



LEARNING AT HOME

ROMANS IN CRAVEN

KS2 History: The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain,

with links to: KS2 Science, Design and Technology, Geography, English

During the Iron Age there were people living across Britain called the **Celts**. The Celts were made up of lots of tribes that were around Britain, and they each had their own King or Queen, who ruled over that tribe. The tribe that lived in our area were called the **Brigantes**, and they had the largest amount of land in Britain of all of the tribes.

We can use evidence from the forts and villas of Roman Craven to understand how people lived in the past.

Kirk Sink Villa at Gargrave was excavated by archaeologists over several years in the late 1960s and early 1970s. There is evidence that the earliest Roman building at Kirk Sink was a large stone corridor house with a tiled roof. The house had mosaic floors and under-floor heating, as well as a detached bath house. This is an artist's impression of how Kirk Sink villa might have looked:



Craven Museum also cares for many objects found at **Elslack Roman Fort** which guarded a Roman road linking two other forts, one at Ribchester and another at Ilkley.

Take a closer look at some of the objects from the museum:



This section of **mosaic** was found at the Kirk Sink Villa site as a beautiful pattern on the floor. Mosaics are made of small blocks called **tesserae** which can be made of stone, glass or other materials. Mosaics could be made into elaborate pictures and patterns and were used to decorate floors, walls and ceilings.

This fragment of **painted wall plaster** found at Kirk Sink would have decorated the walls.



Archaeologists at Kirk Sink also discovered evidence that suggests the villa had a **hypocaust** central heating system which allowed warmed air to travel through underground passages in order to heat the building. The heat was provided by a wood or charcoal burning furnace. The ceiling of the hypocaust was raised above the ground by pillars of brick, stone and layered terracotta tiles. Hot air and smoke from the furnace would circulate through this enclosed area heating the floors and walls of the rooms above.



This is a replica of **Samian Ware**. The museum had this replica made using fragments of pottery that were found at Kirk Sink. Samian ware was only made in one place throughout the Roman empire, in Gaul (modern day Germany/France). This made it expensive to get over here, so it was a sign of status and wealth.

A **mortarium** was a Roman container for pounding or grinding. The bumps inside the bowl are deliberate and allowed the Romans to grind up herbs and spices, using a hand held tool called a **pestle**.



This is an **oil lamp**. It was made in two parts moulded from clay and fired in a kiln. The lamp would be filled with oil and a wick would be coiled inside the lamp. When the wick was lit, it would have been used to light up the villa.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Imagine you live at Kirk Sink Villa. Write a story describing your home.

Draw and label your own Roman villa.

Make a Roman Mosaic by sticking small pieces of coloured paper or other materials on to paper. Create your own picture or pattern.

Craven Museum and Gallery is currently being redeveloped, increasing the accessibility of the Museum and the collection, as well as creating new and innovative displays to tell the stories and showcase the treasures of the Craven Dales. We look forward to welcoming you to the museum when we reopen. Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, made possible by generous National Lottery Players!

