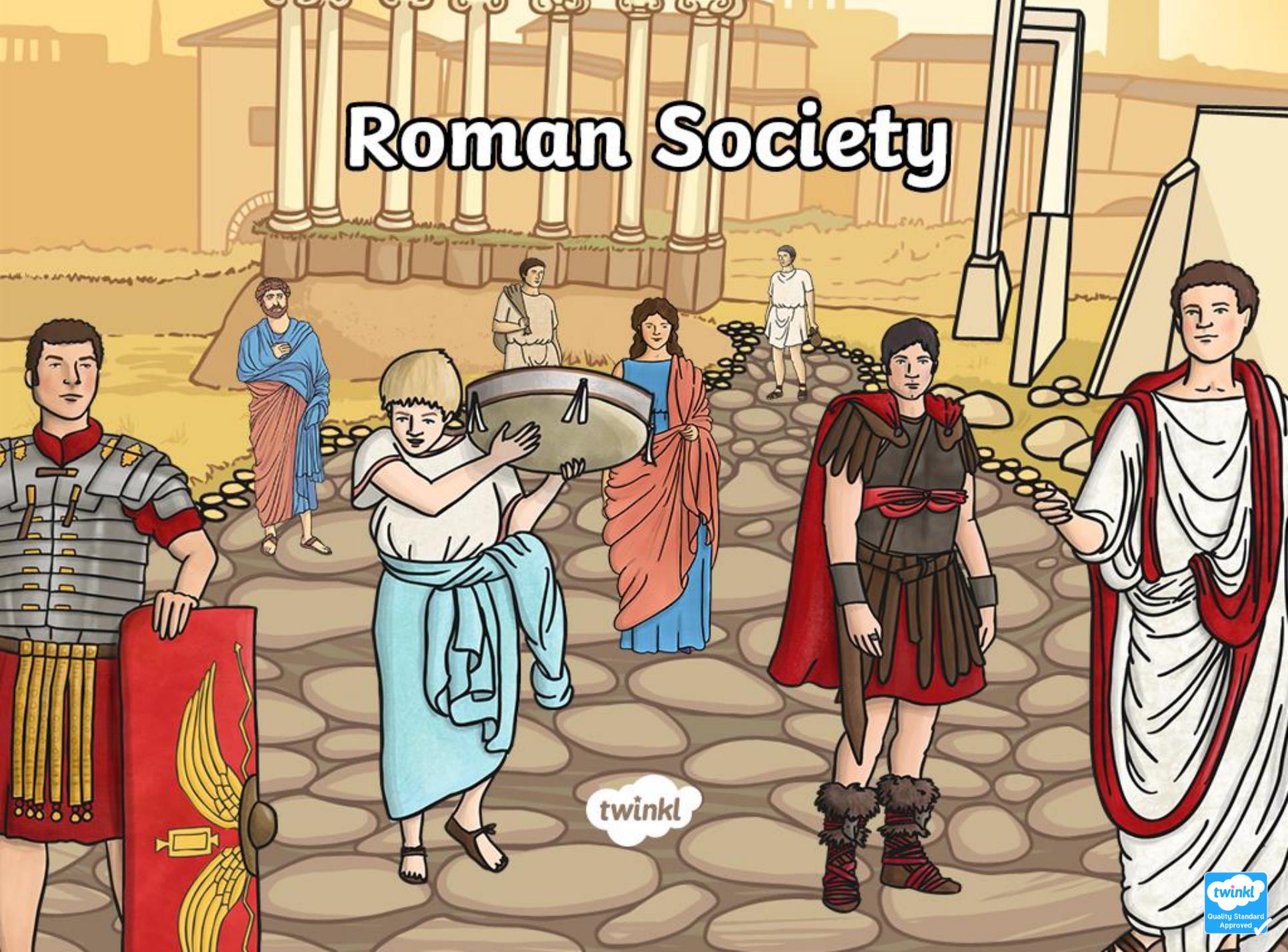


Roman Society



twinkl

Aim

- To learn about the hierarchy of Roman society.

Success Criteria

- I can order different groups of people from Roman society into their correct hierarchy and explain my reasoning.

Roman Society

In Roman society, people were not seen as equals.

You were either a citizen, a non-citizen (also known as provincials) or a slave.



Roman Slavery

Most Romans accepted slavery. Slaves could be men, women, girls or boys.

If you had been captured in battle, it was likely that you may be made to become a slave. You were then sent back to Rome and sold.

Abandoned children were taken as slaves.

Sometimes, fathers could even choose to sell their older children into the slave trade if they were desperate for money.



Roman Slavery



Slaves were bought and sold at a slave market. Their individual prices depended on their skills and talents. For example, a slave that could cook would be more expensive than one that couldn't.

As a slave, having important skills could be your ticket to better treatment from your 'master'.

Age also played a massive part in slave prices. Younger slaves were usually more expensive as they were often stronger and fitter.



Life as a Roman Slave

Life wasn't easy for slaves. They were seen as the property of their master and had no rights. Some masters treated their slaves very harshly.

Some worked in the homes of the wealthy and had jobs such as cleaning, washing, dressing their master and preparing the meals.

Mining was the toughest job a slave could be given as it was very dangerous.



Life as a Roman Slave

Some slaves worked on farms and those, who were educated, often tutored the children of their masters.

A slave that had served within a household for a long time may have been treated as an important part of the family.



Manumission

Manumission was the act of a slave master freeing his or her slaves.

Slaves could buy their freedom or be freed by their master after many years of service, making them 'freedmen'.



Formal manumission, performed by a magistrate, gave a former slave full Roman citizenship. However, they were never allowed to become involved in politics. Children of 'freedmen' also had full rights of citizenship and could be involved with politics when they became older.



Manumission

Informal manumission gave fewer rights. If the master freed the slave themselves, the individual didn't become a proper Roman citizen.

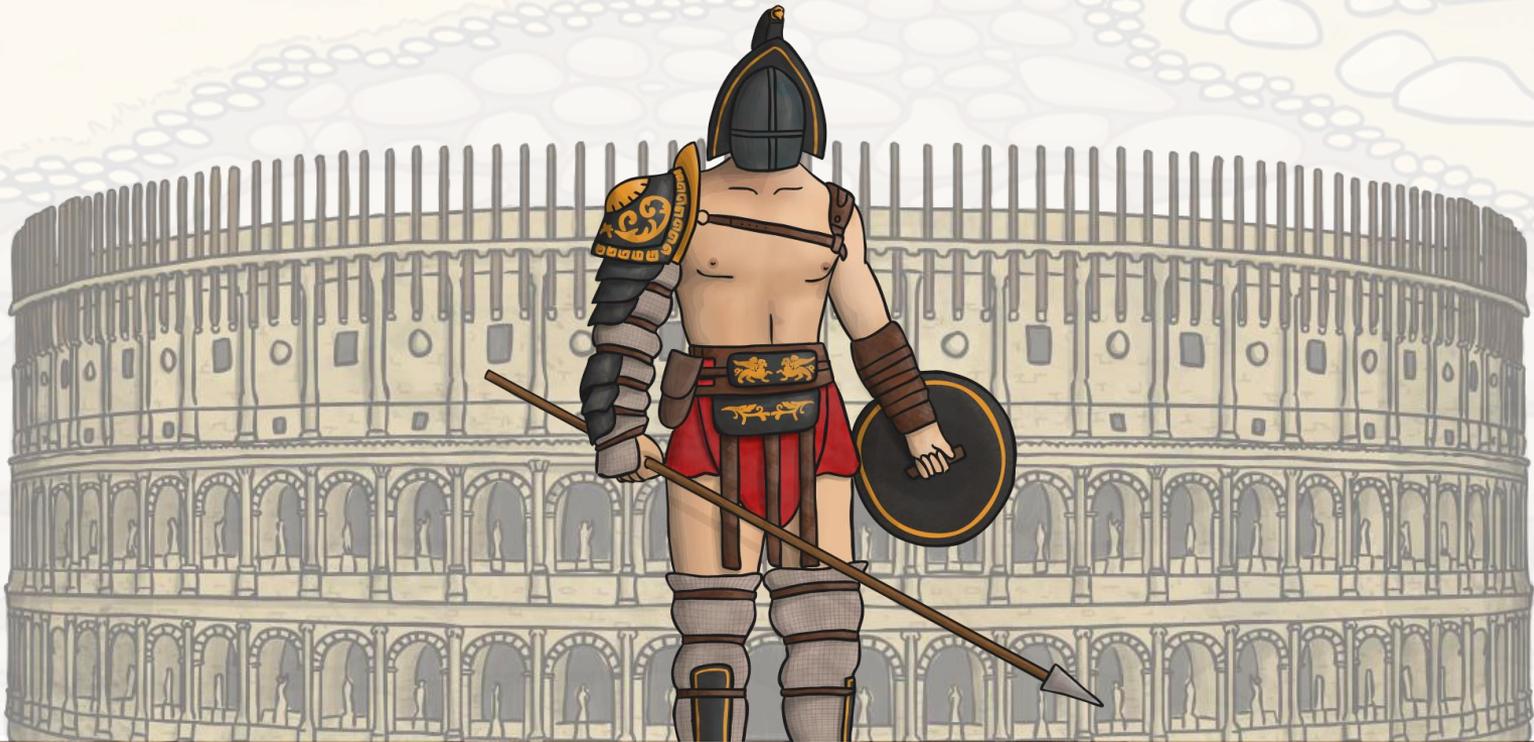
Any money or property they came to own through their lives went back to their master when they died.



Gladiators

Most gladiators were slaves who were taught to fight.

However, they could win their freedom by fighting successfully in amphitheatres.



Life After Slavery

Although they became 'free', the former slave still had a duty to serve their former master in some way, e.g. many former slaves continued to do paid work for their former masters.

In some cases, a former slave, who had grown up with the family and was treated as part of it, inherited the family's wealth, or even married a family member.

Also, many freedmen went on to own many slaves of their own.



Roman Citizenship



In the rest of society, Roman people, who weren't slaves, could be granted Roman citizenship if they were considered worthy, e.g. a soldier who had served for many years.

Roman citizenship brought privileges such as the right to vote (unless you were a woman), the right to a lawful marriage or a fair trial.

No Roman citizen could ever receive the death penalty unless they were found guilty of treason.

Women and Girls



Women and girls were not seen as being equal to men and boys. In fact, women and girls were only treated a little better than slaves.

In Roman society, the amount of freedom you had as a woman was decided by your wealth and who your father or husband was.

Free women were classed as Roman citizens but didn't have the rights of a full citizen. For example, they weren't allowed to vote or become involved in politics.

Women and Girls

Women were given a very basic education and were expected to take a traditional role in the household doing jobs, such as preparing and cooking the meals, making clothes and raising any children. They lived under the authority of their father or husband at all times.

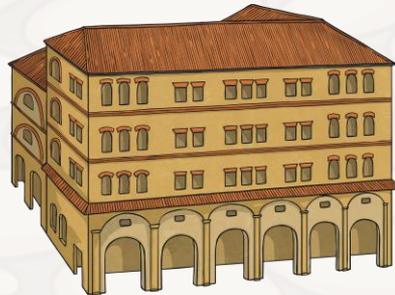


Homes

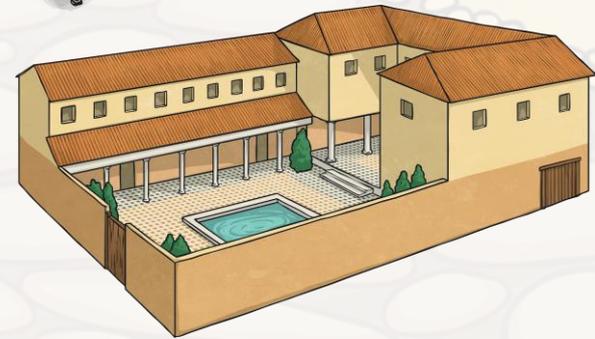
Poor Romans in the countryside lived in small villages of wooden huts with thatched roofs.



A Roman villa was a luxurious estate for rich Romans in the countryside.



Poor Romans in towns and cities lived in Insulae.



A domus was a type of house in the city in which a rich Roman would have lived.

Jobs

Farmers – Roman farmers used to grow lots of wheat as it would be used to make bread.

Merchants – Merchants were people who sold and bought things from around the Empire. They helped to make the Empire rich.

Craftsmen – Craftsmen were skilled people who would create items. These could range from fine jewellery, to pots and weapons for the Empire.



Jobs

Soldiers – Many poor people chose to become soldiers as it guaranteed a regular wage and were given land once they finished their 25 year service.

Lawyers, teachers and engineers - Educated Romans could do these jobs.

Entertainers – This included actors, musicians, dancers, chariot racers and gladiators.

Government – This included many jobs such as clerks and tax collectors, but also included Senators. Senators were high-ranking and were very rich and powerful.

Plebeians

Plebeians were the working class. They generally lived in very crowded, basic apartments.

Most plebeians were soldiers, farmers, bakers, builders or craftsmen. They were also usually Roman citizens.



Patricians

The patricians were at the top of Roman society. They were the ruling classes and were always Roman citizens.

Patricians were very wealthy and made up a very small percentage of the Roman society.

These people could trace their ancestry back to the founding of Rome.



The Emperor and Senate

The Emperor controlled the Roman Empire and had a very luxurious life with the best of everything.

He was advised by the Senate, who were a group of men (senators) made up of the wealthy, upper classes from powerful families.

Being a senator was a very prestigious and highly respected position.

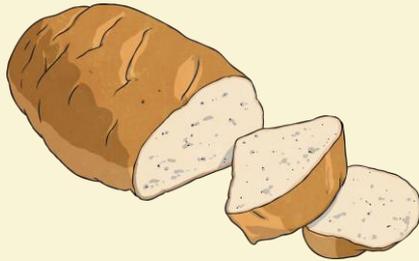
Once you became a senator, you held the position for the rest of your life.



Food

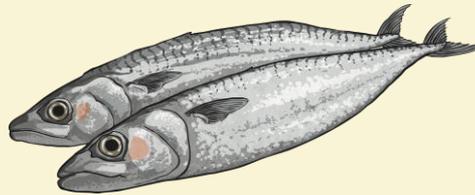
The Romans ate three meals a day. Lots of their diet was similar to food we have today. In fact, many of the fruits and vegetables we know were brought to Britain by the Romans.

Ientaculum (breakfast)



- bread
- pancakes
- dates
- honey

Prandium (lunch)



- fish
- cold meat
- bread
- vegetables

Cena (evening meal)



Poorer Romans would eat vegetables and porridge.

Richer Romans would eat a banquet and drink wine.

Roman Banquets

As the Empire conquered more areas, the Romans were able to enjoy the foods from those countries too. The rich Romans would have huge banquets (feasts) and eat exotic foods to show off their wealth.

Some of the most extravagant parties served peacock, stuffed dormouse, roast parrot and milk-fed snails!

For a banquet, the Romans would eat almost lying down. They would spread out on couches around a low table. Banquets lasted for several hours.





twinkl