Yorkshire Museum

Roman York Discovery Box Teachers' Pack

Email: **schools@ymt.org.uk**

Roman York Discovery Box

Discovery Box overview

Our **Roman York Discovery Box** is designed to support your pupils' learning when making a self-guided visit to the **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition** at the Yorkshire Museum.

The box contains:

- A step-by-step guide explaining how to use the Discovery Box during your visit.
- Sets of notes you can use to guide your pupils around the Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition.
- Instructions and resources for three activities to complete with your pupils. These activities are designed to encourage your pupils to explore the Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition and make their own discoveries about the objects on display.

Our Roman York Discovery Box can be reserved when booking a self-guided visit to the Yorkshire Museum.

Get in touch

For more information about this resource, or making a visit to the Yorkshire Museum, please contact our Schools Learning Team at schools@ymt.org.uk or 01904 650348.

Discovery Box Contents

Our Roman York Discovery Box contains:

A. Instructions for both teachers and pupils about how to use the resource.

- 1 x Step-by-Step Guide for Teachers
- 1 x Julia Domna the Empress Introduction Sheet

B. Sets of notes which teachers and accompanying adults can use to guide pupils around the Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition.

- 4 x Roman York Exhibition Flashcards

C. Sets of notes which teachers and accompanying adults can use to guide pupils around the Edible Garden within York Museum Gardens. These contain information about ten plants introduced to Britain by the Romans.

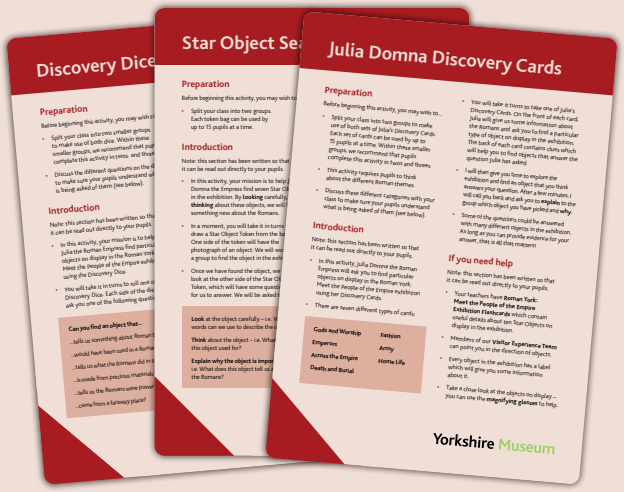
- 2 x Growing Roman York Edible Garden Flashcards

D. Instructions and resources for three self-guided activities for you to complete with your pupils.

- **Activity One: Discovery Dice Challenge** (approximately 10–15 mins)
  - 2 x Discovery Dice Challenge Instruction Sheet
  - 2 x Discovery Dice
- **Activity Two: Star Object Search** (approximately 15–20 minutes)
  - 2 x Star Object Search Instruction Sheet
  - 2 x sets of Star Object Tokens and 2 x bags
- **Activity Three: Julia Domna Discovery Cards** (approximately 20–25 minutes)
  - 2 x Julia Domna Discovery Cards Instructions Sheet
  - 2 x Julia Domna Discovery Card Sets (7 cards per set)

E. Other helpful resources to help you get the most from your museum visit

- 2 x enquiry questions (these can be used as a focus for your class whilst they explore, or as a way of consolidating their learning at the end of the visit)
- 15 x magnifying glasses and 1 x bag
- 4 x maps of the Yorkshire Museum
- 4 x maps of Edible Garden



Step-by-step guide for Teachers

Preparation

1. Begin by reading the **Julia Domna Introduction Sheet** to your class. This introduces pupils to Julia Domna the Roman Empress and provides background information about the Romans in York.
2. Read out the **enquiry question**:
   - What was life in Roman York like?

   This can be used as a focus for your class whilst they explore, or as a way of consolidating their learning at the end of the visit.
3. You may wish to give your class the opportunity to explore the **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition**. Teachers and accompanying adults can use the **Roman York Exhibition Flashcards** in the box to guide pupils around ten Star Objects which are on display.
4. Work your way through the three activities in the box – **Discovery Dice Challenge**, **Star Object Search** and the **Julia Domna Discovery Cards**. Each activity comes with its own set of instructions and resources.
5. Season and weather permitting, you may want to visit the Edible Garden within York Museum Gardens. Teachers and accompanying adults can use the **Growing Roman York Edible Garden Flashcards** in the box to explore ten plants the Romans introduced to Britain.
6. Once you have finished using the Roman York Discovery Box, please neatly pack away all of the resources and return the box to the member of the **Visitor Experience Team** who is on duty in the exhibition gallery.

What to do if you need help?

- Take a look at the **Roman York Exhibition Flashcards**. These contain useful details about ten Star Objects which your pupils might find useful when completing the three activities in the Discovery Box.
- Members of our **Visitor Experience Team** can point you and your pupils in the direction of objects.
- Every object in the exhibition has a label which will give you some more information about it.
- Encourage your pupils to look closely at the objects on display.

For everybody's safety, please do not eat or take any produce from the Edible Garden.

Activity One: Discovery Dice Challenge

Introduction

- This activity requires pupils to explore the Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition and to choose objects which best answer the questions on the Discovery Dice.
- The Roman York Discovery Box contains two dice. Each side displays a different question:

Can you find an object that tells us something about Roman beliefs?

Can you find an object that would have been used in a Roman's home?

Can you find an object that tells us what the Romans did in their leisure?

Can you find an object that is made from precious materials?

Can you find an object that tells us the Romans were powerful?

Can you find an object that came from a faraway place?

Instructions

- You may wish to complete this activity in two smaller groups using both dice. Within these smaller groups, we recommend that pupils complete this activity in twos and threes.
- Pupils should take it in turns to roll one of the Discovery Dice. Pupils should then be given time to explore the exhibition to find an object that fits with the question they have been given.
- Bring your class back together so that they can share their discoveries with each other. Make sure they **explain** why they have chosen a particular object.

Hints and tips

- Take a look at the **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards**. These contain useful details about ten Star Objects on display in the exhibition.
- Members of our **Visitor Experience Team** can point you in the direction of objects.
- Every object has its own label.

Ninth Legion Floor Tile
© York Museums Trust
(Yorkshire Museum)

Activity Two: Star Object Search

Introduction

- This activity requires pupils to find seven Star Objects in our Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition and to answer questions based on what they can see.
- The Roman York Discovery Box contains two bags of 7 Star Object tokens. One side of each token contains a photograph of an object on display in the exhibition:

Ninth Legion Floor Tile

Head Pot

Legionary Column

Jet and Ivory Bangles

Roof Tile Cover

Head of Constantine

Four Seasons Mosaic

- The other side of each token has questions designed to encourage pupils to **look** at an object carefully, **think** about some key questions and **explain** what it can tell us about the Romans. Three example Star Object tokens can be found on the next page.

Instructions

- Each token bag can be used by up to 15 pupils at a time.
- Pupils should take it in turns to draw a Star Object Token from the bag. Pupils should then be given time to search the exhibition for the object.
- Once the object has been found, pupils should work together to answer the questions on the other side of the Star Object Token.
- Listen to your pupils' findings. You can use your **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards** to find out more information about the object. Pupils can then be given another token.

Hints and tips

- The **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards** contain useful details about ten Star Objects on display in the exhibition.
- Members of our **Visitor Experience Team** can point you in the direction of objects.
- Every object has its own label.

Motto Beakers
© York Museums Trust (Yorkshire Museum)

Look
What words would you use to describe this object?
What decoration can you see?

Think
What do you think this object was used for?
Who might have made an object like this?

Explain
What do you think this object can tell us about life in Roman York?

Look
What words would you use to describe this object?
Who do you think this object represents?

Think
What do you think this object was used for?
What is this person wearing on their head?

Explain
What do you think this object can tell us about the life in Roman York?

Look
What words would you use to describe this object?
What decorations can you see?

Think
What do you think this object was used for?
Who might have owned an object like this?

Explain
What do you think this object can tell us about life in Roman York?

Activity Three: Julia Domna Discovery Cards

Introduction

- This activity requires pupils to find objects which best answer the questions asked by Julia Domna the Roman Empress. Through finding these objects, pupils will be encouraged to think about different Roman themes: **Gods and worship**, **fashion**, **emperors**, **death and burial**, **army**, **home life** and **across the empire**.
- There are 2 sets of Discovery Cards. Each set has 7 cards. On the front of each card, Julia shares some information about the Romans. This is followed by a question, which asks pupils to find a particular type of object on display in the exhibition.
- The reverse of each card contains clues which are designed to help pupils find relevant objects.
- An example of one of Julia's Discovery Cards can be found on the following page.

Instructions

- Each set of cards can be used by up to 15 pupils at a time. We recommend that pupils complete this activity in twos and threes.
- Pupils should take it in turns to take one of Julia's Discovery Cards.
- Pupils should then be given time to read all the information on their card and search the exhibition for objects that they think answer the question asked by Julia on the card.
- After sufficient time has passed, bring the group together so pupils can share their findings. Encourage children to **explain** why they think the object they have found answers the question. Pupils can then be given another card.

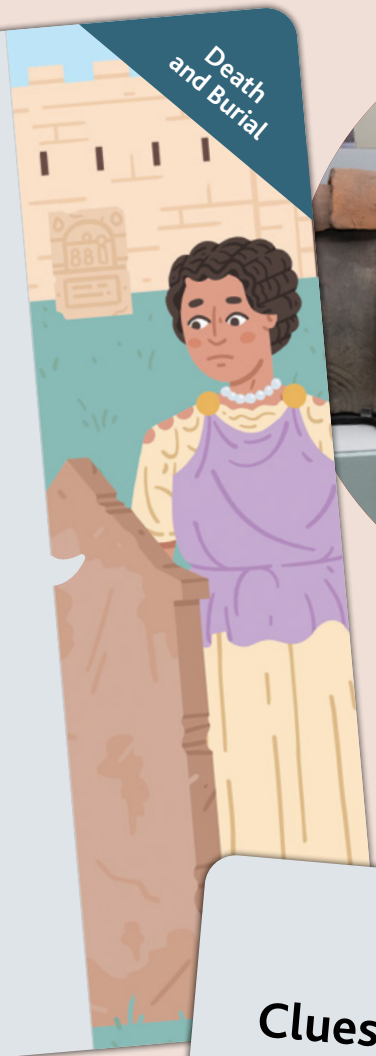
Hints and tips

- The **Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards** contain useful details about ten Star Objects on display in the exhibition.
- Members of our **Visitor Experience Team** can point you in the direction of objects.
- Every object has its own label.

Death and Burial

The people of Eboracum bury their dead outside of the city walls. Wealthy families often pay for expensive gravestones or tombs. These often provide information about the person buried there.

Can you find an object that shows us how the Romans bury or respect their dead?



Card Four

Roof Tile Tomb Cover
© York Museums Trust
(Yorkshire Museum)

Death and Burial

Clues

- The carvings and written inscriptions on gravestones and tombs can give us information about the lives of people who died in Eboracum. One gravestone, for example, tells us about the life of a special soldier called a standard-bearer in the Ninth Legion.
- One unusual grave marker on display in the museum is made from clay roof tiles that were made by soldiers from the Sixth Legion.

Card Four

Yorkshire Museum

Julia Velva Tombstone
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(Yorkshire Museum)

Example Itinerary

We have given the itinerary below as an example. You may wish to organise your pupils in a different way. For example, you might prefer for half your group to use our Roman York Discovery Box whilst the rest of the class visits a different part of the museum. Season and weather permitting, you may also want to explore the Edible Garden within York Museum Gardens.

Class of 30 pupils, split into two groups of 15.

Group 1 (15 pupils)

Time	Activity
10:00am	Arrival, toilets and bags
10:15–10:35am	Explore Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition (adults can use Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards as a supporting resource)
10:35–11:00am	Julia Domna Discovery Cards (in twos and threes)
11:00–11:15am	Star Object Search (in twos and threes)
11:15–11:30am	Discovery Dice Challenge (using two dice, in twos and threes)

Group 2 (15 pupils)

Time	Activity
10:00am	Arrival, toilets and bags
10:15–10:35am	Explore Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire exhibition (adults can use Roman York: Meet the People of the Empire Exhibition Flashcards as a supporting resource)
10:35–10:50am	Discovery Dice Challenge (using two dice, in twos and threes)
10:50–11:05am	Star Object Search (in twos and threes)
11:05–11:30am	Julia Domna Discovery Cards (in twos and threes)

Please note: *For suggested timings for each activities, please refer to page 3. For any questions about the activities and for support in deciding which activities might be best suited to your group, please contact our Schools Learning Team at schools@ymt.org.uk or 01904 650348.*