*What did the Romans do for us?*

* **ROADS:** Roman roads were straight, this meant that you got to places faster than on a winding road. Many modern-day roads are built over the old Roman ones. There were 10,000 miles of Roman roads in Britain.
* **Architecture:** Many Roman buildings still stand today- This is evidence of how good Roman architecture was.  Roman architecture has many connections with Greek architecture through the use of pillars and arches.  Since the [Renaissance](javascript:%20%7balert('Meaning%20rebirth%20-%20a%20time%20in%20the%20sixteenth%20century%20when%20old%20ideas%20were%20reintroduced.')%7d), this style has been popular around the world.
* **Aqueducts:** Systems that still protect and carry water are in use today. Many fountains in Rome are still fed by the original Roman systems that fed them. We still use the general principle to feed towns today.
* **Clean Water:** The Romans always made sure that there was free water available to all people in their towns. They made sure this water was pure and clear. Rich people got it in their houses, poor people from fountains.
* **Art:** Roman art has influenced many people.  Just as with architecture, the [Renaissance](javascript:%20%7balert('Meaning%20rebirth%20-%20a%20time%20in%20the%20sixteenth%20century%20when%20old%20ideas%20were%20reintroduced.')%7d) saw a rebirth in interest in classical art.  The use of pictures of Emperors on coins and sculptures introduced powerful images to society.
* **Language:** Many words that we use today are almost directly from the Roman language of Latin. The languages of countries that were in the Roman Empire all are very similar.
* **Sanitation**: When the Victorians built sewers underneath towns in Britain, they copied the designs of Roman sewers. In York there is still a section of Roman sewer in use today. In Rome itself, the Roman system still does the job in parts of the city it has always done.
* **Libraries:** The Romans loved reading the writing of others, they would be kept in scrolls in buildings where people could come and look at them. Many Roman plays still survive today because of their libraries.
* **The year Calendar:** The calendar that we use today is roughly the same as the Roman’s one (they started it). Some of our months are named after Roman Gods and rulers.
* **Literature:** Roman authors followed the famous Greek authors, often developing and building upon Greek writing.  Most surviving literature is written for or by the rich.  Writers were supported by the rich and so wrote what their patrons were interested in. Many writers since the fall of the empire have been influenced by the Romans including Shakespeare (Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra), Robert Graves (I Claudius), Milton (Paradise Lost), Dante (Inferno) and James Joyce (Ulysses).
* **Education:** Something we are all familiar with today, the idea that young people are taught skills and knowledge for life such as, reading and writing was introduced by the Romans.