

## Roman Text 1

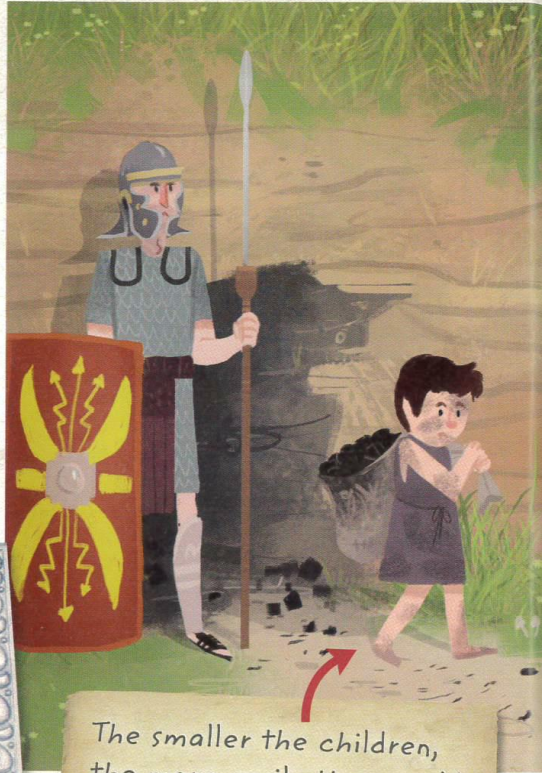
### NO JOB FOR A CHILD

House slaves had an easy life compared to some. Children working on farms in the country had to do back-breaking work in the fields. Some jobs were even worse than that.

#### DOWN THE MINES

The worst place to be a young slave was in the silver and lead mines. Children as young as four worked underground with tiny axes and buckets. They were often killed by falling rocks.

Silver was mined to make beautiful jewellery for the rich.



The smaller the children, the more easily they could fit in the dark tunnels.



### ROMAN LAUNDRY

**Fuller** slaves helped to clean Roman clothes, a bit like modern dry cleaners. That doesn't sound too bad, does it? To do the cleaning they had to collect pots full of wee from street corners and public toilets. Then they trod on the clothes in a mixture of wee and water to clean them!

Roman public toilets



### SICK COLLECTOR

The worst job in the house for a slave was the sick collector. This lucky boy or girl had to clean up the sick and spit that the disgusting Romans left after a really big feast!

**Fuller** = a person who cleaned togas and other cloth

## Roman Text 1 – No Job for a Child

### Understanding the text

- 1.) Who had the worst jobs: house slaves or farm workers?
- 2.) How old were children who worked in the mines?
- 3.) Why did they want small children to work in the mines?
- 4.) Why did the Romans want silver from the mines?
- 5.) How did fuller slaves clean Roman clothes?
- 6.) What was the worst job in a Roman house for a slave?

### Looking at language

- 7.) Explain the meaning of these words and phrases as they are used in the text.  
Use a dictionary to help you.

a) back-breaking work      b) tunnels      c) dry cleaners      d) public toilets      e) collector

### Exploring information writing

- 8.) Write down the **heading** for this chapter.
- 9.) Give two examples of sub-headings.
- 10.) Do you think the labels and red arrows are useful or not? Explain your answer.

### Taking it further

- 11.) What do you think was the worst job to do? Explain why.



### DO YOU WANT THAT DORMOUSE STUFFED?

What's your favourite food? How about peacock's brains, flamingo's tongue or sauce made with fish guts? Romans who could afford it liked to be adventurous with their meals.

Slaves started to prepare the family's evening meal in the afternoon. At a Roman dinner party, there were lots of little courses. Meals could last for hours.



### TERRIBLE TABLE MANNERS

At the end of the meal, each diner would burp and break wind to show how much they'd enjoyed it!

Romans ate their dinner lying on couches around a table.



Look at the horrible things we have to cook for dinner. It'll be porridge again for the slaves, and that's fine with me.

- Cows' udders stuffed with sea urchins
- Dormice roasted with honey
- Roast ostrich served with extra smelly fish sauce
- Stuffed dates and nuts
- To drink: wine from Gaul

### DID YOU KNOW?

At one emperor's dinner party, so many rose petals dropped from the ceiling that some guests could not breathe and died.



## Roman Text 2 – Do You want that Dormouse Stuffed?

### Understanding the text

- 1) Name three unusual foods that the Romans ate.
- 2) How long could meals last for?
- 3) How did Romans eat their dinner?
- 4) What would a guest do at the end of each meal if they enjoyed it?
- 5) What did Romans drink with their meals?

### Looking at language

- 6) Explain the meaning of these words and phrases as they are used in the text.  
Use a dictionary to help you.

b) tongue    b) afford    c) adventurous    d) couches    e) cows' udders

### Exploring information writing

- 7) Write down the **heading** for this chapter. What type of sentence has the author used?
- 8) Give an example of a sub-heading.
- 9) What information does the fact box give you?