so I don't get paid anything but at least my master gives me food and somewhere to sleep.



COUNCIL MEMBER



Age

45

Job

I'm a member of the town council. I was elected by the local people to help make decisions about the town and how it should be run.

More About Me

I'm a local landowner and I have lots of money.

People care about my opinions and I make sure my voice is heard at council meetings.

The council is in charge of gathering tax for the government, dealing with people who break the law, and organising religious events.

ARISTOCRAT

Age

33

Job

I manage the household slaves, plan dinner parties, entertain guests and make sure my husband has everything he needs.

More About Me

My parents were rich enough to pay for my education so I learnt to read and write from a young age.

Looking young and beautiful is important to me. I make face cream from things like rose petals and honey. I get my slaves to do my hair and makeup.

My jewellery is worth lots of money so I make sure to show it off whenever I go out.



SHOP KEEPER



Age

21

Job

I spend all day working in a shop, selling things to customers.

More About Me

I have to serve people who come into the shop, and keep it well stocked, but I can't afford slaves to help me, so I have to wake up early and work all day.

The work is tough but satisfying.

I hope to one day use the money I earn to buy a nicer house and clothes, like the rich people in the town.