

# VII

## WAS IT ALL WORTH IT?

*This session provides a summary of the previous six sessions and is an opportunity for pupils to reflect on the impact of the Roman invasion and occupation of the Lake District.*

**CURRICULUM LINKS: HISTORY 5C, 6, 7, 8A, 9**  
**ENGLISH 2A, 2B, 2E      ART & DESIGN 2A**

### OVERVIEW

LEARNING ACTIVITY	ACTIVITY DETAILS	LEARNING INTENTIONS	RESOURCES
<b>STARTER</b> whole class	<i>Idea gathering</i> Pupils contribute all that they can remember about Roman and Brigantian clothing. Ideas are recorded at the front of the class for use during the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To recall prior learning.</li> <li>• To identify with their roles.</li> </ul>	<i>NB Throughout Session VII it will be helpful to refer back to resources used in the previous sessions.</i>
<b>IMAGE MAKING</b> individual	<i>Creating a cardboard cutout character</i> Pupils apply collage materials, or paint and draw, onto a cardboard human-shaped cutout, to represent their role-play characters, using all the information gathered at the beginning of the session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To apply prior learning about Roman and Brigantine culture.</li> <li>• To deepen role-playing abilities.</li> <li>• To provide an opportunity for creative and kinaesthetic work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human shape template, printed onto card (CD Resource 58)</li> </ul>
<b>HOT SEATING</b> whole class individual	<i>Was the Roman occupation a good thing?</i> Revisit some of the images of Roman remains in the Lake District and explain the reasons for the occupation (see notes overleaf). Carry out a hot-seating exercise in which pupils take turns to answer questions, as their role-play characters, about the benefits of the occupation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reflect on all prior learning from previous sessions and apply this to the question.</li> <li>• To develop skills of empathy, listening, expressing emotions and asking questions.</li> <li>• To demonstrate that perceptions of historical events vary depending on one's personal perspective.</li> </ul>	
<b>PLENARY</b> whole class	<i>Voting with the cardboard cutouts</i> Set up a vote on the occupation. Ask pupils to stick their characters on the 'yes' or 'no' sides of the board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a visual summary of opinions for discussion.</li> <li>• To allow pupils to express an 'in character' role as well as their own.</li> </ul>	

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

After the Romans left Britain and the Empire collapsed, most traces of the occupation gradually disappeared. Clearly they did not succeed in holding onto their Empire as they had hoped. However, during their occupation of the Lake District they had specific aims and reasons for being here. They did not set out to take over the Lake District and change the people who lived here; they were aiming to protect Roman-occupied land from invaders from Scotland and from the sea. In this sense they were very successful and achieved their aims.

The following points will help you to facilitate the hot-seating exercise.

### **The Romans:**

- successfully fought against Brigantian rebellions, establishing their authority
- successfully built forts and defended them
- successfully opened up new routes and roads and maintained them
- successfully traded for the supplies they needed
- co-existed with the Brigantian people after initial hostilities
- deterred invasion from overseas by defending the coast
- helped deter invasion from Scotland as a second line of defence after Hadrian's Wall

### **The Brigantes:**

- some families lost land to the Romans
- some families lost warriors in battles with the Romans
- some people might have resented the changes the Romans made to the landscape, like the roads and the big stone forts
- some people might have enjoyed the opportunity to eat new types of food
- some people might have enjoyed the opportunity to try new ways of doing things, like using more pottery for eating and drinking
- some families would have become richer by trading with the Romans

You could also point out that the occupation went on for 350 or so years. After such a long time the Brigantes and Romans would have both got used to each other. The Brigantes would have found it hard to imagine the Lake District without the Romans and the Romans would have thought of the Lake District as home.