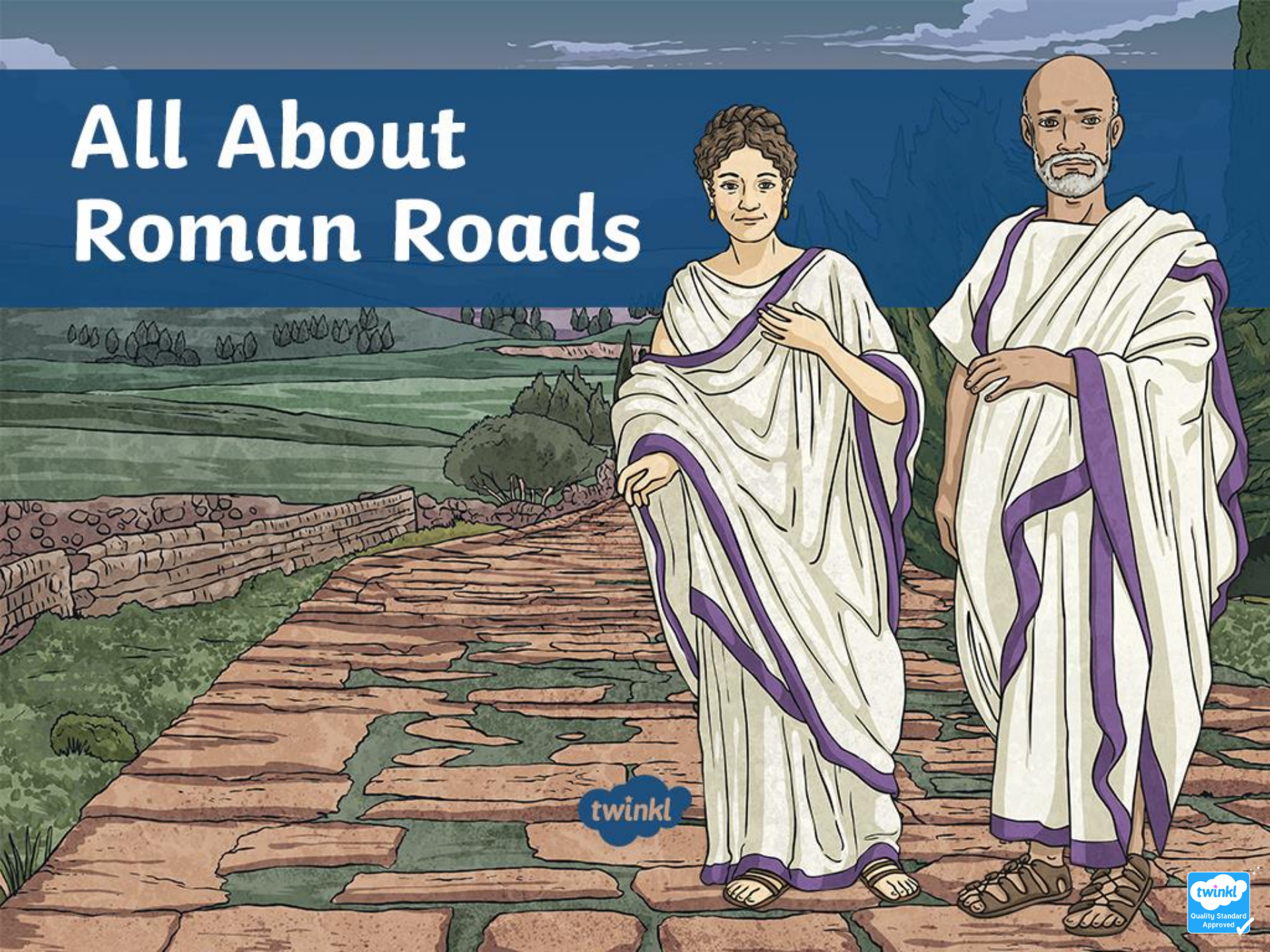


# All About Roman Roads



twinkl



# The Expansion of the Roman Empire

See how the land controlled by the Romans expanded from 800 BC to AD 305.



# The Expansion of the Roman Empire

This expansion relied on the ability to move soldiers, weapons and equipment around the Empire. They needed to establish good trading routes and be able to communicate between different areas of the Empire. Because of this, the Romans became experts at building roads. In fact, their roads were so well built that some still exist today.

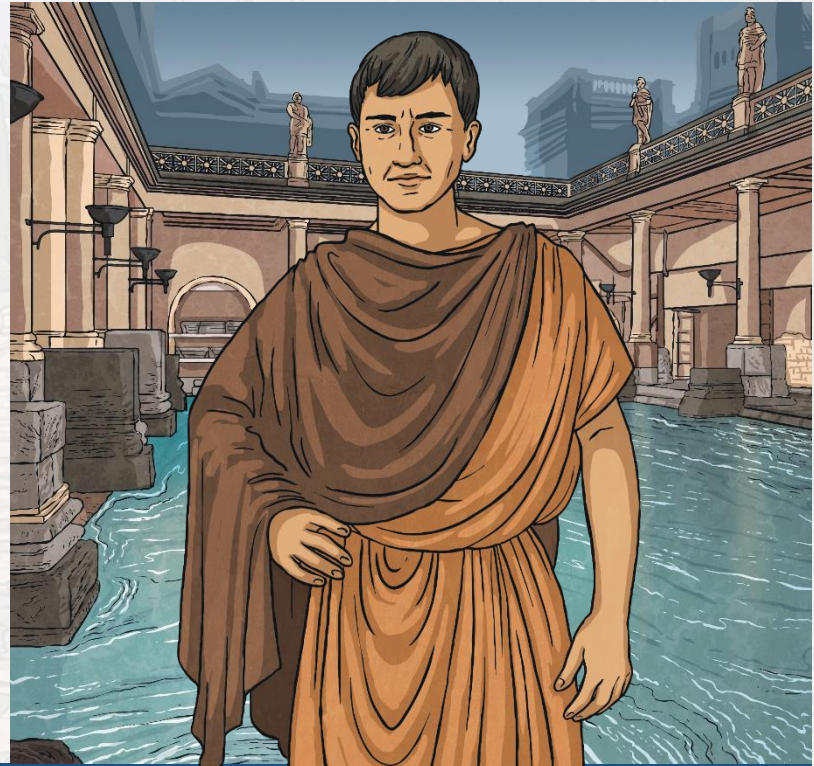




# Roads before the Romans

It used to be thought that before the Romans, most roads in Britain were paths or muddy tracks linking local areas. However, recent **archaeological** discoveries have shown that while this is generally true, there are some examples of pre-Roman road building.

In 2011, **archaeologists** discovered the remains of a cobbled road in Shropshire. It is thought to have been built by the Cornovii tribe in the first century BC. This was one hundred years before the Romans arrived in Britain.



Click a word in bold to find out its meaning.



# The Best Way to Travel

Choose someone to walk from the back of your classroom to the front twice. The first time, they should aim to walk in a straight line from back to front. The second time they should turn left and right a few times on their way to the front. Which way was the quickest?

Try It

Just like you have discovered, the Romans knew that the most efficient way to travel was in a straight line. A feature of Roman roads was how straight they were.





# How Did the Romans Build Roads?

People who planned Roman roads were called agrimensores. A groma was a simple tool made of wood, nailed together to form a cross with right angles. The decempeda was a measuring stick. It was ten feet long and had rings at the ends. The agrimensores would send an assistant out with the decempeda and some wooden poles. The assistant would measure out a distance and then put a wooden pole sticking up from the ground. The agrimensores would then look to see if the wooden pole was in line with the piece of string hanging from the groma. If it was, the agrimensores knew that the line was straight and the road could be built.





# How Did the Romans Build Roads?

1. After the straight lines had been marked, 2 feet ditches were dug on either side for drainage.
2. A bank of earth called an agger was then built. The earth was built up more in the middle to create a curved surface called a camber. This meant rain falling on the road would drip down into the ditches.
3. Broken stones and gravel were then spread on top of the agger.
4. Flint, stone or any other available hard surface was then put on top of the gravel and then compacted (pressed down heavily).



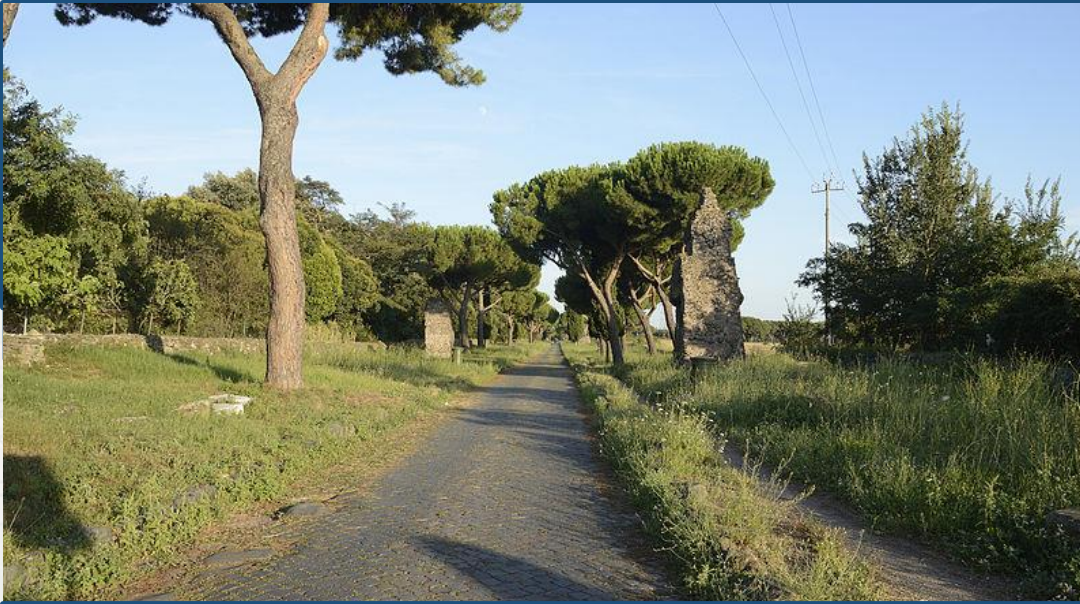


# British Roman Roads





# Roman Roads Today



Appian Way, a Roman road in Italy.

## Did You Know?

A clue to whether a place had a Roman road is the word 'street' at the start of its name as in Streatley, or Streatham

Roman road Italy by Livioandronico2013 is licenced by CC.2.0

s were  
s. Part  
Street.  
A46.  
street in





# Glossary

[archaeological](#) – The study of history and ancient history, often through digging on sites to find objects.

[archaeologists](#) – The people who study archaeology.



