

Did you know?

- Romulus was the first King of Rome and founded the city in 753 BC.
- Rich Romans enjoyed banquets featuring exotic foods such as roasted parrot, dolphin meatballs and flamingo tongues!
- Julius Caesar invented our modern calendar of 12 months (365 days). July and August were added to the 10-month Roman calendar and named after Julius Caesar and Caesar Augustus.
- The Romans introduced many things to Britain including aqueducts, central heating, straight roads and vegetables such as carrots and turnips!
- Scotland was not part of the Roman Empire. Emperor Hadrian ordered a wall to be built to defend the Roman Empire against Scottish tribes. Hadrian's Wall stretches about 73 miles from Bowness, on the west coast, to Wallsend on the east coast: you can still walk along parts of it today.
- In Roman times, only boys went to school and only men were allowed to fight in the army.
- Roman soldiers could march up to 20 miles per day, while wearing armour and carrying their food and tents! Tough guys!
- Part of the salary of a Roman soldier was paid in salt which inspired the saying 'worth your salt'.
- The 'tortoise' was a trick the Roman army used to protect themselves. Soldiers would form a square with their shields above their heads so that they would be protected on all sides.
- The Romans loved wine. They even drank it for breakfast!
- Purple clothing was a status symbol in Roman times. However, only emperors were permitted to dress completely in purple.
- In Roman times, urine was used to clean clothes and as a tooth whitener in toothpaste!
- The Celts loved brightly-coloured clothes and used berries and plants to dye their wool different colours. Some of the patterns were striped or chequered in design – just like Scottish tartan!
- Celtic warriors carried oval-shaped shields made from wood, sharp spears and long swords with an iron blade. They used the mineral, lime, to shape their hair into spikes and decorated their skin with patterns using a blue dye called woad.