



The Romans in Maidenhead (KS 1 and 2 activities)

Roman villas

In 43 AD the Romans invaded Britain and ruled for nearly 400 years. By 100 AD tax collectors and local government lived in villas at Castle Hill and Cox Green.

Historians found out that the Romans built three villas in Maidenhead. There were probably lots of other houses too but because they were made of wood nothing is left of them. An archaeologist called James Rutland discovered a Roman villa at Castle Hill. There was also one at Cox Green, families lived there for about 300 years and left behind lots of rubbish, giving clues to how they lived in Roman times.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Can you design and make a Roman villa? Maybe you could use Lego or other building bricks or re-cycled materials



Roman skeleton, Julius

Julius lived in Maidenhead during the Roman times. We don't know whether he was born in Britain or came here during the invasion. We don't know if he was rich or poor. He might have lived in a grand villa like Cox Green Villa, or he might have been a hard working farmer!

We do know that he lived until he was about 60 years old.





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Roman Central Heating

The Romans didn't invent central heating, but they did bring it to Britain for the first time. The people living at Cox Green Villa were very lucky to have underfloor heating powered by a "hypocaust".

How does it work?

The floor of the bath suite was raised above the ground by a number of pillars, usually made from tiles. In a stoke room slaves kept a fire burning constantly. The hot air from the fire filled the empty space between the columns and rose up to the bath suite floor, making the tiles warm underfoot, and also helping to keep the bathing pools hot.

At some times the floor could get so hot that bathers wore wooden sandals to stop their feet burning!



This is a photo of **The bath suite** at Cox Green Roman villa.



The bath suite at Cox Green villa under excavation (MF)

Activity

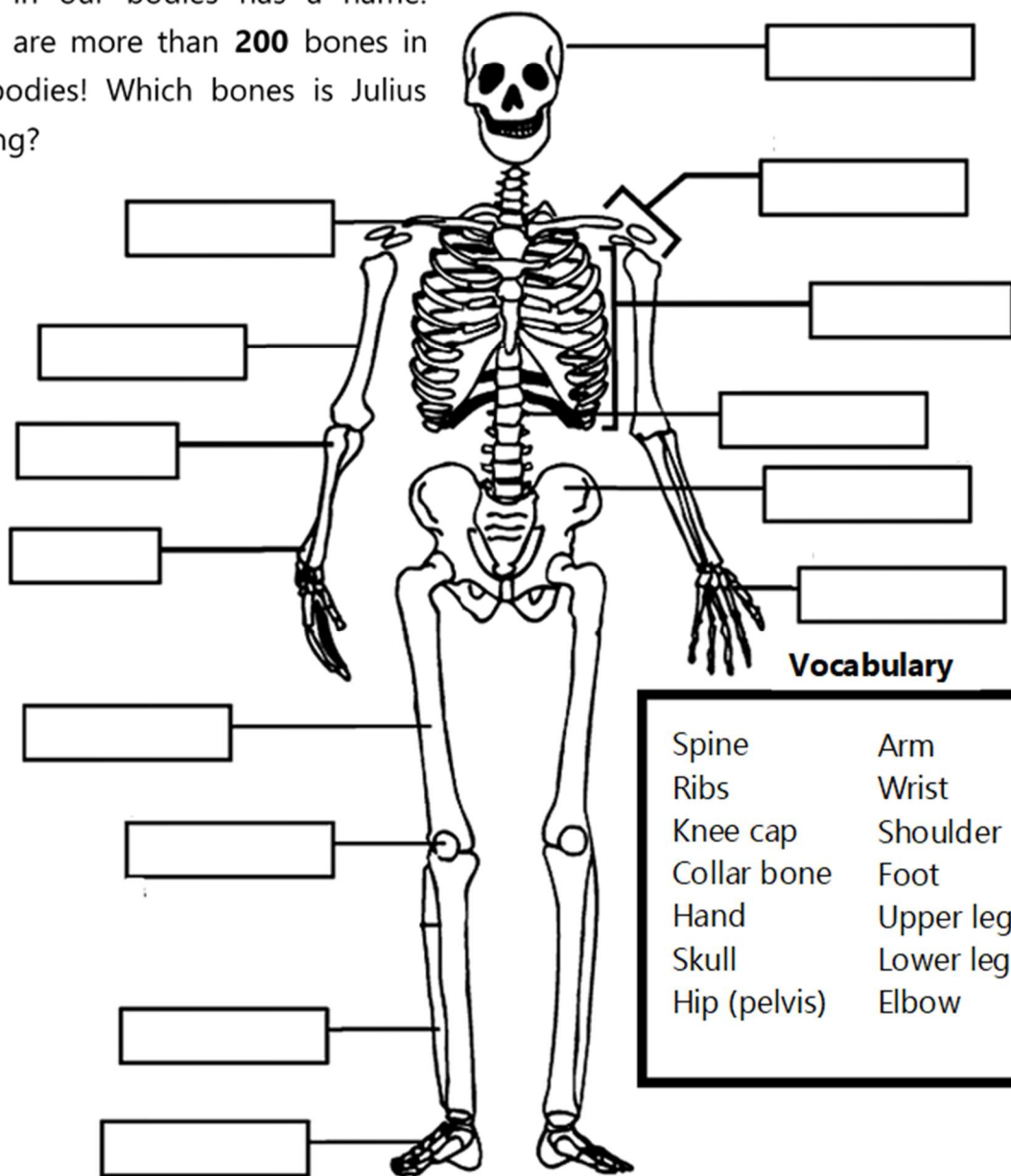
Can you make your own hypocaust? (see instructions on next page)



Julius the Roman

Skeleton

Use the words in the box below to identify parts of the skeleton. Each bone in our bodies has a name. There are more than **200** bones in our bodies! Which bones is Julius missing?





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How to make a Hypocaust

You need

- Lego/duplo or wooden bricks
- hairdryer or nightlight
- bathroom tiles, baking tin, small plank of wood
- a thermometer

The Romans used fires to create the heat for their hypocausts but for safety use a hairdryer or nightlight.

- Use the bricks to create the outside walls of your villa and the pillars that will support the floor. Leave a small gap in the wall at one corner. The villa should look something like the diagram. The pillars should be at least 5cm high.
- Place the tiles across the top of the villa to create a floor. They should rest on the pillars and the tops of the walls.
- Turn the hairdryer on and aim the hot air in through the gap under the floor or light a nightlight under one of the tiles (the flame should not touch the tile). • Place your hand onto the tiles. Can you feel a difference in temperature?
- Keep heating the space under the floor. Are there any areas of the tiled floor that are cooler than others?

Note You could use different materials for the floor and see which holds the heat. (metal tray, wood)

