

# Why did the Romans wear brooches?

In Roman times brooches were a popular form of jewellery as men and women would often fasten their cloaks with them.

Brooches would come in all different shapes and sizes. Often brooches were shaped like animals to symbolise certain gods and bring the wearer luck.

Take a look at the pictures below to see some examples!

## Dolphin brooch



Dolphins were a symbol of Neptune, the Roman God of the sea.

## Owl brooch



The owl represented Minerva, the Roman Goddess of wisdom.

## Plate brooch



Similar to modern badges, plate brooches had a flat, decorated surface set with small stones.

## Did you know?

Before the Romans came to Britain, the native Britons were **Pagans**. They believed in lots of **different gods and spirits**.

The Romans were Pagan too, but they **didn't believe in the same gods as the Britons**. The Romans didn't tend to think that only their gods were the right ones.

When the Romans invaded Britain in AD43, they **let Britons worship their own gods as long as they were respectful of the Roman ones too**. Some Britons even started worshipping Roman gods!



# Make your own

## Roman brooch!

### You will need:

- Card
- Felt tip pens
- Gems and beads
- A4 paper and printer (optional)
- Glue
- Sellotape and a safety pin

1. Choose a design.

Take a look at the next page and pick your favourite picture, or draw your own!

2. If you are using one of our designs, print out the picture and glue it to a piece of card. Then carefully cut around your design.

3. Colour in your brooch using felt tip pens. As you can see from these beads the Romans used lots of bright colours in their jewellery!



4. Now it is time to decorate! Use glue to stick your decoration to your brooch. I usually use beads and gems, but you can use whatever you have in your craft drawer.

5. Attach a safety pin to the back of your brooch using sticky tape and it is ready to wear!

Let us know how you get on with your wonderful creations! Send pictures and feedback to [ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk)

# Choose your Roman brooch design!

