

# THE ROMAN EMPIRE



This term we are going to be looking at **THE ROMAN EMPIRE!** There are going to be some great quick builds from Roman arches to Roman gladiators!

## THE QUICK BUILDS

The first half of the club is usually taken up with the quick build. The video can be used directly from **Youtube** each week or downloaded from **Dropbox** if that is easier. **Molly** will cover the basic learning objectives each week along a timed quick build for the children to work along with.

Usually the teacher will choose the best craft from each table and get the children to show their creations at the front. The rest of the children can then vote for who they want to win. You should then take a photo of them with your phone and upload it to the competition page at **[www.kidswithbricks.com/myclub](http://www.kidswithbricks.com/myclub)**.

Parents and children can then vote for their favourites online.

The main thing is that the quick builds are done as described on the correct week as this forms the basis of the inter school competition where your school can earn points for the national leaderboard.



↪ **Molly**

## RULES

1. **No eating the bricks**
2. **No squabbling**
3. **Put all the bricks away**

# WEEK 1 - FOOD AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE

Rome is the capital city of Italy. It is one of the most popular cities in the world. A huge 9 million people visit it each year to see the ancient sites like the **Colosseum** and **The Forum**, the fabulous designer shops and to eat the mouthwatering food.

One of the most famous foods from Italy is **gelato**. 'Gelato' is the Italian word for ice cream though it's actually slightly different. It is a lot smoother and is made with more milk than cream.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Ancient Romans enjoyed fast food! They had buildings called **thermopoliums** from which they served hot food and drinks for busy Romans on the go. They were also fond of pizza though it wasn't like the pizza we know and love today, it was more like a tasty flatbread.



The modern pizza is more of a recent creation and the famous Neapolitan Margherita pizza was invented for the Queen of Italy at the time, Queen Margherita, in 1889. Its colours reflect the Italian flag; green basil, white mozzarella and red tomatoes.

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is... **a pizza!** Don't forget your favourite toppings!

Before you start, you have 1 minute to get your blocks ready.

# WEEK 2 - ROMAN SOLDIERS

Roman soldiers were an integral part of the success of the Roman Empire.



Soldiers were part of **legions** which formed the gigantic Roman army. These were made up of around 6000 men (women weren't allowed to join!) and they used different weapons including bows and arrows, swords and slingshots.

The Roman army was very well organised and very strong. It was the most disciplined and largest army in the ancient world. In fact, when the Romans invaded Britain in 43AD (over two thousand years ago), the army took on and beat armies 10 times its size!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Roman soldiers had to be very tough. When they weren't in battle, they spend hours training; practicing important formations, fighting each other one on one and learning how to march. Marching was very important. Soldiers had to carry equipment like tents, various weapons and food supplies for around 20 Roman miles (18 miles to us) all whilst wearing their armour!

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman soldier!**

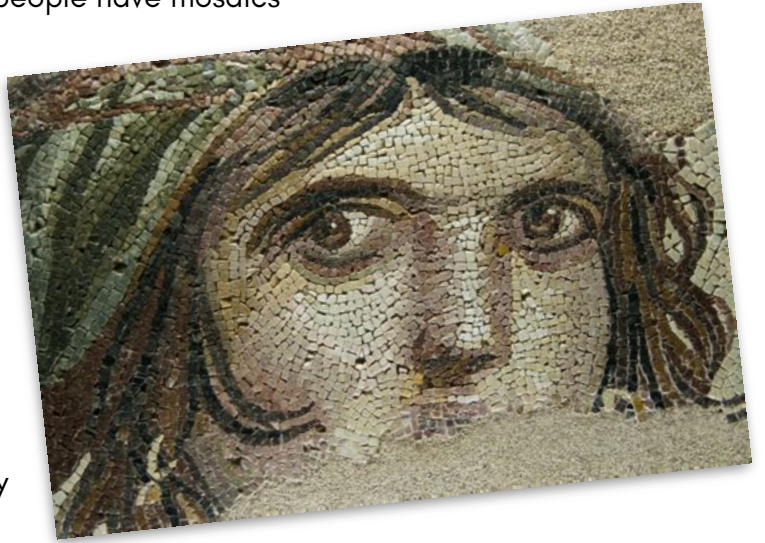
Before you start you have 1 minute to get your blocks ready.



# WEEK 3 - ROMAN MOSAICS

Mosaics can be found all over the world; in restaurants, in subways, on floors, in parks as public art and lots of other places. Many people have mosaics in their own homes like in their kitchens and bathrooms. The Romans also loved mosaics and they were the ones who really turned them into an art form.

They used a type of cement called **mortar** to stick lots and lots of tiny pieces of stone and glass to floors and walls to create patterns and tell stories. Roman mosaics are very important as they tell us a lot about things that happened, the kind of music they liked to listen to, local traditions, how much money they had and what everyday life was like for a typical person.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Roman mosaics show what life was like and in Pompeii, where many people kept dogs, lots of the mosaics uncovered there contain the words "**cave canem**" on them- Latin for "beware the dog!"



## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman mosaic**! Will yours have your pet or perhaps a party?

Before you start you have 1 minute to get your blocks ready.

# WEEK 4 - ROMAN CHARIOTS



Chariot racing was the most popular sport of Ancient Rome. People would gather in huge stadiums, like the **Circus Maxima** in Rome which could seat up to 150,000 people, to watch charioteers and their horses racing at top speeds, thundering past and taking tight turns during very dangerous but exhilarating races.

The chariots were light, made of wood, had two or four wheels and often had nothing more than a floor and a raised guard at the front. They were pulled by one or two horses and could reach speeds of 40mph!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Gaius Appuleius Diocles** was one of the most famous and well paid Roman charioteers. He raced three or four times a week and became the most well paid sports star of all time. By the time he retired after a 24 year chariot racing career, he had earned the equivalent of £11 billion!



## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman chariot!** Don't forget the horses!

Before you start you have 1 minute to get your blocks ready.

# WEEK 5 - ROMAN ARCHES

The Romans were fantastic builders...just like you!

They are very well known for their incredible engineering feats like bridges and roads and were always looking for ways to build bigger and stronger.

**Arches** were not invented by the Romans but they did perfect them. The arch design allowed them to build huge structures without the need for supporting pillars. This meant that they could be used to construct long bridges and aqueducts (bridges which transported water) which were vital to the expansion of the empire.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Colosseum is an icon of Rome and welcomes over 6 million tourists every year. It was used to stage dramatic gladiator and wild animal fights and could fit in more than 50,000 spectators. Its impressive size was structurally possible because of the use of 240 arches across 3 floors.

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman arch**. It could be part of a bridge or a building, it's up to you!

Before you start you have 1 minute to get your blocks ready.

# WEEK 6 - ROMAN GLADIATORS



The Romans loved sport but not as we know it. Whereas we might flock to stadiums to watch football or rugby matches, the Romans enjoyed visiting gigantic amphitheatres like **the Colosseum** to watch gladiators battle—sometimes to the death! They would mostly fight each other but rarely they would go up against ferocious wild animals like crocodiles, bears and lions!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some gladiators were traded like modern day footballers! Many were slaves and prisoners who were bought by managers and trained in special gladiator schools which taught them how to use weapons professionally. They were then hired out for fights and if they won, the managers often made huge amounts of money. They had to stay with their managers for about five years but, if they survived, they were often set free.



## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman gladiator**. You could even add a scary lion!

Before you start you have 1 minute to get everything ready.

# WEEK 7 - ROMAN SWORDS

The Roman short sword, or the **gladius**, was an invaluable weapon used by the Roman army. These swords were short, with blades, only about 18 inches in length, but were very useful during battles.

Their size allowed them to be thrust quickly in different directions and their sharp pointed tip could pierce armour. They were such effective and deadly weapons that they struck fear into the Roman army's opponents and helped the empire to expand.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Obviously Roman soldiers needed to practice using short swords as any weaknesses in individuals would have weakened the whole army. This training could last as long as 4 months and the soldiers used wooden swords to make sure that there were no serious accidents- just horrible bruising!

## QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is a **Roman sword**.

Before you start you have 1 minute to get everything ready.

