



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS

Lullingstone Roman Villa

This resource pack has been designed to help students step into the story of Lullingstone Roman Villa, which provides essential insight into the lives of the Romans in Britain. Give these activity sheets to students on-site to help them explore Lullingstone Roman Villa.

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Step into England's story

ROME AROUND!

DISCOVER OUR TOP 10
THINGS TO SEE

Lullingstone Roman Villa was built between AD 100 and AD 150. It was gradually made bigger and more impressive by the Romans who lived here. By the 4th century it had fine mosaics, wall paintings, under-floor heating, a large bath suite, a mausoleum and a private church.

Explore the villa in a small group. See if you can find all of these places and complete each challenge!



1 MARBLE BUSTS

These busts represent Publius Helvius Pertinax and his father. Pertinax was governor of Britannia between AD 185 and AD 186 and Emperor in AD 193. He was killed by his soldiers after just 87 days as Emperor.

 WHERE ARE THEY? DID YOU FIND THEM?
Ground floor walkway



DID YOU KNOW?



These busts link the villa with Pertinax, a powerful governor who went on to become Emperor.

CHALLENGE TIME!



With your eyes closed, touch the eyes, nose, mouth, ears and hair. **Discuss** why you think some parts of the face are missing.



2 SUNKEN POT

During excavations, a large pot was found sunk into a pit. In Roman times, the rim would have been level with the concrete floor. Objects like coins and padlocks were found inside, suggesting that it was once a storage jar.

 WHERE IS IT?
South wing

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



Exactly why the pot was sunk into a pit is a mystery. The man who found the pot, Geoffrey Meates, suggested that it may have been a urinal!

CHALLENGE TIME!



There are still many unanswered questions about Lullingstone Roman Villa. **Think** of one question you would like to ask about the site.

3 TILE STACK

The Romans introduced under-floor heating in Britain. The system was very advanced and you had to be rich to have it. The floor level was raised up on stacks of tiles, creating a gap for hot air to pass through.

 WHERE IS IT?
Bath suite

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



Under-floor heating was hard work, but not for the rich owners. Slaves had to keep the fire going to heat the air which moved around the house.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Compare the rooms and features of this Roman villa with your own home. **Spot** one similarity and one difference.

4 COFFIN AND SKELETON

This lead coffin was found in the temple, just north of the villa. It contains the skeleton of a young Roman man. He was buried in about AD 300 with a young woman.



 WHERE ARE THEY?
Ground floor walkway

DID YOU FIND THEM?

DID YOU KNOW?



The expensive items found buried with the young couple suggest that they were wealthy people of high status.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Look closely at the decorations on the lead coffin. **Find** the most interesting pattern and draw it.

5 GRAVE GOODS

In Roman times, it was common to bury the dead with their personal items. This impressive range of grave goods includes silver spoons, games pieces, bronze and ceramic jugs, and a glass bottle with dolphin handles.

 WHERE IS IT?
Ground floor walkway

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?



Grave robbers stole items from the burial chamber but they didn't get hold of the precious goods now on display.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Pick one item in the case and read the description. **Discuss** what you think this item was used for.



6 EUROPA MOSAIC

This mosaic tells the imaginary story of a very cunning plan. The god Jupiter wanted to capture a young girl, Europa, so he disguised himself as a bull and carried her away. Can you see the swastika pattern? This ancient design was used by the Romans long before its use in Nazi Germany.



 WHERE IS IT?
Dining room

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?

In Roman times, a mosaic was the most expensive type of flooring available. It was made from tiny stone cubes called 'tesserae', pressed into a fine mortar.



CHALLENGE TIME!

Use the mosaic table to **make** your own design. It's fiddly work! How long do you think it would have taken to create the Europa mosaic?



7 BELLEROPHON MOSAIC

This mosaic tells the story of Bellerophon, Prince of Corinth, on the winged horse Pegasus, killing the chimera, a fire-breathing she-monster.

 WHERE IS IT?
Audience chamber

DID YOU FIND IT?

DID YOU KNOW?

If you could afford a floor mosaic, you would want to show it off! Dinner guests would have relaxed on curved couches facing the mosaic.



CHALLENGE TIME!

Look at the figures in the circles. They represent the four seasons (spring, summer, autumn, winter). **Decide** which season belongs to each figure.



8 CORNELIAN INTAGLIO

This cornelian intaglio (engraved gemstone) was once set in a gold ring. It shows Lady Victory writing a message on a shield. It is the personal seal of the Roman governor, Pertinax.

 **WHERE IS IT?**
Ground floor walkway

DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



This gemstone, along with the marble busts, suggests that Lullingstone might have been the country villa of Pertinax, governor and brief ruler of Britannia.

CHALLENGE TIME!



A Roman official could be identified by his personal seal, which was a bit like a stamp. **Discuss** what you would have as your own personal seal and why.



9 MARKS IN CLAY

It is common to find clay tiles imprinted with hand and footprints. This collection of tiles provides evidence for the animals and people who once lived at Lullingstone.

 **WHERE ARE THEY?**
First floor walkway

DID YOU FIND THEM?

DID YOU KNOW?



It wasn't just animals that left their mark – sometimes the tile's maker would drag their fingers through the clay in a semi-circle.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Look closely at the tiles. **Find** these marks: kitten, ox, sheep, dog, human.

10 CIRCULAR SHRINE

The Romans put a circular building here in the 2nd century because they considered it a holy place. The floor was made of red 'tesserae' (stone cubes).



WHERE IS IT?

Outside, to the north



DID YOU FIND IT?



DID YOU KNOW?



Five outbuildings were discovered near the villa, including the circular shrine. They suggest that this was a successful estate.

CHALLENGE TIME!



Stand in the middle of the shrine and look back at the building. **Imagine** how it would have looked in Roman times.

WHAT WE LEARNT

We think the best thing to see at Lullingstone Roman Villa is:

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The most interesting thing we have learnt today is:

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We want to know more about:

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Draw a picture inspired by your visit to Lullingstone Roman Villa.