

Roman Houses



Aim

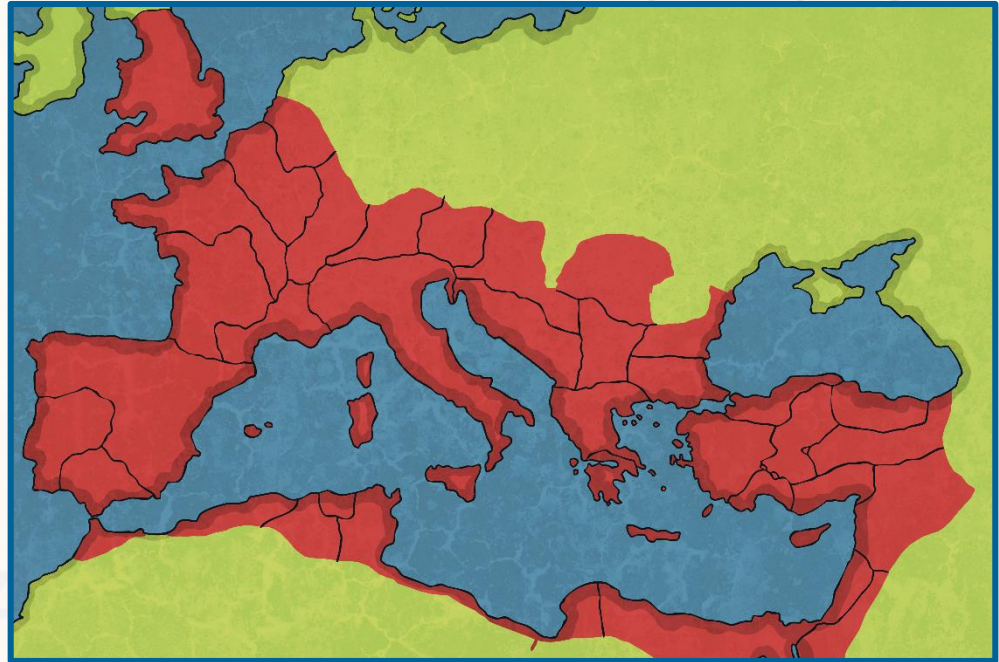
- To find out about the different types of Roman houses and what they were made from.
- To compare houses in Roman times to houses today.



The Roman Empire

The Ancient Roman civilisation was founded with the building of Rome in the 8th century BC and lasted until its collapse in 476 AD.

During this time, the Roman Empire spread all over much of what is now Europe and North Africa.

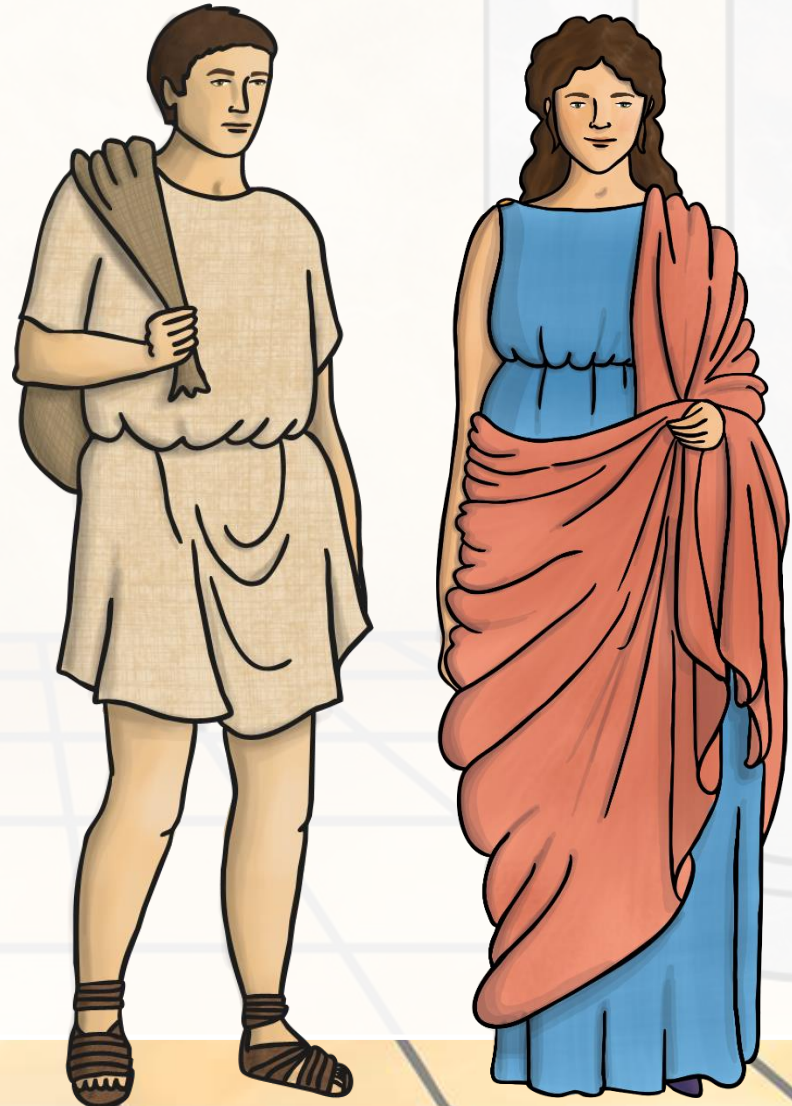


Because of this, Roman culture and architecture spread over a large area.

Roman Houses

The Romans built lots of cities that were well fortified with city walls. They also introduced lots of luxuries into civilisation, such as public baths, roads and even plumbing!

As a Roman, the type of house you would live in would depend on whether you were rich or poor and whether you lived in the town or the country.



Wooden Huts

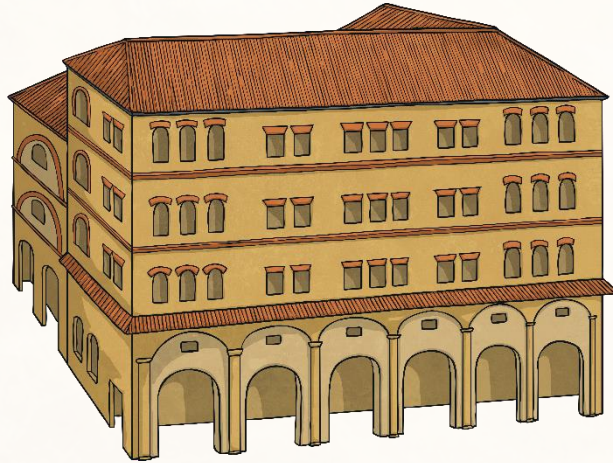
Poor Romans in the countryside lived in small villages of wooden huts with thatched roofs.



Each hut would be very small, usually only having one room with a fire in the centre. This fire would be used for light, heat and for cooking. The floor would have been covered with animal skins and there would be simple furniture, such as benches for beds.

Insulae

Poor Romans in towns and cities lived in Insulae.



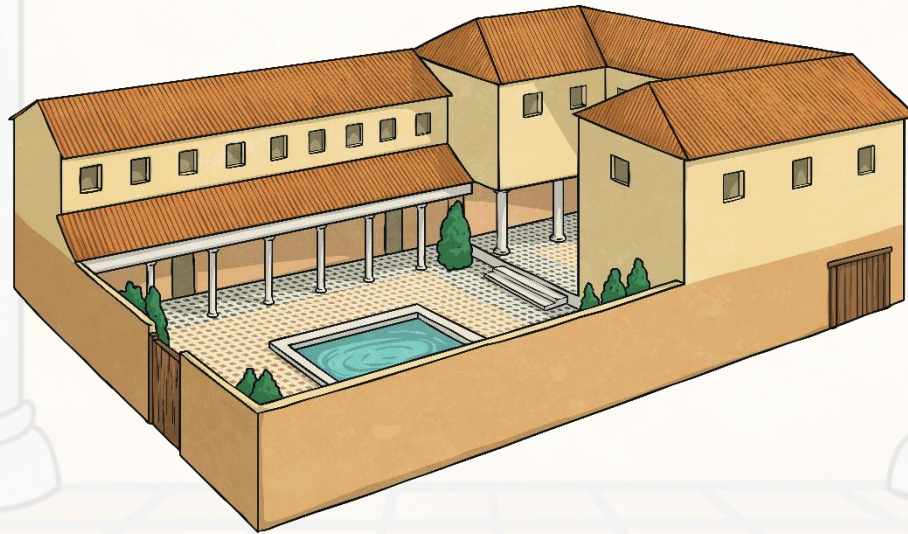
These were like apartment blocks built of wood, mud bricks and, later on, concrete.

They were usually six to eight three-storey buildings grouped around a central courtyard.

They were very poorly built, often dirty and noisy; however, they did have running water!

Domus

A domus was a type of house in the city in which a rich Roman would have lived.

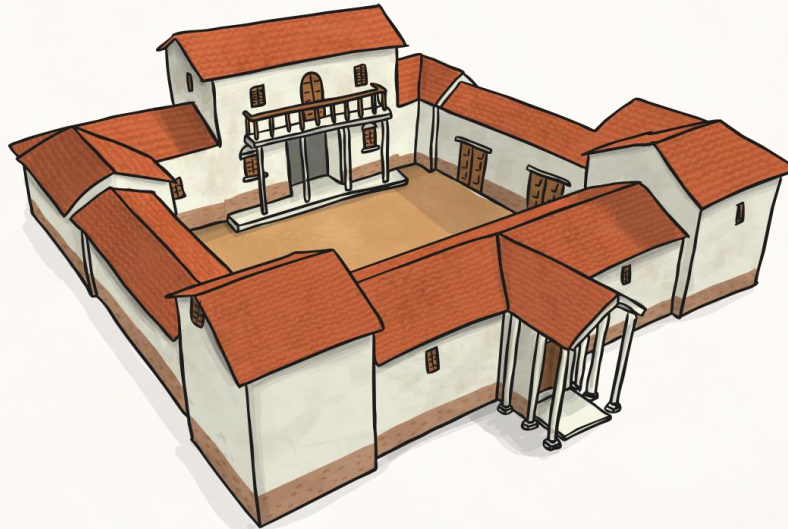


A domus was a very grand single-storey building, often with marble pillars, statues and mosaics on walls and floors.

They would have had multiple rooms, including bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, courtyards, gardens and places to relax and entertain guests.

Villa

A Roman villa was a luxurious estate for rich Romans in the countryside.



They were much larger and more comfortable than a domus and had even more rooms, including servants quarters and exercise rooms.

Some villas even had underfloor heating! A hypocaust was a system which pumped hot air from a fire around a system of tunnels underneath the villa's main floor.

Roman Houses

Which type of Roman house would you have liked to have lived in?

Why?

