

What did people in Roman Britain look like?

Story

Create a title for each paragraph.

What did Roman Britain's look like?

Summarise each paragraph in 1 or 2 bullet points.

We know from descriptions of the **Celts** like Boudicca, that the **indigenous** people living in Britain before the Roman invasion were most likely to be white. These tribes were very varied but DNA shows us that they most originated from tribes in France.

There is no doubt however that during Roman Britain there were people from other parts of the world. We don't necessarily know what skin colour these people had, but we do know that there was movement; we have North Africans attested on **Hadrian's wall**, for example. However, it's very difficult to quantify exact numbers, as our evidence is full of uncertainties.

We have **inscriptions** which tell us where people were from. These might say, for example, that someone comes from North Africa or from Italy.

Source

A **Source A:** A women's skull, expensive ivory bangles and a really precious blue vase was found in a Roman Britain grave in York England.



B



Source B: Top Scientific historians used DNA to discover where the skull came from. This is a reconstruction from their findings.

C



Source C: Historians dug near by and found a villa and used this to reconstruct this historic picture of the Ivory Bangle Lady

Scholarship

Dr Mary Beard (2017)'Interview about the BBC Roman children's program'.

The BBC children's video of Roman Britain is 'pretty accurate'. I think, for example, that the BBC character was loosely based on [Quintus Urbicus](#), a man from what is now Algeria, who became governor of Britain; you can still visit his grand tomb at Tiddis. Roman Britain would have been black and white. We do not know the percentages but Britain has been racially diverse for over 2500 years.

Dr Hella Eckardt (2017) What kind of life did migrants in Roman Britain lead?

Often the migrant skeletons we look at are from very wealthy graves. For example, the 'Ivory Bangle Lady' was found in a stone coffin alongside glass vases and expensive jewellery. It is likely that many migrants in this period were wealthy and wealthy people were in charge.

Task 1

Read through the story on What did Roman Britain's look like For each paragraph, you need to create a 'title' on one side, and a short summary (two bullet points maximum) on the other.

Task 2

Look at **source A, B, and C.** In your book, write a short description of each source. Then in full sentences answer the question "What do these sources tell you about what Roman Britain's looked like?"

Task 3

Read through Dr Mary Beard and Dr Hella Eckardt's **scholarship** about diversity in Roman Britain. Highlight what you think are the three most important sentences. In your book, in full sentences answer the question "What do Historian's believe Roman Britain's looked like?"