

# WAGOLL

## A Sociable Civilisation

Some might say the Romans enjoyed the elaborate and exquisite. As the Roman Empire grew, the things the Romans did for entertainment became more extravagant. In the heart of Rome, the Colosseum became a place where citizens would come expecting to be amused and distracted with seriously brutal games - during certain games held by the emperors around 10,000 animals and gladiators (slaves) were killed in a single day. Below where the many spectators sat were numerous rooms and underground passages. Here is where the animals and gladiators were kept, waiting to meet their fate in the arena above. Chariot racing was also an extremely dangerous yet popular sport held in the Colosseum and amphitheaters throughout Rome. As well as partaking in such thrilling pass times as these, Roman residents found time to relax and socialise with each other in beautiful public bathing houses. These could be found in every Roman village.

### Excellent Engineers

In 43CE, many of the things we take for granted today did not exist. The Colosseum is one example of ingenious Roman engineering - the large outdoor stadium where thousands would gather to be entertained. However, their brilliance extends far beyond the construction of such elaborate and magnificent buildings and villas. Surprisingly, before the Romans invaded Britannia, it had not occurred to us that to go in a straight line would provide the quickest route. It did to the Romans! As a result, they were the first to build straight roads in Britain to make import and export easier, as well as making it possible for Roman legions to move quickly from place to place.

Other new technologies the Romans brought to Britain included...

### Invade and conquer

As well as being pioneers of technology, the Roman army was one of the largest and most powerful fighting forces in ancient history. The army was very advanced for its time. The legionaries trained for 2 years to ensure they had the strength and the organisation to overpower their enemies. Not only were they incredibly organised, their weapons and armour were made from the finest metals and materials making them difficult to penetrate. Unlike the army today, only men could join, no women were allowed. The legionaries were the elite (very best) soldiers and had to be over 17 years old and a Roman citizen. Every new recruit had to be fighting fit - anyone who was weak or too short was rejected. However,

their success was also the result of their brutal & savage tactics when at war. The Roman Army were not to be messed with!