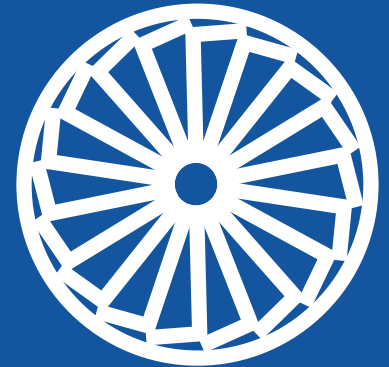
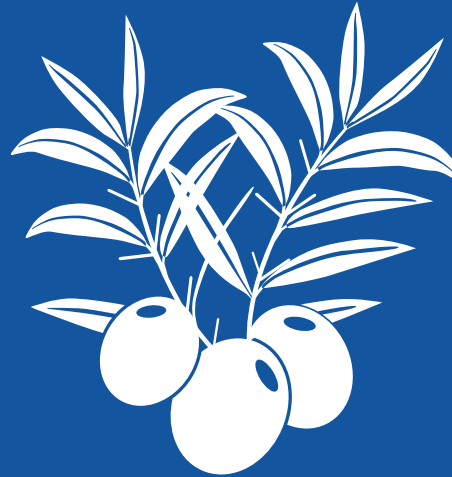


Uncovering Black British History

Roman Britain 27BCE – 476CE

History KS1



Uncovering Black British History

Roman Britain 27BCE – 476CE

History

Key Stage 1

Learning aims

- To learn about a wealthy woman of African descent living in Roman York who has come to be known as Ivory Bangle Lady
- To understand that people of African descent were living in Roman Britain

Curriculum links

- Know and understand the history of these islands.
- Identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- Ask and answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events.
- Understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past.

Keywords

Excavation – an archaeological dig that looks under the ground for physical remains from the past

Roman province – for hundreds of years the Roman Empire kept expanding as it conquered new areas. These areas became known as provinces. Britain, or Britannia as it was then known, was one of those provinces

Roman column – these were decorated stone columns, erected to commemorate important people and events

Sarcophagus – a stone coffin used to bury the dead and that can also sometimes contain objects buried with the dead, known as grave goods

Craniometric analysis – the study of bones and skulls

Isotope analysis – the study of chemicals left in teeth and bones of people from during childhood

These can also be found at the end of this PDF and can be placed on a learning wall as they are discussed during the presentation.



PowerPoint presentation

The accompanying PowerPoint presentation has 19 slides with the following learning points:

- Slides 1 and 2 introduce the lesson.
- Slides 3 and 4: Ask the children if they have heard of the city of Rome. Do they know which modern day country it is in? Do they know that thousands of years ago Rome became one of the most important cities in the world and created a huge empire?
- Slide 5: looks at who were the Romans. Have the children ever heard about what Roman life was like - have they seen this in a book, or perhaps visited a museum? The slide establishes that Britain was part of the Roman Empire for 500 years.
- Slides 6 and 7: We then learn about a woman who lived in Roman Britain and is one of the earliest examples of black people living in Britain that we know about. Her name was Ivory Bangle Lady and she lived in the important Roman city of Eboracum. We explain that this was an army city, with a wider population doing civilian jobs, and it included women and children. Ask the children if they know, or can find out, what Eboracum is called today?
- Slide 8: gives the answer that Eboracum is now called York and asks the children if they have ever visited York? It states that York is now famous for its huge cathedral, York Minster, but that some of its Roman past can still be seen. Can the children see if they can spot something Roman in the photo and if they know what it is?
- Slide 9: gives the answer that the Roman item in the photo is the stone column. We explain that it was one of 16 stone columns that held up the army headquarters building, which now lies beneath the Minster. It poses the question that Ivory Bangle Lady wasn't a soldier, so how can we find out about her life?
- Slides 10 and 11: tell us that Ivory Bangle Lady died about 18 hundred years ago, so we can't ask her about her life and we don't have any books or records written from when she was alive, that can tell us about her. However, thanks to an excavation in 1901, we do have her physical remains and her grave goods and they can give us clues about who she was and how she lived.
- Slide 12: tells us why she was called Ivory Bangle Lady, because she was buried with a bangle made from African ivory. Do the children know what ivory is and where it comes from?



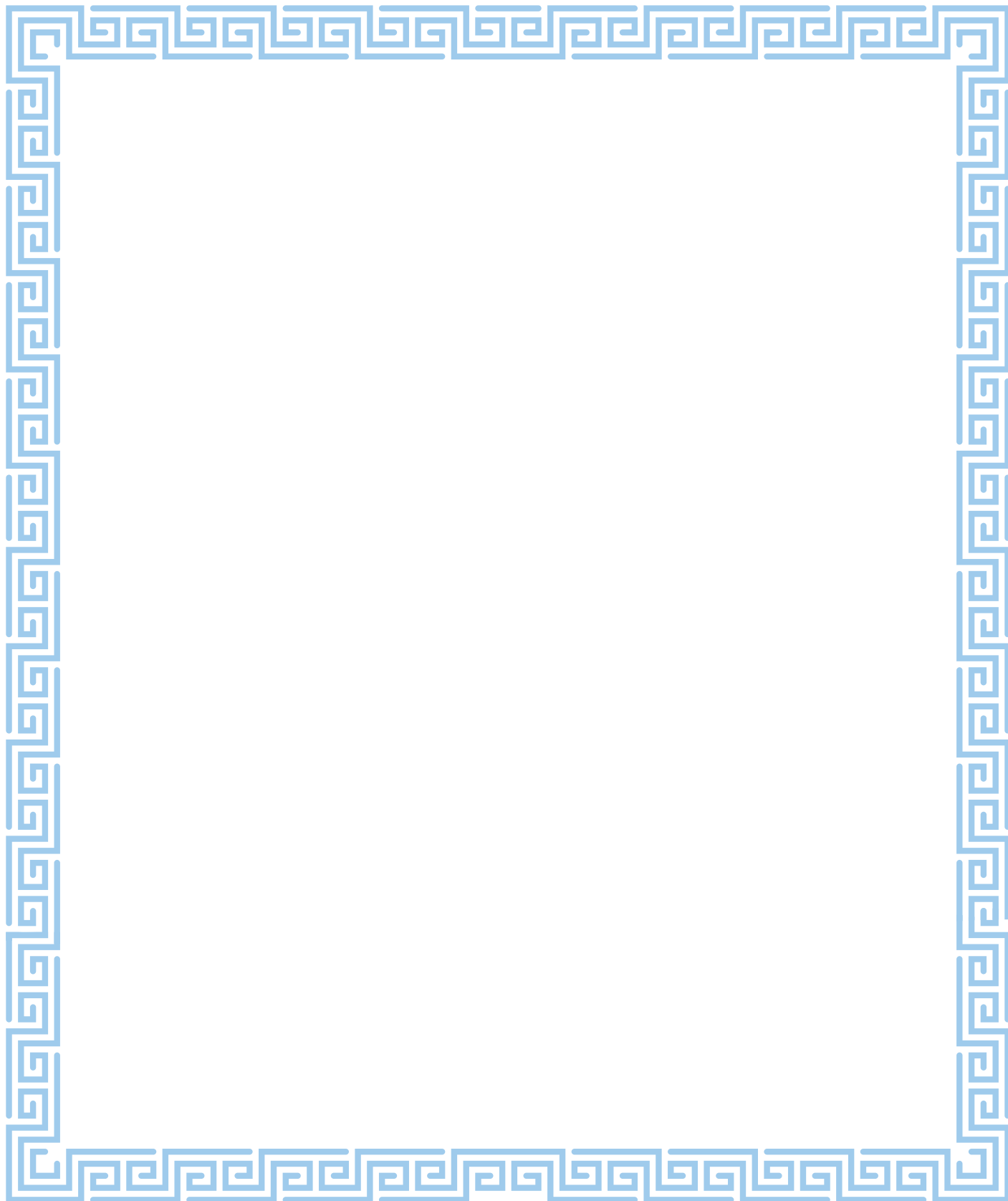
- Slide 13: reveals that from studying her bones, archaeologists know that she was between 18 and 23 years old when she died. They can also see that her skeleton was free from disease and injury. This tells us that she lived a comfortable life, with enough to eat and did not do hard or dangerous work. Therefore, she was probably from quite a wealthy family.
- Slides 14 and 15: explain that craniometric and isotope analysis are tests on bones, which can tell us more about a skeleton's ancestors and where they lived.
- Slide 16: shows us what Ivory Bangle Lady might have looked like. Ask the children to think about what kind of life they think she might have lived, and to reflect on what it would have been like to migrate across the Roman Empire from north Africa to Britain. Did she travel to other Roman parts of the Empire before arriving in Eboracum?
- Slide 17: suggests additional activities for the children to tell other people about Ivory Bangle Lady's life. For example, creating a story map of her life, recording a video explaining what was found in her coffin and what it tells us about her, drawing a picture of her, or writing a story about a day in her life as a wealthy young woman in Eboracum. A drawing template has been provided within this PDF. Useful links are provided on slide 18 for further information.



Name _____

Ivory Bangle Lady

Draw below what you think Ivory Bangle Lady looked like.



Uncovering Black British History

Roman Britain 27BCE – 476CE: Keywords Flashcards



Excavation

**Roman
province**

**Roman
column**

Sarcophagus

**Craniometric
analysis**

**Isotope
analysis**



Excavation



Roman province



Roman column



Sarcophagus



Craniometric analysis



Isotope analysis

