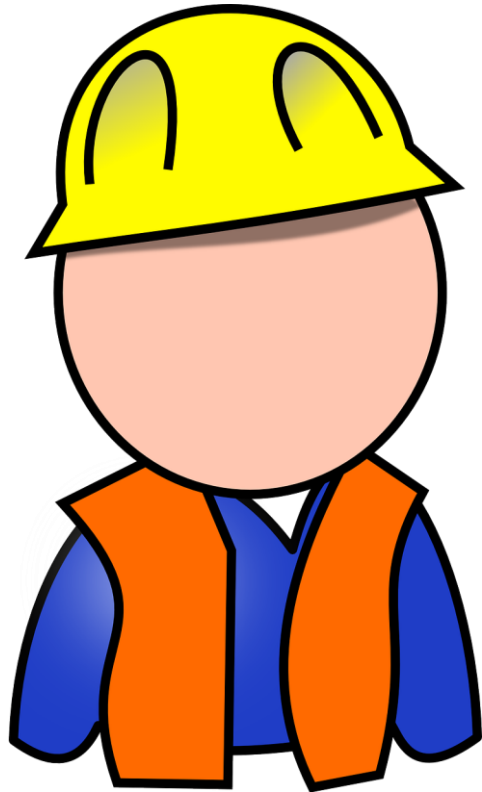


How do we know so much
about the towns the
Romans built in Britain?

HOW DID THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROMANS CHANGE BRITAIN?

Let's modernise...



Before the Roman invasion the Celts all lived in small villages with huts. Once the Roman empire had expanded to Britain they began showing their modern ways by building towns made of stone and brick.

But how easy was it?

Let's design – using the description below you are going to try and draw, then label a layout of a Roman town.

A typical Roman town was usually built close to a large army fort and designed with the following features:

A tall and wide defensive **wall** which surrounded the town and included a number of **gates** each with its own **guard house**. These gates were the only way into and out of the town;

Two main roads – one heading north to south and the other east to west;

All other roads were built in a **regular grid pattern** at right angles to each other;

Where these two roads intersected at the centre of the town was the **forum** – a large open space which was either square, rectangular or circular – and used as a market place and for public meetings;

On one side of the forum the **basilica** or town hall could be found – a large building often supported by marble pillars. The basilica was used as a court and also for meetings of the town council and of traders and merchants;

A temple where the people of the town came to worship their gods;

An **open air theatre** with semi-circular tiered seating facing a stage. Here serious plays were performed, religious festivals observed and comedy events such as pantomimes presented;

A large round or oval **amphitheatre** without a roof with tiers of seats for spectators around a central space. Here dramatic sporting events such as chariot races or fights to the death between gladiators or men and wild animals were staged as entertainment for town residents. It was also where the public executions of criminals were carried out;

Each town had one or more **public bath houses** with hot and cold water supplies along with indoor and outdoor pools and washing facilities. Most townspeople would have come to the baths to wash before their evening meal. Both men and women attended the baths but at different times. In some towns there were separate public bath houses for men and women;

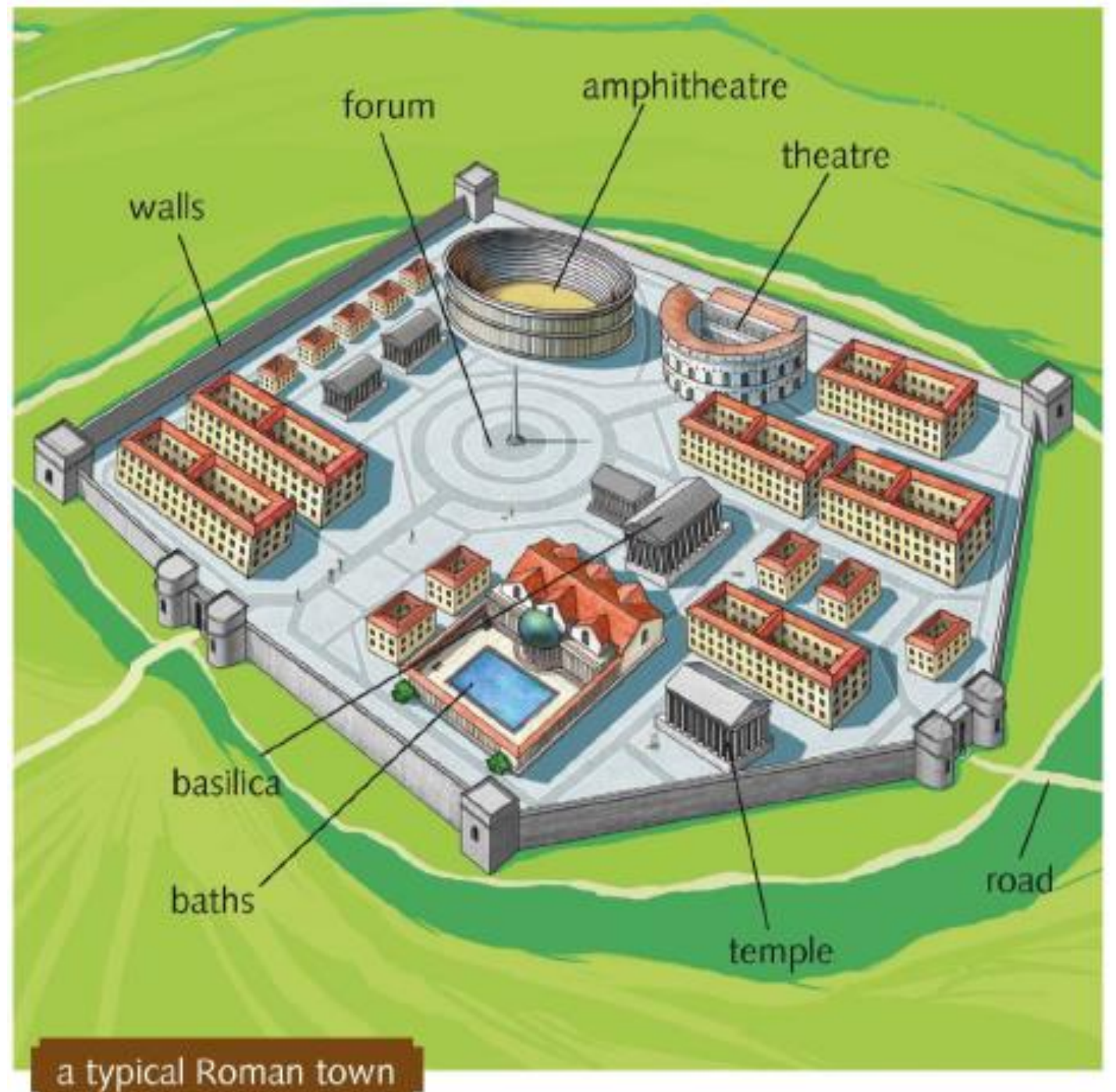
Only the very rich had water piped to their homes or their own toilets. **Public toilets** located throughout the town were used by everyone else and in most cases their waste was carried away (into the nearest river!) by underground sewage pipes;

Fountains, statues and gardens were also common as the Romans believed it was important to provide things of eloquence and beauty for people to admire and enjoy as they went about their everyday lives in the town.

Let's compare

So how do our drawings compare to this correct artists representation.

What's the same and what's different?



How do they know?

How is it that historians and archaeologists know what the towns looked like?

They were built 2,000 years ago!

Still here?

Evidence of the Romans is still very clear today.

The Roman towns that were built thousands of years ago have since been developed into modern cities, with many of them still having visible Roman originality.

Due to the stone and brick being used there buildings have lasted well. Three of the largest towns built by the Romans were, London, Colchester and St Albans. Among other settlements such as York, Chester, Bath and Caerwent (Wales).



Your task...

- A. statue (of Emperor Constantine in York)
- B. Roman bath house (Bath)
- C. part of a Roman wall and gateway (York)
- D. theatre (Chester)
- E. gardens (Chester)
- F. basilica (Caerwent)
- G. forum (Caerwent)
- H. amphitheatre (Caerwent).

Note these Roman remains down and see if you can match them to the pictures on the next page.

Next to the Roman remains write down the number that you think shows the picture of this remain.

