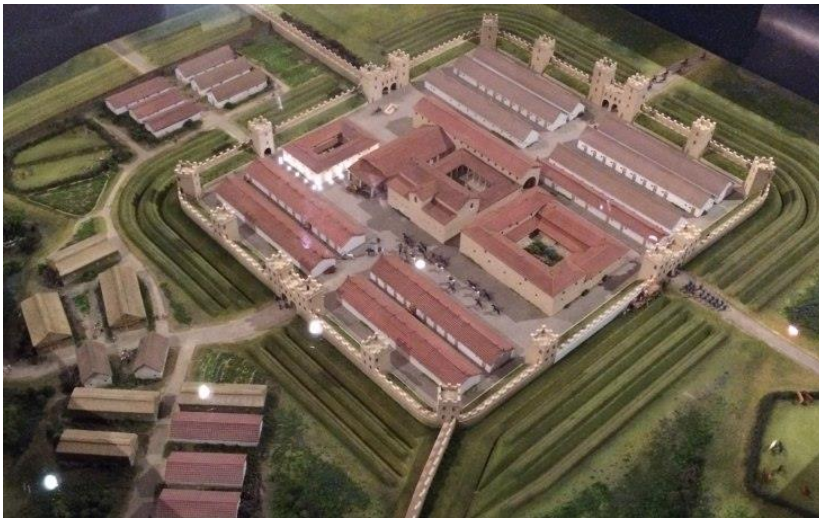


Teacher notes

This activity can be used in the Roman Gallery to bring to life the different spaces within the Roman Fort.

- Start at the model in the centre of the Roman Gallery and provide a brief introduction to the layout of the fort. The notes below can be used to help you to do this.



Fort model in the Roman Gallery

- Once you have provided the children with a brief introduction to the fort layout, split the children into groups and assign an adult to each group.
- Ask each group to find a different part of the Roman Gallery to work in e.g. Commanding Officer's House, Cavalry Soldiers room, Hospital, Granaries.
- At each area, ask children to use the prompt cards below to help them imagine what it would be like to live/work in these different areas during the Roman times. For example, they can start by explaining what different objects they can **see and touch** in these areas before they start to imagine what they could **hear, smell** and how they would **feel** in these areas. They can also start to **collect questions** for more information they'd like to know about these spaces- which might help for further research when you return back to school.
- If the children are struggling to use the prompt cards, then there are a list of questions which might help the adults working with each group to prompt discussion.
- Collect each group back together and ask them to share back their findings



Brief introduction to the fort

Nearly 2000 years ago, around 600 Roman Soldiers lived within Segedunum Fort.

Two types of Roman soldiers lived here, **infantry** and **cavalry** soldiers.

Approximately 480 **infantry** soldiers, who fought on foot, lived at Segedunum. Unfortunately, the original barrack blocks where they lived, although shown on our model, are covered over by the main road which runs alongside the remains of the Roman Fort.

Around 120 **cavalry** soldiers, who fought on horseback, also lived at Segedunum.

In the Roman Gallery, you can see a reconstruction of what we think their living space would have looked like. Each space was divided into a front room and back room. Each back room housed three soldiers. The soldiers would sleep, cook and store their equipment and belongings here. Their horses were kept in the front rooms.



Reconstruction of a cavalry barrack room at Segedunum

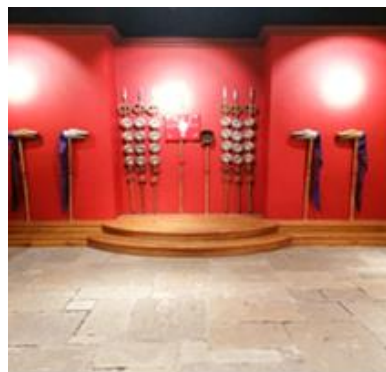


The Headquarters building stood in the middle of the fort. There is a reconstruction of this in the centre of the Roman Gallery. Soldiers would go to the Headquarters every day to be given their orders for the day and to learn which jobs they needed to do. The Headquarters would also have a courtyard where religious ceremonies and sacrifices could take place.

At the back of the reconstruction of the Headquarters you can also see a Shrine. The different battle standards of the unit (spear shaped flag posts for different units of soldiers based at Segedunum) would have been kept here.



Model of the Headquarters building



Reconstructed Shrine

To the right hand side of the Headquarters was the Commanding Officer's House. The Commanding Officer was in charge of the soldiers. He lived in this house with his wife, his children and he would also have had slaves to do his work for him. You can find a reconstruction of the Commanding Officer's house in the Roman Gallery and can clearly see the different decorations they would have had on their walls and the different objects they might have owned.

To the left hand side of the Headquarters were the Granaries and the Hospital. The Granaries were used to store food supplies for the soldiers based at Segedunum. Soldiers would go to the Hospital if they were sick or injured. The Hospital consisted of a series of small rooms built around a courtyard. Rooms probably included an operating theatre, wards, latrines and stores.

You can see an original latrine seat in the Roman Gallery and find out more about Roman medicine. Unlike modern toilet blocks, soldiers would sit side by side when using the latrines!

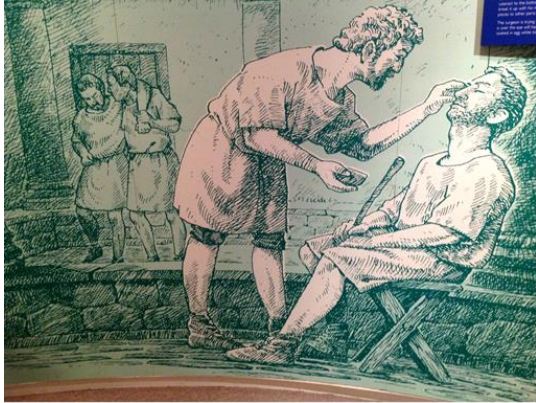


Illustration of a Roman surgeon at work and remains of original Roman latrine seat.

Prompt cards

I can see...

I can
touch...

I hear...

I smell...

I feel...

I imagine...

I wonder...

List of questions to help prompt children

I can see:

What can you see?

What colours can you see?

What objects can you see?

I can touch:

What can you touch around you?

How does it feel to touch?

Is there anything that the object feels similar to?

I smell:

What can you smell?

Where would the smells come from?

Are these nice or unpleasant smells?

How would this smell in Roman times?

I hear:

What can you hear?

How loud are the sounds?

What could be making the sound?

I feel:

How does the space make you feel?

I imagine:

What do you imagine the space you are in would have been used for?

What would people have been doing in the space you are in?

What do you imagine people would have felt like in the space you are in?

I wonder:

Are there any other questions you want to know the answer to?

What do I want to know more about?