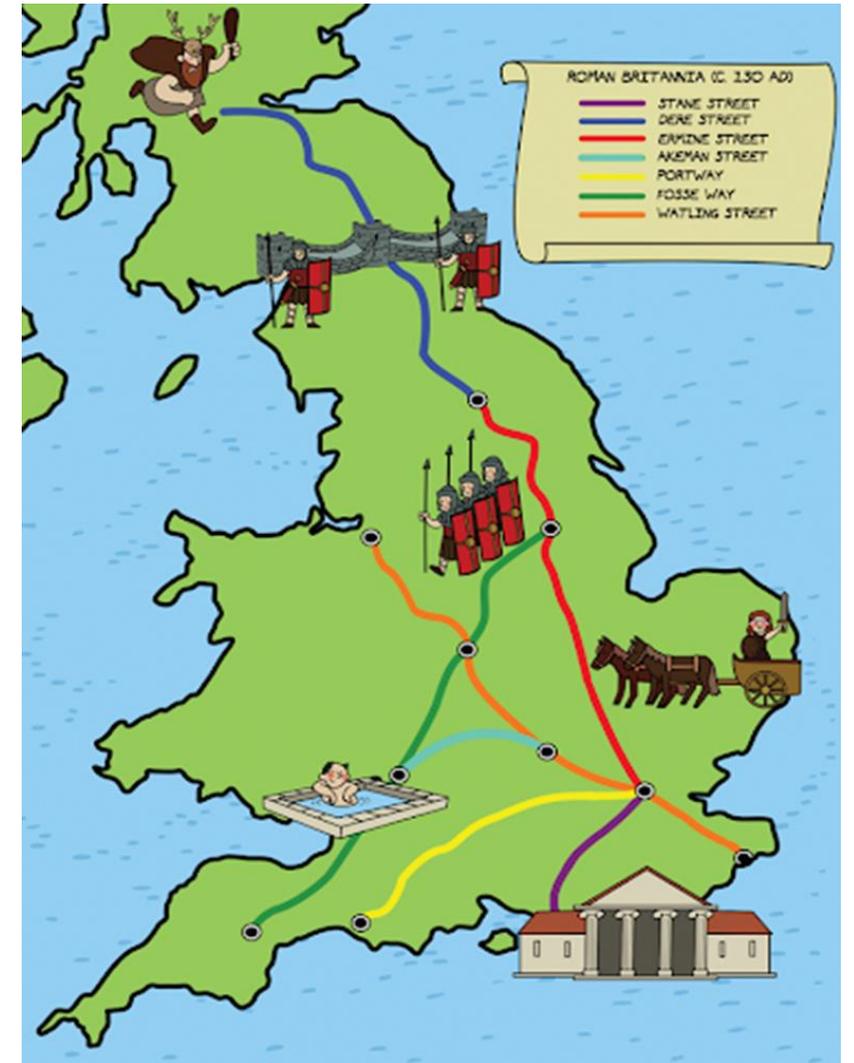
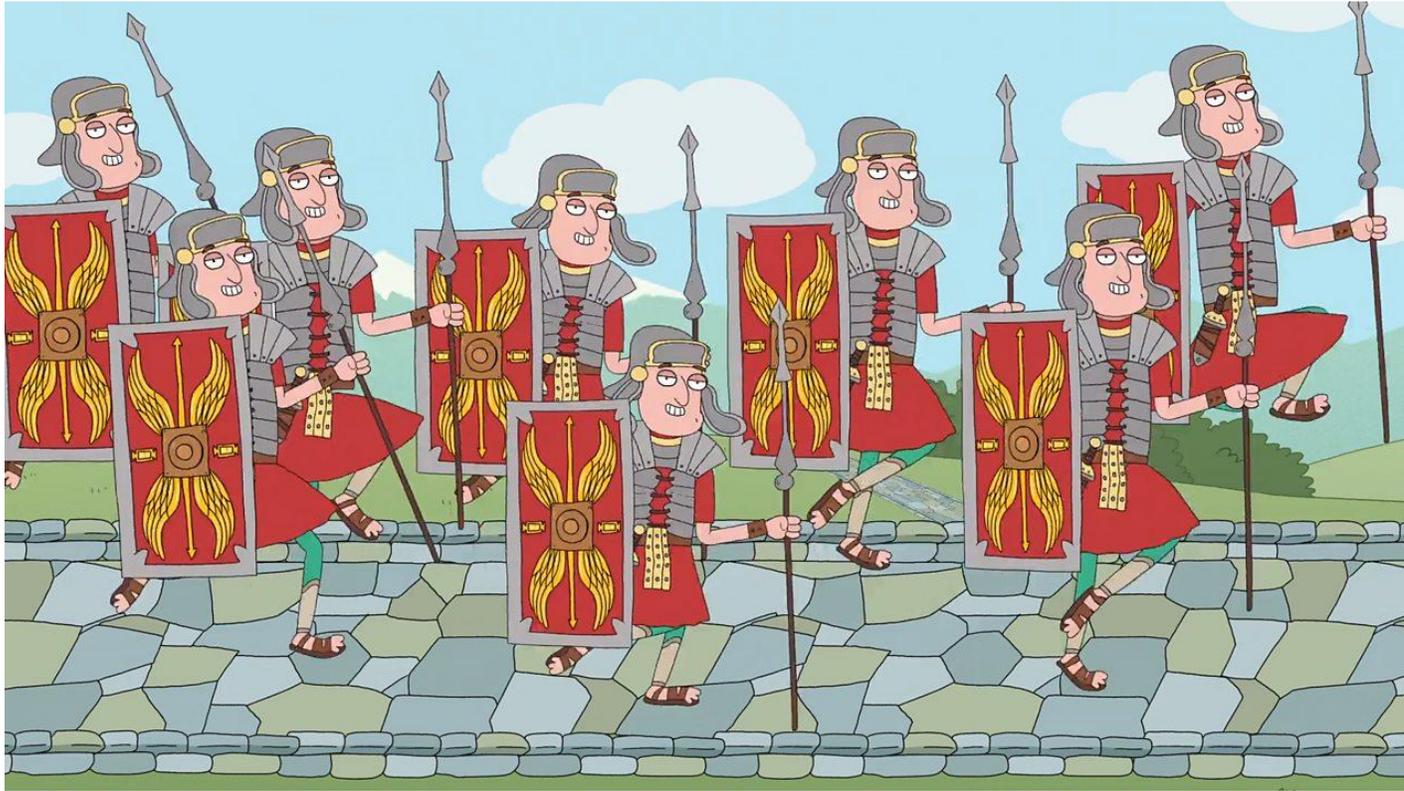


Day 2- Roman Roads – Tuesday 23rd June



Read this information about Roman Roads.

Before the Romans arrived in Britain there were no proper roads, only tracks. The Celts rode horses, walked, or travelled in carts pulled by oxen. They did not need lots of roads because they didn't go far. The Romans were famous for their roads. You can still see some Roman roads in Britain today. The Romans wanted good roads so that they could move the soldiers quickly around the country. They also wanted to be able to move food and things they could sell. Soldiers sailed to Britain from France. The first roads were built by the sea so they could travel to London and Colchester where the Roman army was based. The first long road went from Exeter to Lincoln. It was called the Fosse Way. The word Fosse means ditch in Latin. There used to be a big ditch between the land the Romans had taken over, and the rest of Britain.





The Romans took over more land and built more roads. All by hand! The Romans used a tool called a groma to mark out a straight line. It had two pieces of wood nailed together to make a cross and a weight hanging from each end. They put wooden posts in the ground so they knew where to build the road. The roads were made by the Roman soldiers. They were built higher than the ground around them to help the rain drain off. Two ditches, about 60cm wide, were dug either side. The roads were built wide enough for two chariots to pass each other. The earth dug from the ditches was piled in the middle to build the road up. First they used large, rough stones to make a hard surface. Then broken stones or tiles went on top, mixed with sand or cement. The top layer was gravel or small stones, stamped down to make a smooth surface. Some roads would have paving stones laid on the top.

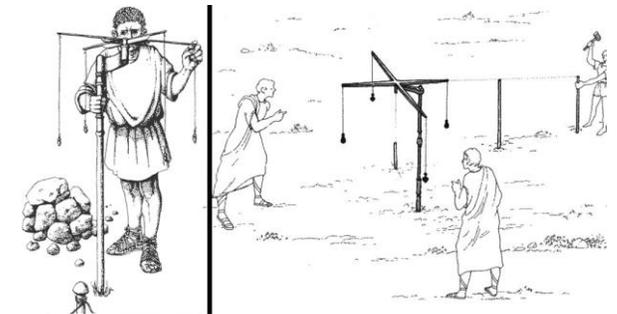
Comprehension questions

- 1) How did the Celts travel?
- 2) Why did the Romans need good roads?
- 3) Where were the first roads built?
- 4) Where did the Fosse Way start and finish?
- 5) What tool did they use to find a straight line?
- 6) Who made the roads?

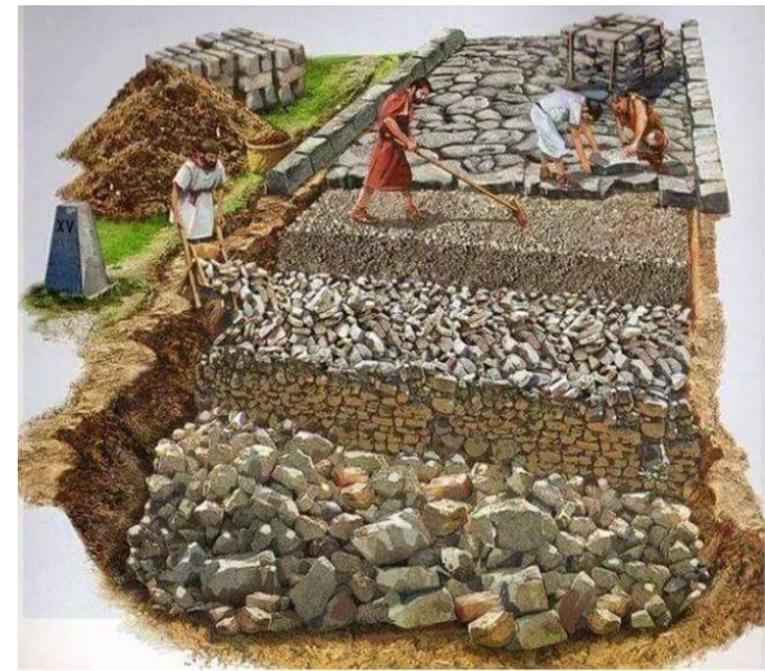
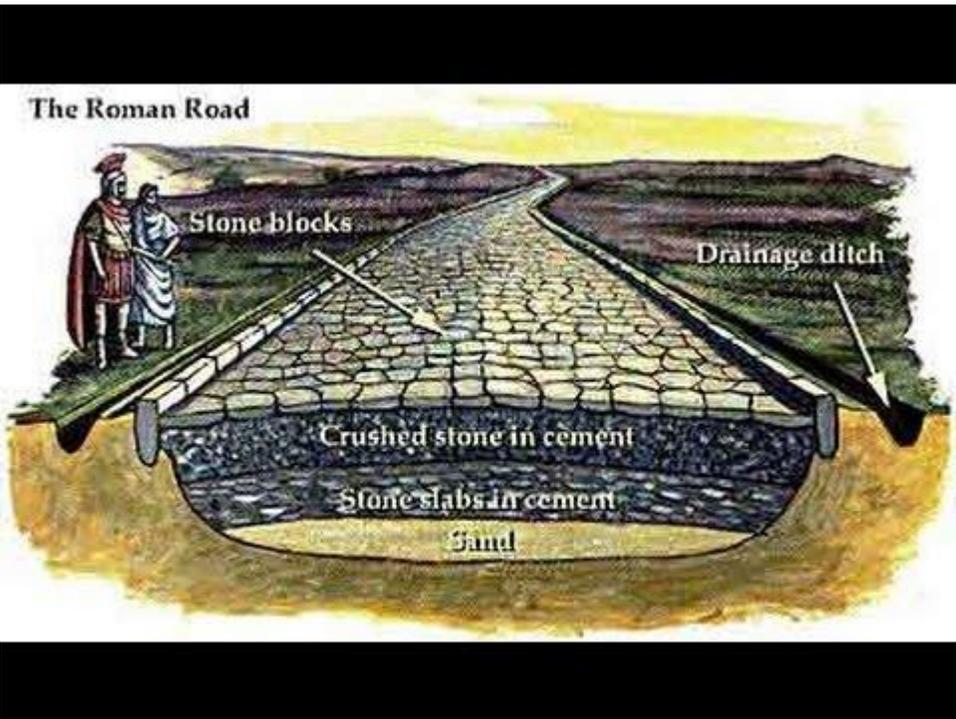
Now check your answers.



1. The Celts rode horses, walked, or travelled in carts pulled by oxen.
2. The Romans wanted good roads so that they could move the soldiers quickly around the country. They also wanted to be able to move food and things they could sell.
3. The first roads were built by the sea.
4. The Fosse way went from Exeter to Lincoln.
5. The Romans used a tool called a groma to make a straight line.
6. The roads were made by the Roman soldiers.



Roman Roads



Find out more about Roman Roads...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zdgrkqt>

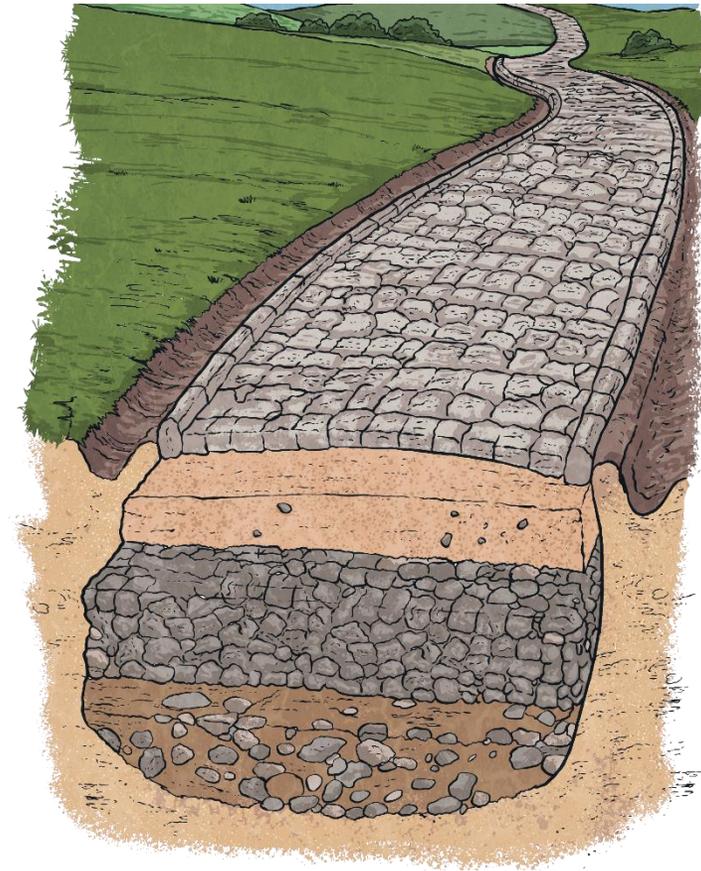
Activity

Draw and label a diagram of how a Roman Road was made. Look at the examples on the next two slides.

You could create a collage using different materials for each section.

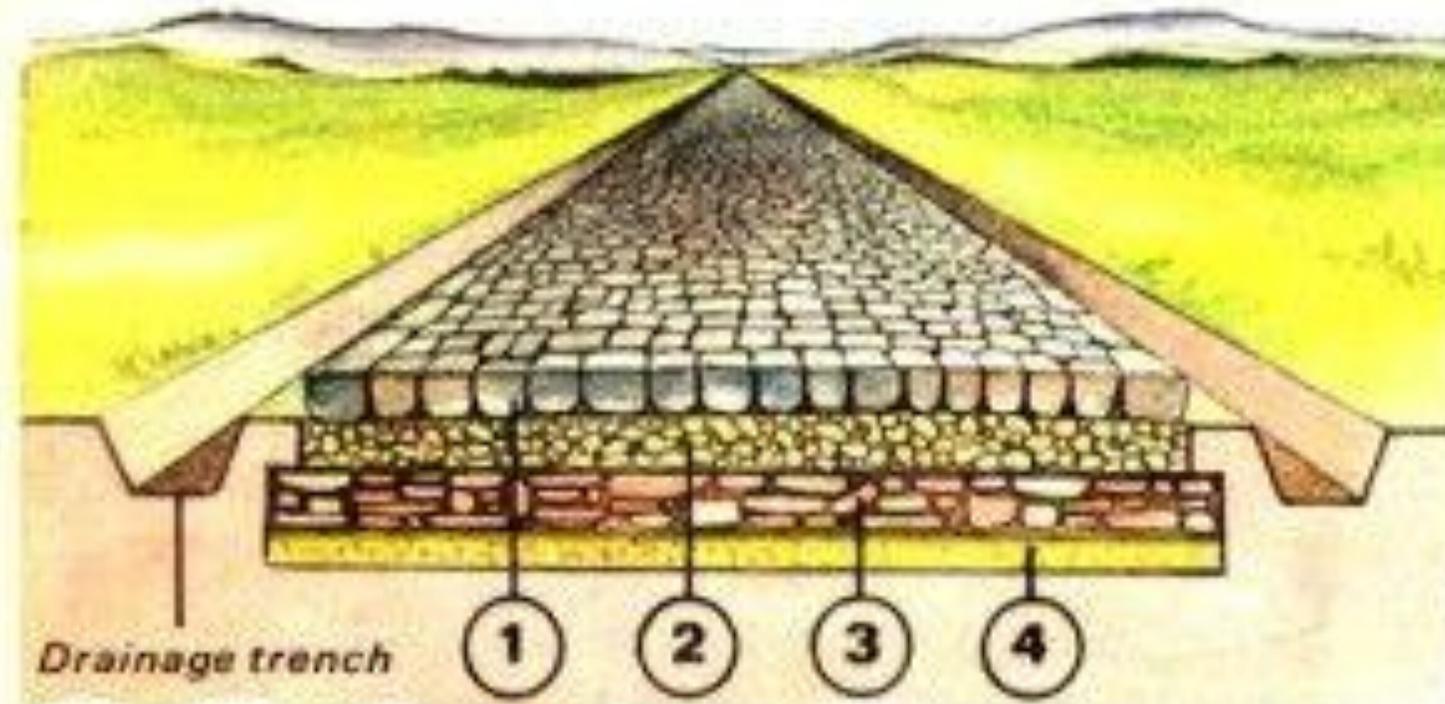
How Did the Romans Build Roads?

1. After the straight lines had been marked, 2 feet ditches were dug on either side for drainage.
2. A bank of earth called an agger was then built. The earth was built up more in the middle to create a curved surface called a camber. This meant rain falling on the road would drip down into the ditches.
3. Broken stones and gravel were then spread on top of the agger.
4. Flint, stone or any other available hard surface was then put on top of the gravel and then compacted (pressed down heavily).



Roman roads

Cross-section of a Roman road



1. The surface was made of blocks of stone in concrete.

2. Concrete, made of gravel or coarse sand mixed with lime.

3. Lime concrete mixed with broken stone.

4. Lime mortar or sand laid to form a level base.