Science at the Roman Baths Biology at the Baths Teachers' Guide

Bath & North East Somerset Council

Resources required:

- Audio guides
- Biology at the Baths work booklet (either one each or in pairs)
- Something to write with
- Map of the Baths to aid navigation

Links to the KS3 curriculum:

- Making scientific observations
- Hygiene
- Health and disease
- Evaluating evidence

Instructions and Model Answers

Before beginning the task students should read the instructions in the booklet and be shown how to use the audio guide.

Throughout the activity, the aim is to get students thinking scientifically and applying their knowledge in a new, open, context. As such, there are not right or wrong answers but suggestions of possible responses. There is a separate bullet point for each question, in the same order in which they appear in the booklet.

Getting to the bottom of the Baths

- Green, opaque, cloudy, steaming, warm etc.
- Lead is toxic, dissolved dangerous substances, pathogens/ dangerous microorganisms living in the water, transmission of diseases between people.

Material evidence

• Porous material cannot be cleaned properly, use of lead/ toxic substances for food and drink storage.

Clues from the skeleton 1

- Analysing evidence of his diet/ chemicals/ isotope profiles of bone and teeth (information on sign board and audio guide).
- Signs of proper/ deformed bone formation, physical size and height.

Clues from the skeleton 2

• There are several bones missing, there are fractures and signs of damage to the right femur (thigh) and various other bones.

Health of the settlement

• Insect vector diseases such as malaria, attacks from wild animals.