

Roman Mystery Objects

Below are some everyday objects which the Romans used. See if you can guess what they are? (The answers are on the next page- so no peeking!)

If you want to find out more about the Romans in Scotland then you could have a look at this story on our collections website. <https://www.culturenmuseums.co.uk/story/romans-in-scotland/>





Torc

A torc was a piece of jewellery worn around the neck, upper arm or wrist.

Wax Writing Tablet

At school you would practice writing on a wax covered board, using a pen called a stylus, which had a pointed end for writing. Adults also used wax tablets like letters or note pads, for writing down reminders or short messages.



Oil Lamp

Oil lamps like these were used from 2000BC until the middle ages. Oil, usually olive oil for the Romans, would be poured through the small hole in the top. The wick was usually made from linen or papyrus.

Strigil

Strigils were used by the Romans for cleaning dirt and grit off their skin. They would apply oil to their skin, rubbing it in to absorb the dirt and sweat. They would then scrape the oil from their skin using the strigil, leaving the skin exfoliated and moisturised by the oil. This would be part of a cleansing routine at a bathhouse or would be used to cleanse the body when unable to visit a bathhouse.

