



THE  
ROMAN  
BATHS  
BATH

This learning activity has been  
created by Languages United

# **Contents**

---

## Section 1

Roman Baths – Pre-Visit Lesson

---

## Section 2

Welcome to the Roman Baths –Tapescript

---

## Section 3

Roman Baths – Activity Sheet

---

## Section 4

Roman Baths Activity Sheet – Teacher Copy

---

## Section 5

Roman Baths – Post-Visit Lesson

# Roman Baths

## Pre-Visit Lesson

Level: Intermediate

Length: 60 mins

### Objectives:

- to become more familiar with the history and necessary language for the Roman Baths
- to improve listening skills for specific information

---

### Warmer: (5 mins)

Divide the class in half and play hangman with:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ (The Roman Baths)

---

### Open the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLq6QkoQLDE> (10 mins)

Show the first image – the Roman Baths with the rising steam.

Ask Ss:

Where is this? *The Roman Baths*

What do you know about the Roman Baths? *Students may have some pre-knowledge. Ss can come up to the board and write what they know around the hangman words.*

If not, use the first image to generate the information.

Do you think this is ancient or modern? *ancient*

Do you think the water is hot or cold? *Why? hot mineral water, steam*

Where do you think it comes from? *underground*

What do you think the Romans did here? *They came to wash, to socialise, to pray, and for healing*

---

### Pre-teach Vocabulary: (10 mins)

What architecture can you see? *pillars / columns, terrace, steps, pavement, etc.*

**to sum up:** to state the main point of something in a short and clear form; to summarise.

**to flow:** to move steadily and continuously in one direction, e.g. a flow of water.

**to preserve:** to keep something in a good condition.

**to stay in character:** to maintain their performance as another person.

**to pose for a portrait:** to sit or stand in a particular position to be painted, drawn or photographed.

**to be peckish:** to be slightly hungry.

---

**Listening: (20 mins)**

Part 1

Hand out the question sheet; read through the first set of questions to check understanding; play the YouTube clip.

Ss answer the questions; check in pairs; check as a class.

---

Part 2:

Read through the second set of questions to check understanding; play the clip again / twice if necessary, pausing at the relevant parts.

Ss answer the questions; check in pairs; check as a class.

Listen to the clip again with the transcript to clarify any new language in context.

---

**Presentation preparation: (10 mins)**

Explain to Ss that on their visit to the Roman Baths they must each take a photo which they will present in the post-visit lesson. The template is given below:

This is a photo of

---

Fact 1:

---

Fact 2:

---

Fact 3:

---

Opinion: I chose it because

---

Teacher gives an example, using an image from the clip used in class.

---

**Crossword: (5 mins)**

Hand out the crosswords to be completed using the information from the lesson, in pairs or individually, depending on level / time.

# Pre-visit Lesson

## Roman Baths Student Activity Sheet

---

Part 1: Match the speaker to what is said

- Speaker 2 (Stephen Clews) says... ...'A day out at the Roman Baths means a chance to have a lot of fun but also learn stuff while you're here and discover one of the best preserved Roman sites in Britain.'
- Speaker 3 (Victoria Gzebb) says... ...'Our costume characters are great; they really bring to life the idea of the Romans living here 2000 years ago.'
- Speaker 5 (Angharad Evans) says... ...'The Roman Baths are the one place where you can come close to the reality of the Roman World.'
- 

Part 2: Watch again and answer the questions below

1. How many Roman Baths are there in the world that still have hot mineral water flowing into them?

---

2. How many minerals are there in the natural spring water?

---

3. What does the fourth speaker, Katie Smith, say that you can do at the Roman Baths?

\_\_\_\_\_ on Roman pavements

\_\_\_\_\_ the spa water

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Romans

4. Can you take a photograph with the Roman characters in costume? If not, why not?

---

5. Where can you eat if you are peckish?

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Pre-visit Lesson

## Roman Baths Student Answers

---

Part 1:

Speaker 2 (Stephen Clews) says.....‘The Roman Baths are the one place where you can come close to the reality of the Roman World.’

Speaker 3 (Victoria Gzebb) says.....‘A day out at the Roman Baths means a chance to have a lot of fun but also learn stuff while you’re here and discover one of the best preserved Roman sites in Britain.’

Speaker 5 (Angharad Evans) says.....‘Our costume characters are great; they really bring to life the idea of the Romans living here 2000 years ago.’

---

Part 2:

1. How many Roman Baths are there in the world that still have hot mineral water flowing into them? Two. FYI: there is one in Bath and the other is Saturnia Springs in Pertriolo, Italy.

2. How many minerals are there in the natural spring water? 43 minerals

3. What does the fourth speaker, Katie Smith, say that you can do at the Roman Baths?

walk on Roman pavements

taste / drink the spa water

talk to the Romans

4. Can you take a photograph with the Roman characters in costume? If not, why not?

No, because they stay in character, but they will pose for a portrait.

5. Where can you eat if you are peckish? The Pump Rooms or the Roman Baths Kitchen.

Crossword Answers:

Across:

2. Preserve

4. Steam

7. Minerals

8. Pavement

Down:

1. Underground

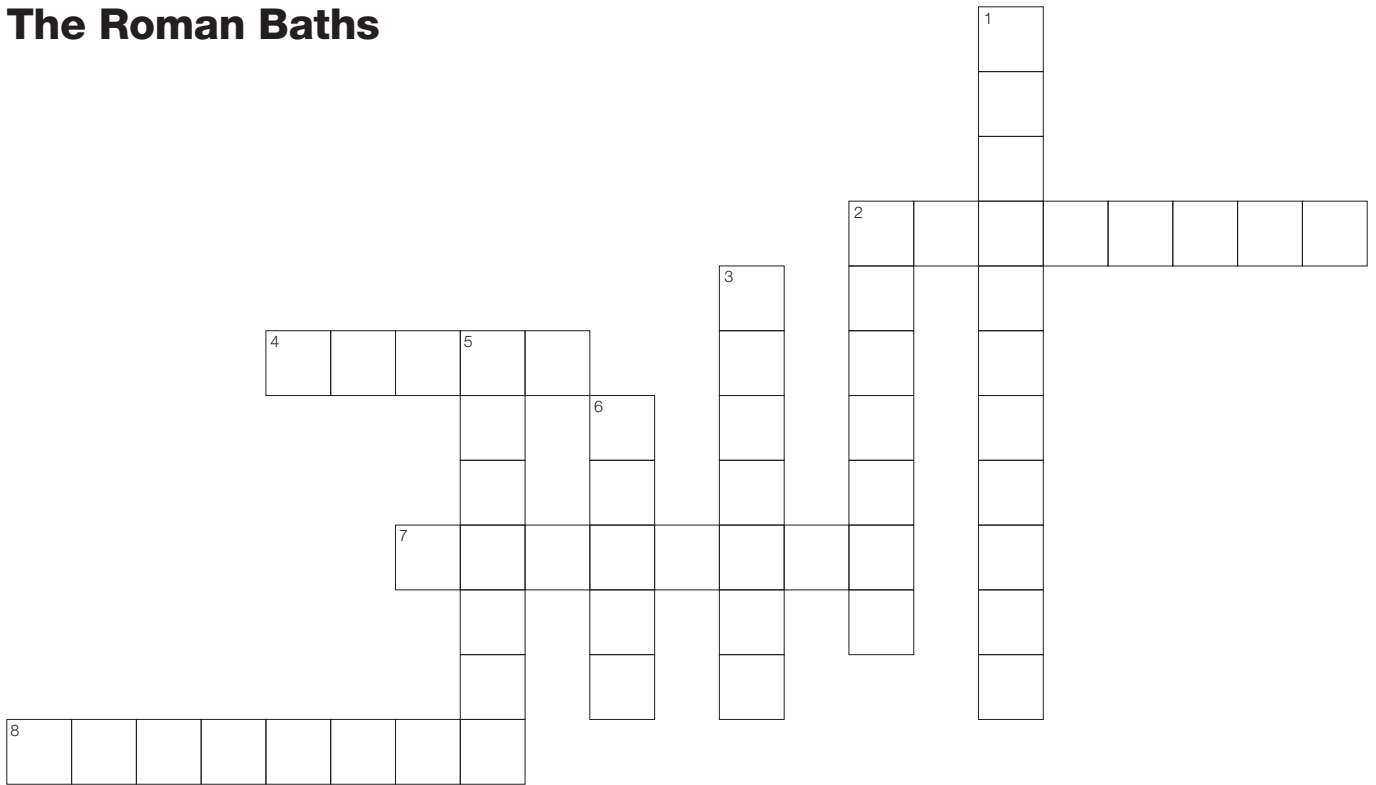
2. Peckish

3. Pillars

5. Ancient

6. Steps

# The Roman Baths



## Across

2. Keep in good condition
4. What you can see rising from the hot water
7. There are 43 of these in the water
8. Something you walk on

## Down

1. Below the earth
2. Slightly hungry
3. The big, tall columns around the pool
5. Very, very old
6. Sometimes made of stone, they go up or down



# Welcome to the Roman Baths

## Tapescript

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLq6QkoQLDE>

### **Michael Claydon, Visitor Services Assistant:**

There are only two Roman Baths in the world that still have hot mineral water flowing into them and one of them is here in Bath.

### **Stephen Clews, Roman Baths Manager:**

It is difficult to sum up the Roman Baths in just a few words but it's a fantastic place and it's one place where you can come close to the reality of the Roman world.

### **Victoria Gzebb, Visitor Services Assistant:**

A day out in the Roman Baths means a chance to have a lot of fun but also learn stuff while you're here and discover one of the best preserved Roman sites in Britain.

### **Katie Smith, Visitor Services Manager:**

People can walk on the actual pavements that the Romans walked on and that is one of the most exciting things - we haven't done anything to that, it's genuine pavement. They can taste the water, the spa water, with its 43 different minerals in it and they can talk to the Romans.

### **Angharad Evans, Visitor Service Assistant:**

Our costume characters are great. I think they really bring to life the idea of the Romans living here two thousand years ago. They stay within character, so any questions you ask them about taking photographs they will not do, but they will offer to pose for a portrait for you.

### **Michael Claydon, Visitor Services Assistant:**

During the year, there's all sorts of different events and activities that take place here on the site.

### **David Baker, Visitor Service Assistant:**

We run family activities here every school holiday and also at various point throughout the summer holidays.

### **Karen Brown, Sales Assistant:**

The retail facilities here at the Baths offer a great selection of souvenirs which are individually hand-crafted and especially unique to the gift shop here.

### **Stephen Clews, Roman Baths Manager:**

By the time you've finished doing all that, you're probably a bit peckish, so you could go to the Pump Room, which is a wonderful dining salon, or you could step outside to the Roman Baths Kitchen.

### **Mina Moosavian, Visitor Services Assistant:**

Once you visit the Roman Baths, you will never forget it.

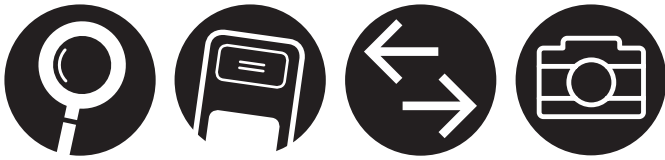
### **Children:**

It was brilliant!

### **Ladies:**

Cheers!





# Roman Baths Activity Sheet



**Go through and receive your audio guides** – listen to 1, the Introduction.



**Walk outside and look down on to the Great Bath. This terrace was completed in 1897 when the Roman Baths opened to the public.** Listen to audio guide 29 and continue around the terrace.

Q1. How many statues are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Q2. Which one is Julius Caesar? Circle A B C D E F G or H



**The Hot Spring:** Listen to audio guide 27 and look out of the window to the King's Bath.

Q3. What causes the bubbles? \_\_\_\_\_

Q4. How many litres of water rise every day? \_\_\_\_\_

Q5. What temperature is the water? \_\_\_\_\_

Q6. When was the King's Bath built? \_\_\_\_\_



**Go downstairs to 'Meet the Romans'.** Look for the Green board. Read the board to answer the questions.

Q7. Name three things the Romans did here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Q8. Only soldiers came here: TRUE or FALSE?

Who else came here? \_\_\_\_\_ &

\_\_\_\_\_ &

\_\_\_\_\_ &



**The Baths, Temple and Spring:** Listen to audio guide 35.

Q9. The large model display shows the baths, temple and spring in which century?

3rd century AD

4th century AD

5th century AD

Q10. Aquae Sulis was the Roman name for a town we know as:

Bristol

London

Bath



**The Temple Pediment:** Listen to audio guide 65.

You are looking at the temple pediment.

Q11. The pediment was at the front of the Temple of \_\_\_\_\_

and was discovered in: 1709      1789      1790

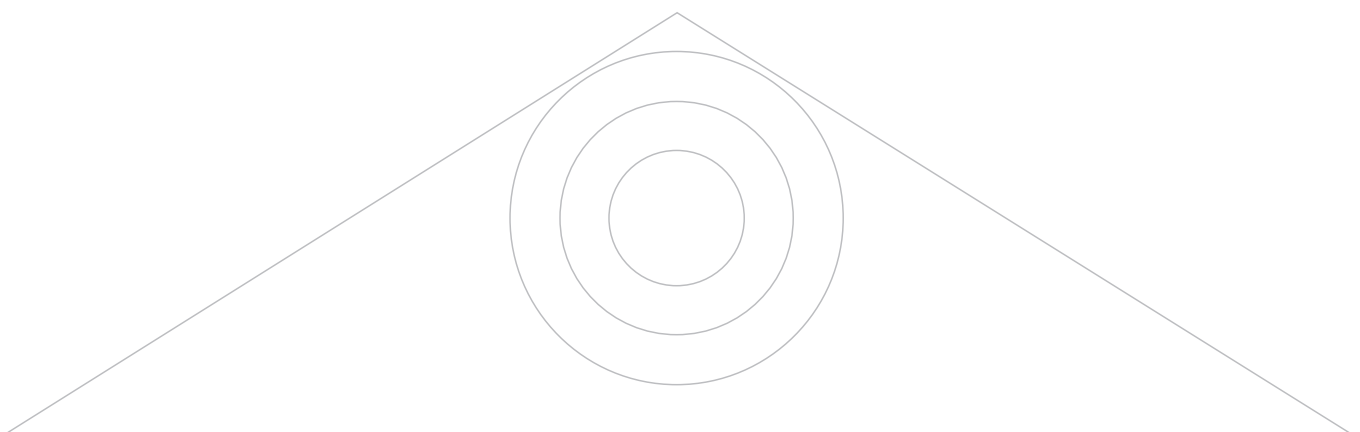
Q12. How high was it from the ground? 15m      18m      23m



Listen to audio guide 28.



Q13. Draw the temple pediment in the box below. Take a picture of your friend pointing to either – snakes, a small owl, a helmet or a dolphin's head.





**Go downstairs to Life and Death in Aquae Sulis:** There are two large gravestones on either side of the video screen on the right hand side of the room.

Q14. How old was Tancinus? \_\_\_\_\_

Q15. How old was Antigonus? \_\_\_\_\_



Take a selfie with the Flavian Lady



Look at the skeleton:

Q16. How old was this man when he died? \_\_\_\_\_



**Walk through to the next room 'Worshipping the Gods':** Listen to audio guide 34.



**Roman Curse Tablets from Bath – Britain's Earliest Prayers:**

Listen to audio guide 92.

A curse is a statement, or a message, which asks a supernatural power to cause harm or punishment to someone or something!

Q17. The curses were written on:    metal (lead or pewter)        wood        bone

Q18. They were thrown into:    the fire        the sacred spring        the earth

Q19. They were written to:    Julius Caesar        the Manager        the goddess Minerva

Q20. What type of crime are three of the curses written about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Go up the stairs and walk through the 'Temple Courtyard' to...**



**...The Head of Sulis Minerva:** Listen to audio guide 90.

Q21. What is it made of? \_\_\_\_\_

Q22. When was it found? \_\_\_\_\_

Q23. In Roman times, the statue was kept in a sacred part of the temple and only seen by priests.

TRUE / FALSE



**The Sacred Spring:** Listen to audio guide 46.



Look at the display called 'Messages to the Gods'.

Q24. If you wanted to give a special gift to the gods what would you throw in today?

---



Walk along the corridor – look to the right hand side and see the gas bubbles in the water!



**Go down the stairs to 'The Sacred Spring Overflow':**

The Spring produces a lot of water and not all of it is needed for the Baths.

Q25. The water that is not needed (the surplus water) pours into a \_\_\_\_\_ drain

and flows on to the \_\_\_\_\_

Can you feel the heat of the water?

### **Lifting stone for the Baths:**

Try lifting the stones using the two methods.

Which is easier? Why do you think this is?

---



Look at the water flowing under the glass floor.



Go outside to the Great Bath.



Take a group photo or a selfie by the Great Bath.



Turn left into the East Baths.



**Immersion Pool:** Listen to audio guide 49.

Q26. What was this pool used for?      swimming      therapy / healing      washing

Q27. Was the water hot or cold? \_\_\_\_\_



**Hot Room:** Listen to audio guide 43.

Q28. Like a sauna, the floor of this room was \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ water was poured on it to make steam.      hot      cold



Walk through the other excavated rooms and return to the Great Bath.

**Around the Great Bath:**

Speak to one of the Romans in their costumes.



Take a selfie or ask someone to take a photograph of you talking to one of the Roman characters.

Q29. What is the Roman character's name and job/profession?

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Q30. Name something they have – do you have something similar but more modern?

For example, you use a pen, but the Romans used a stylus.

I use \_\_\_\_\_

The Romans used \_\_\_\_\_



**Walk around the Great Bath; step over the hot flowing water and go up the stairs.**

On the left hand side is a pool – look at the bottom, there are lots of coins.

Q31. What should you do when you throw a coin? The answer is in these letters:

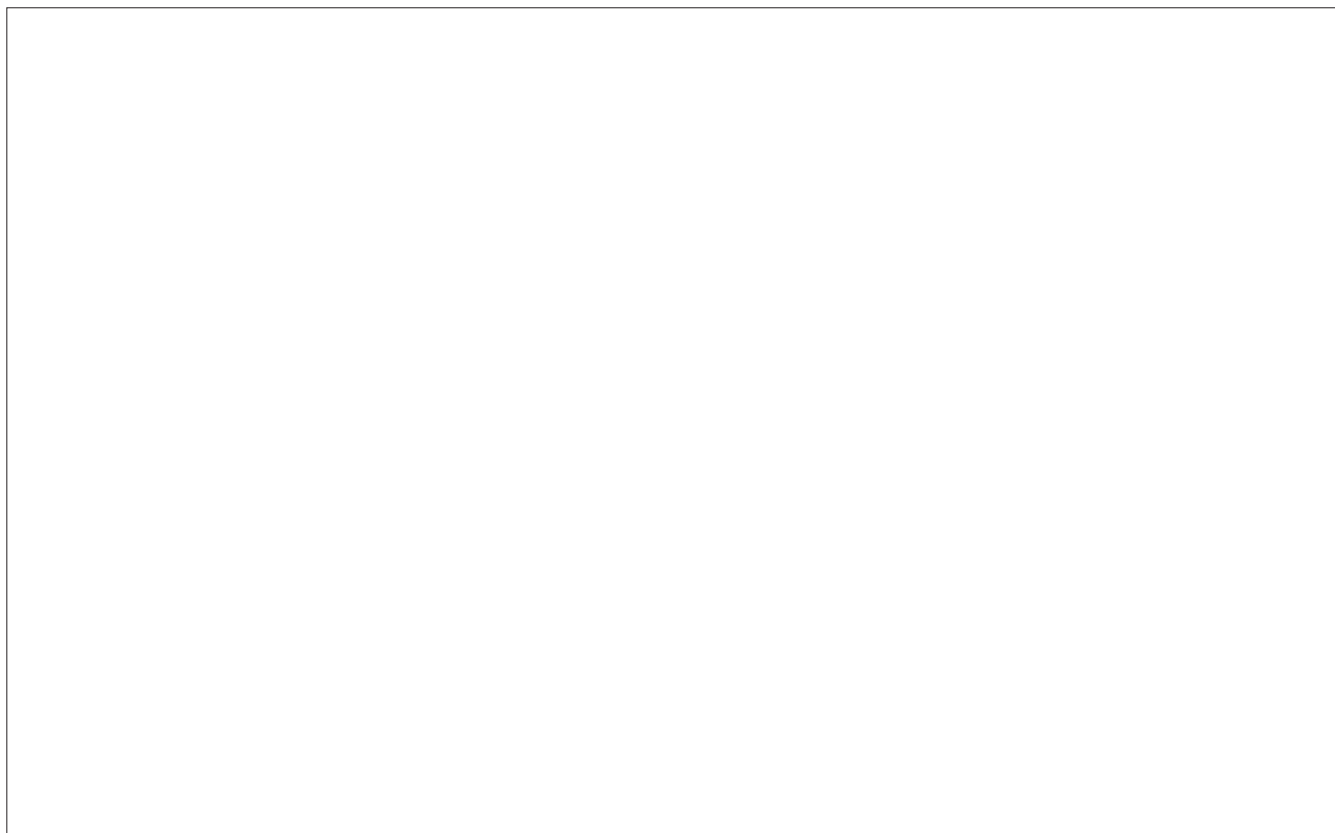
W A S H M E K A I

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

**On the right hand side is the King's Bath.**

Walk through to the fountain. Try the water – do you like it? Yes! / No!

Draw an emoji to describe your reaction to the water.

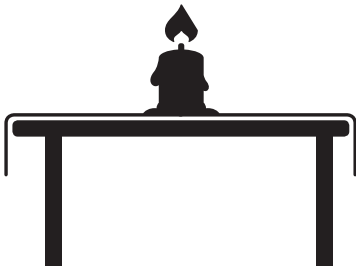


**Don't forget to return your audio guide!**

**Fill out our online feedback form here: <https://romanbaths.typeform.com/to/BLVZsb>**

## Glossary

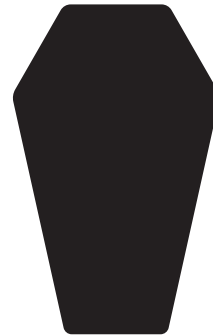
an archaeologist	a person who studies people, buildings and items from the past
an architect	a person who designs buildings
to bathe	to wash
a carving	a design / picture made on stone, wood, etc
a civilian	people who are not in the army or police; like you and me!
a drain	a pipe that carries water away
to heal / healing	the process of becoming healthy and well after illness
a helmet	a hard protective hat worn by soldiers, police officers, motorcyclists, sports players, and others
a pediment	the triangular upper part of the front of a classical building
a spring	a natural source of water
a statue	a full size carved person or animal, usually made from stone
a temple	a building for the worship of gods
a terrace	a level paved area
to worship	to show respect and love for a god



an altar



a cloak



a coffin



a gravestone



an owl



a plough



# Roman Baths Activity Sheet

## Teacher Copy

Level: Intermediate

Length: 60 – 90mins

If using the Post-Visit Lesson Plan, remind students of the template for the presentation activity in the next lesson.

This is a photo of

Fact 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Opinion: I chose it because \_\_\_\_\_

This activity sheet follows the route of the museum; the title of each section on the sheet matches the title of the relevant part of the exhibition, so it will be clear to the students which part to look at to find the answers! There is a glossary at the back to help with any unknown vocabulary – the students also have a copy of this at the back of the activity sheet.

**Walk outside and look down on to the Great Bath. This terrace was completed in 1897 when the Roman Baths opened to the public.** *Listen to audio guide 29 and continue around the terrace.*

Q1. How many statues are there?    9    8 full body statues and 1 bust.

Q2. Which one is Julius Caesar?    Circle    A – first on the right as you enter the balcony.

**The hot spring:** *Listen to audio guide 27 and look out of the window to the King's Bath.*

Q3. What causes the bubbles?    gas trapped in the water

Q4. How many litres of water rise every day?    1,170,000 litres

Q5. What temperature is the water?    46 degrees

Q6. When was the King's Bath built?    12th century AD

**Go downstairs to 'Meet the Romans'. Look for the Green board**

Q7. Name three things the Romans did here:    1. bathe    2. seek healing    3. pray

Q8. Only soldiers came here:    FALSE

Who else came here?    men & women, soldiers & civilians, slaves & free.

**The Baths, Temple and Spring:** *Listen to audio guide 35.*

Q9. The large model display shows the baths, temple and spring in which century?

3rd century AD    4th century AD    5th century AD

Q10. Aquae Sulis was the Roman name for a town we know as:

Bristol    London    Bath

**The Temple Pediment:** *Listen to audio guide 65.*

You are looking at the temple pediment.

Q11. The pediment was at the front of the Temple of **Sulis Minerva** and was discovered in:

1709    1789    1790

Q12. How high was it from the ground?    15m    18m    23m

*Listen to audio guide 28.*

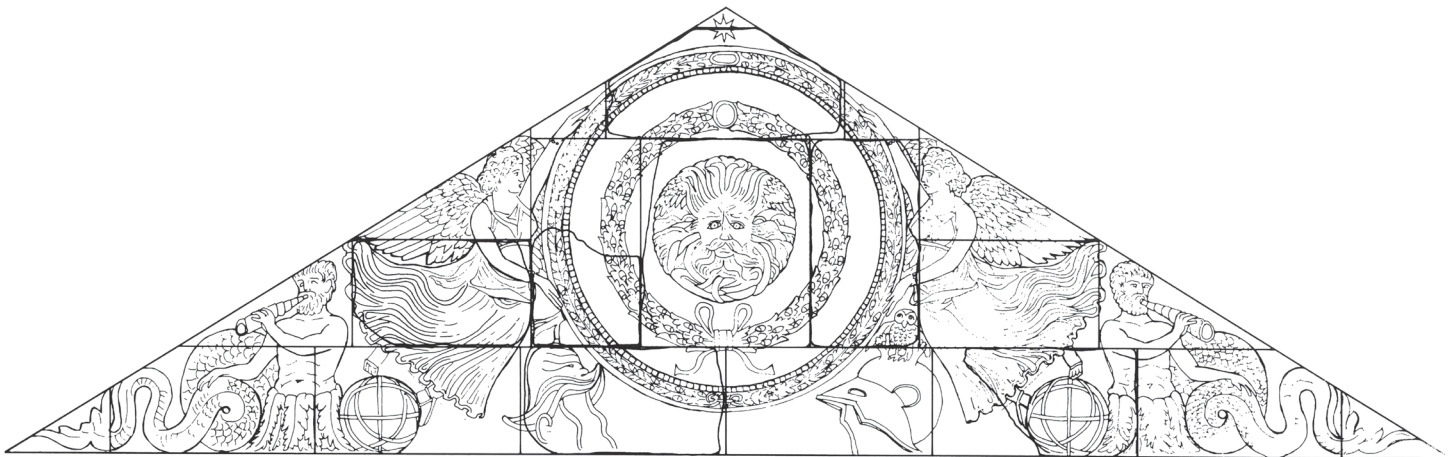
Q13. Draw the temple pediment in the box below; take a picture of your friend pointing to...

snakes: in the hair of the man in the middle of the central circle

a small owl: at the bottom right edge of the central circle

the helmet: at the bottom left edge of the central circle

a dolphin's head: on the helmet



**Life and Death in Aquae Sulis:** There are two large gravestones on either side of the video screen on the right hand side of the room.

Q14. How old was Tancinus?    46 years old

Q15. How old was Antigonus?    45 years old

Look at the skeleton:

Q16. How old was this man when he died?    45 years old

*Worshipping the Gods, audio 34.*

**Roman Curse Tablets from Bath – Britain’s Earliest Prayers:** *Listen to audio guide 92.*

A curse is a statement, or a message, which asks a supernatural power to cause harm or punishment to someone or something!

Q17. The curses were written on: metal (lead or pewter) wood bone

Q18. They were thrown into: the fire the sacred spring the earth

Q19. They were written to: Julius Caesar the Manager The goddess Minerva

Q20. What type of crime are three of the curses written about? theft

**Go up the stairs and walk through the Temple Courtyard:**

**The Head of Sulis Minerva:** *Listen to audio guide 90.*

Q21. What is it made of? bronze, covered in a layer of gold

Q22. When was it found? 1727

Q23. In Roman times, the statue was kept in a sacred part of the temple and only seen by priests.

TRUE

**The Sacred Spring:** *Listen to audio guide 46.*

Look at the display called ‘Messages to the Gods’.

Q24. If you wanted to give a special gift to the Gods, what would you throw in today?

Walk along the corridor – look to the right hand side and see the gas bubbles in the water!

**Go down the stairs to ‘The Sacred Spring Overflow’:** *Listen to audio guide 21.*

The Spring produces a lot of water and not all of it is needed for the Baths.

Q25. The water that is not needed (the surplus water) pours into a Roman drain and flows on to the river.

Can you feel the heat of the water?

**Lifting stone for the Baths:**

Try lifting the stones using the two methods. Which is easier? Why do you think this is?

*The first rope runs through a single pulley; it doesn't make lifting any easier, just changes the direction of pull.*

*The second rope uses three pulleys to lift the weight; this makes the weight seem lighter but you have to pull the rope further to lift the weight to the same height.*

Look at the water flowing under the glass floor; then go outside to the Great Bath, take pictures and turn left into the East Baths.

**Immersion Pool:** *Listen to audio guide 49.*

Q26. What was this pool used for? therapy / healing

Q27. Was the water hot or cold? hot

**Hot Room:** *Listen to audio guide 43.*

Q28. Like a sauna, the floor of this room was hot, and cold water was poured on it to make steam.

Walk through the other excavated rooms and return to the Great Bath.

**Around the Great Bath:**

Speak to one of the Romans in their costumes. Take a picture.

Q29. What is their name and job / profession?

/

---

Q30. Name something they have – do you have something similar but more modern?

For example, you use a pen, but the Romans used a stylus.

I use

The Romans used

---

**Walk around the Great Bath; step over the hot flowing water and go up the stairs.**

On the left hand side is a pool – look at the bottom, there are lots of coins.

Q31. What should you do when you throw a coin? The answer is in these letters:

W A S H / M E / K A I

answer: M A K E / A / W I S H

**On the right hand side is the King's Bath.**

**Walk through to the fountain.** Try the water – do you like it? Yes! / No!

Draw and emoji to describe your reaction to the water.



**Don't forget to return your audio guide!**

# Roman Baths

## Post-Visit Lesson

Level: Intermediate

Length: 60 mins

### Objectives:

- practise speaking for fluency
- practise listening for gist and specific information
- reinforce knowledge and understanding of the Roman Baths

### Presentation of photos: (30 mins)

Review the photograph language sheet:

This is a photo of

Fact 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Fact 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Opinion: I chose it because \_\_\_\_\_

Divide the class into 2 or 3 groups, depending on numbers. Each student presents the photo taken on their phone / camera at the Roman Baths. At the end each group must decide on one to show the rest of the class (based on information, good use of language, etc.).

Provide correction and feedback.

### Quiz:

Part 1: (10 mins)

Divide the class into two or three teams depending on numbers. Each team has a spokesperson and only that person can answer; the teacher asks some of the questions from the worksheet. Points are awarded for a correct answer and lost for an incorrect answer.

Part 2: (20 mins)

Each team writes 5 or more questions (depending on level) based on the visit to the Roman Baths. The questions are asked to the other team, or teams, and only the team spokesperson can answer. Points are awarded for a correct answer and lost for an incorrect answer. If in two teams, the questioning team win the point if the answer is incorrect.

**Fill out our online feedback form here: <https://romanbaths.typeform.com/to/OHHXQL>**