

I ROMANS BUILT THE FIRST ROADS



Motivation task. Read the text and answer the questions: Use the word bank.

The Romans built **roads** all over the Roman Empire. Rome was the center of an important network of roads and they were built to link all parts of the empire to the capital. To travel as quickly as possible they were built in straight lines. Roman roads were built by engineers. They had tools to build a building, a new road or a wall in a city. In the road there were **milliaria** to mark the way and the distance.

The roads were used by the army or government officials. The army marched from one city to another. The soldiers could march 30 km. a day.

Via Appia was the first Roman road built in 312 BC. (**Via** is the Latin word for road). *Via Appia* went from Rome to Brindisium in the south-east of Italy.

Some roads have survived for over 2.000 years because they were made by several layers of stones. You will see how a road was made in the diagram and in the explanation.

		<p>a) What do these pictures show?</p> <p>b) What were they for?</p> <p>c) Can you name a Roman road?</p> <p>d) Can you name some Roman cities?</p> <p>e) What is the name in Latin for roads?</p> <p>f) Why do you think many roads have survived?</p>
<p>1. Milliarium. Capara (Spain)</p>	<p>2. Roman road.</p>	

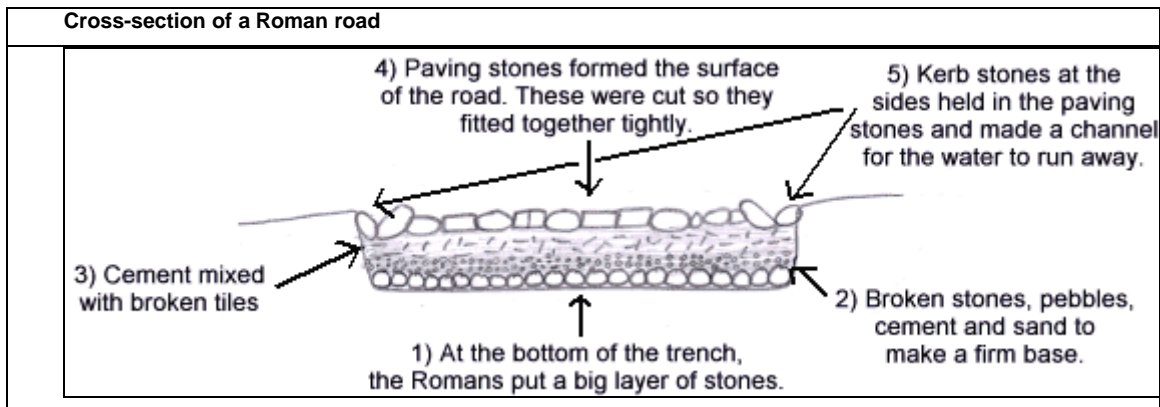
WORD BANK

Distances directions way travel/travelling show well done
well built via road

ROAD MAKING

- a) First, the soldiers cleaned the ground and they dug a **trench** and filled it with a row of big **stones**.

- b) Next, they added a **layer** of broken stones, **pebbles**, cement and sand to make a base.
- c) The third layer was **cement** mixed with broken **tiles**.
- d) On the top they put a layer of **paving stones** to make the surface of the road. These stones were well cut to fit together.
- e) At the sides of the road, they put **kerb** stones to hold the paving.



Activities

1. Roman roads materials. Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

<input type="checkbox"/> stone	1 a granular substance found at the seashore or riverbeds.
<input type="checkbox"/> paving stone	2 a building material made of sand, cement and water.
<input type="checkbox"/> sand	3 a smooth, round small stone.
<input type="checkbox"/> kerb	4 a thin, square piece used for roofs or floors.
<input type="checkbox"/> pebble	5 a stone edging to a pavement or path.
<input type="checkbox"/> cement	6 a large piece of stone used in paving.
<input type="checkbox"/> tile	7 a rock

2. Oral and writing activity

Work in pairs. Make sure you understand all the vocabulary. Here is a substitution table. Write 5 true sentences. Write in your notebook the meaning of the words you don't know.

WHO	ACTIONS	WHAT	MATERIALS	
Soldiers	put			stones pebbles
Roman soldiers	added	a layer	with	paving stones cement sand
They	cleaned		of	broken tiles broken stones
	made	kerb stones at the sides to hold the paving stones		
		the ground and dug a trench and filled it with stones		

3. Do you know any Roman road? Use information from the net. Write down 3 names.

4. Can you find out the names of 3 cities next to the Roman roads?

5. Look carefully at the map and answer the questions:



3. Map of ancient Italy.

a) *All roads lead to Rome*. Translate this old saying into your mother tongue.

b) b) What does the old saying *All roads lead to Rome* mean? Can you explain the use of this old saying? You can do it in your mother tongue.

c) Tick the most suitable answer in the past

There were a lot of roads.

There are a lot of roads.

In the days of the Roman Empire most roads lead to Rome, the capital.

d) Tick the most suitable answer now

All paths or activities lead to the centre of things.

You can always visit Rome.

Rome is an important network of roads.

6. Road Making: Your teacher is going to give you a chart about road making. Cut the chart into strips and stick them in the correct order.

b) MILLIARIA, FOUNTAINS, MUTATIONES AND MANSIOS

Romans invented **milliaria**; they gave the mileage to the next large city, the date and the name of the Emperor who built the road. But not all milliaria had written information. There was a milliarium every 1,481 metres.

Emperor Augustus set up a column, in 20 BC, known as the **milliarium aureum**, covered in gilt bronze. It was 2.5m tall and it marked the point from where the most important roads of the Roman Empire radiated. The milliarium aureum, or the golden milestone, of which only the base remains, was the symbolic starting point of the Roman highways.

Mutationes were places used to change and feed horses. Travellers often found places to stop. There were several posts to one mansio. A **mansio** was a stopping place to stay.

There were mansios at the length of a day's journey and travellers could stop and spend the night. **Fountains** were situated next to the road or via.

1. Read the text. In pairs, can you think about a symbolic starting point somewhere else?

2. Define mutationes and mansio

Mutationes:

Mansio:

3. What is the difference between mansio and mutationes?

4. Letter tiles. In pairs unscramble the tiles to reveal a message. A set of paper tiles will be handed to you. What is the sentence describing?

O	A	O	N	E	E	S	I	D	T	H	E	S	E	T	E	I	N			
I	C	U	L	P	A	R	T	T	O	D	I	S	R	O	A	D	M	A	R	K
E	S	T	L	A	C	E	T	A	N	C	A	S	T	U	P	B	A	R	P	
M	I	L	E	A																

➤ Write down the name of the concept and the definition:

5. ROMAN ROADS CROSSWORD

1				1		4					7	9
	2							3		5		
	3		4									
5	2/											
			6									
		7								6		10
			8								8	
		9										
		10										
	11					12						

Across

1. A material of construction. 2. Via in English. 3. The name of a Roman road. 4. The language of Ancient Roman. 5. A stone set up next to the road to mark the distance. 6. A system of roads. 7. Persons serving in the army (the other way round). 8. Rocks. 9. A structure for public supply of water next to a road. 10. The name of a long narrow cut in the ground (the other way round). 11. A stone edging in a Roman road. 12. Small round stones (the other way round).

Down

1. Road in Latin. 2. A stopping place to stay next to the Roman roads. 3. A Roman measure. 4. The name of the place where Romans changed horses. 5. Representation of an area of land (upside down). 6. A granular substance found at the seashore, riverbeds or deserts. 7. Thin flat pieces to cover floors or roofs. 8. The capital of the Roman Empire. 9. An Ancient Empire name (upside down). 10. A force organised for fighting.