

Welcome to The Hunterian and the Antonine Wall display: "Rome's Final Frontier"

This Resource kit will help you in leading a group visit. Although available as a download, this is primarily for advance notice of contents but it is **printed and ready for use at the Hunterian Museum - simply ask for it at the museum reception desk.**

Teacher-led Tour Script.

Look through the 9 different stops that are listed on the front page of the Script and pick which stops you'd like to do.

The script comes in two font sizes, the larger version in size 14 Comic Sans font.

Supplementary Resources for Tour.

1. Images

These images are included to give further context for the tour to help visualise the scene.

Images include:

- a recreation of the building of the Antonine Wall,
- a section of the wall as it looks now,
- the height of the wall during an excavation
- a recreation of one of the forts,
- Ebutius, the EMOTIVE project character that is mentioned at every stop of the tour.

2. Glossary of Distance Slab #9 (Stop #4 in the tour).

This glossary shows the abbreviated Latin that is on the Slab, the word that it was abbreviated from, and the definition of that word. This will hopefully help to explain how the Slab was translated.

3. Timeline of Roman history.

- From Julius Caesar becoming emperor to the death of Antoninus Pius.

Activities independent of the tour / options for splitting class into groups:

Gods and Goddesses Matching Activity

Relating to the Altars at Stop #5, this task involves matching the various gods, goddesses, and spirits to their descriptions using the information from the plaques by the 5 altars.

The emojis in the descriptions correlate to different aspects within the images to help with the matching process.

Coin Scavenger Hunt

The Scavenger Hunt involves finding coins that are located throughout the museum, and on doing so, matching the correct coin image of to its description.

Newspaper Activity

This is a possible writing or drawing activity. The Article needs a Headline and there is space for an image. Feel free to take these away for use in class later.

We would be very grateful if resources could be returned in order when you're finished. Enjoy your visit!

Self-Led Tour of the *Final Frontier* Exhibition

This tour is made up of 9 key stops from which each teacher can pick-and-choose which stops to take their class to. Each stop has its own card, so before you begin the tour, pick the stops you'd like to do, make sure the cards are in order, and get started! Each of the stops has been assigned a colour that corresponds with the artefact's location on the map of the exhibit.

The 9 key stops are:

1. Columns - Background Information
2. First Encounter and Building tools
3. Life Along the Wall - Water Supply and Shoes
4. Distance Slab (cast) #9
5. The Altars
6. Small Statues - Roman Mars and the Celtic Water Nymph
7. The Baths - Gameboard
8. Religion and Belief - the Water Jug and Funerary Urn
9. Destruction and Abandonment

AFTER / INSTEAD OF THE TOUR, there are some activities in the Resource Box to complete throughout the exhibit/museum

General Information for Before the Tour

- The Roman army began to build the Antonine Wall in AD 142 after they took control of Caledonia.
- It took the army 12 whole years to build, finally coming to completion in AD 154.
- The emperor in Rome during this time was Antoninus Pius, from whom the wall gets its name.
- We don't know exactly why Antoninus commanded his army to move north from Hadrian's Wall, but it is likely that one of his main reasons was to gain political and military favour with the Roman people.
- Most of the wall was built by stacking up layers upon layers of turf.
- The Roman soldiers dug a large ditch along the northern side of the wall (reaching up to 5 metres in depth in some places!).
- Along the south side of the wall they build the Military Way, and a series of forts for the soldiers to live in after construction was completed.
- At the time that construction finished, the wall stretched all the way from the Firth of Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde, about 59 kilometres!
- The Roman soldiers did not remain at the wall for very long, in the AD 160's the soldiers destroyed their forts and retreated to Hadrian's Wall.

Stop 1 –
Background
Information



As the soldiers were building the Antonine Wall they were also building the forts that they would live in once the wall was complete. Each of these forts contained a bathhouse, latrine, administrative building, and soldiers' quarters. Living conditions for the soldiers and commanding officers were quite different. The soldiers lived in large buildings known as "barrack blocks" that were made from timber, while the commanding officers lived with their families in large stone villas far away from the noise of fort life.

- These columns were found inside a well in one of the forts courtyards, where the soldiers hid them as they retreated!
- Like these columns, most of the artefacts in this exhibit were found inside the wells of the forts along the wall where they were almost perfectly preserved for centuries until they were rediscovered!
- A hammerhead in these displays inspired the creation of an imaginary character called Ebutius (Eh-boot-ee-us), a centurion living and working along the Antonine Wall.
- Using information taken from various sources, we have imagined the life of Ebutius while he was living on the Wall. However, it is important to keep in mind that there is no historical evidence that our version of Ebutius is what actually happened.
- Ebutius will be popping up at most of our stops around the exhibit to help show us what it was like to live along the wall.

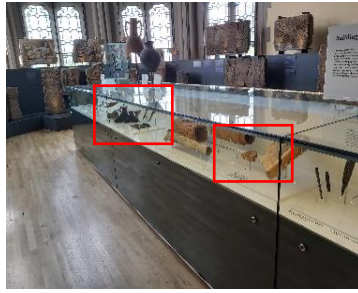
Stop 2 – First
Encounter and
Building Tools:
Nails and Tools



The Roman army needed tools to help them build the Antonine Wall and forts, exactly as we need tools to build things today!

- The soldiers would have used this shovel to dig the trench along the north side of the wall, and to help pile up the layers of turf that made up the wall.
- The chisels were used to carve the designs into the distance slabs that were put up to commemorate when a section of the wall was completed (we can see many of the distance slabs behind us and along the outside of the exhibit)
- There were also many nails found, what do you think Ebutius and his fellow soldiers were nailing up? (*The distance stones would have been nailed onto the wall to ensure they were secure*)
- How do you think the Celts felt about the Romans coming in and building the Antonine Wall and their forts on their land? The Celts didn't have large stone buildings like the ones the Romans built, do you think this would have made these buildings more intimidating to them? (*Unfortunately, we don't have any Celtic records about how they felt about the Romans invading their lands, so your guess is as good as any archaeologists!*)
- After construction of the wall was completed, auxiliary units took over the protection of it. These auxiliary units were made up of soldiers who were not Roman citizens (though they would gain citizenship for themselves and their children when they retired). These soldiers, along with traders and other professions, migrated to Britain from as far away as Syria!

Stop 3 – Life
Along the wall:
*Roof Tile and
Leather Shoes*



For the soldiers living along the wall, life continued mostly as normal. They kept pets, started families, and basically lived a life a lot like we do today.

- Here we can see a roof tile with a small paw print in it. This tells us that Ebutius and the other soldiers kept dogs either as pets or as work dogs.
- These dogs would help the soldiers hunt, helping ensure that they did not starve in the inhospitable climate that they had moved to.
- Over here we can see three leather shoes that are different sizes. While living at the wall, Ebutius met a local Celtic woman called Calle and they later had a son, called Callum. It is possible that these shoes belonged to Ebutius and his family; though it's equally as possible that many of the other soldiers fell in love with local women while living at the wall, so they could have belonged to any of them.
- These three shoes are part of a hoard of *five-hundred* leather shoes found at Bar Hill fort; this shows us that there were quite a few people, and families, living along the wall.

Stop 4 –
Distance
Slabs: *Slab*
(cast) #9



There were three Roman legions building the Antonine Wall (the Second Augusta, the Sixth Victrix, and the Twentieth Valeria Victrix). Ebutius and his fellow soldiers would mark their distance stones with a symbol that was unique to their legion, that way everyone passing by would know who had completed that section of the wall.

The symbol for the Twentieth Valeria Victrix was the Boar, the Second Augusta's symbols were the Capricorn and Pegasus, and unfortunately, we currently do not know what the symbol for the Sixth Victrix was.

- These symbols worked in the same way as modern logos. Can anyone think of any logos? (*school uniform, Nike, Adidas, etc.*)
- Can you tell which Legion made this distance stone? (*Twentieth Valeria Victrix*)
- This is a cast of the original distance stone (a cast is an exact replica of something, this distance stone cast was made from plaster); unfortunately, the original was destroyed in the great Chicago fire in 1871 after being sold to an American professor. We are incredibly lucky, though, that a cast was made before it was taken to the United States, otherwise it would have been lost forever!
- Look at the distance slab to the left, can you tell the difference between an original and a cast? (*Casts have more of a shine, look more stable, the cracks look closed, they even feel differently [students may carefully touch the sides of the slabs, but they must keep pens & pencils away and avoid touching any of the carved areas]*)
- Thanks to advancements in science and technology, we now know that the distances stones were originally brightly painted! A team at University of Glasgow is currently doing research to discover all the different colours used on the slabs and how they would have looked fully painted!

Stop 5 –
The Altars



One of Ebutius' fellow centurions, a man called Marcus Cocceius Firmus, dedicated these five altars to a variety of both the Roman and Celtic gods. We can tell a lot about Firmus based on to whom he dedicated the altars.

- For example, by dedicating an altar to the Roman spirit Silvanus, who is the spirit of woods and fields, Firmus could have been asking for Silvanus to bless the soldiers with all the trees they would need to construct their forts and build fires.
- The altar to Diana and Apollo, the twin gods of hunting, could have been used by Firmus to ensure he was granted good luck when he went out hunting.
- Why do you think Firmus dedicated altars to the Celtic goddess Epona and to the spirit Britannia? (*Epona was the goddess of horses, so she was most likely a favoured goddess of the soldiers in the cavalry units, offerings would have been made to her to ensure their horses strength and to ensure they would always have horses. The Romans believed spirits could place curses on those who angered them, so Firmus probably dedicated an altar to Britannia to soothe her after the Romans conquered her lands*)
- Firmus also dedicated an altar to the Roman goddess Victory (typically shown with wings and holding a laurel wreath in one hand and an olive branch in another); can you see this image in any of the distance slabs? Why do you think Firmus would have dedicated an altar to Victory? (*Victory was the goddess of, well, victory [her Greek equivalent is the goddess Nike] so Firmus would have made offerings to Victory before a battle in hopes that she would help the Romans achieve victory*)

Stop 6 –
Religious
Iconography:
*Mars and Water
Nymph Statues*

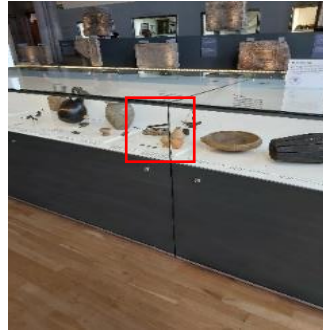


The Romans required the Celtic people to worship the Roman pantheon of gods after they conquered their lands. However, they also permitted the Celts to continue worshipping their own gods, as long as they gave priority to the Roman ones.

The Romans would even adopt some of the locals' gods when they felt the need to (like when Marcus Cocceius Firmus dedicated an altar to the Celtic goddess Epona and the spirit Britannia). Up here we have two religious statues found at one of the forts.

- This first statue depicts the Roman god Mars. As the god of war, Mars was typically considered to be the patron god of soldiers like Ebutius. The soldiers would make offerings to Mars at the altar dedicated to him (like the ones we saw at the last stop [**the Mars altar is second from right**]).
- The offerings given to the gods were meant to honour them, in the hopes that the gods would then grant the soldiers good fortune in any battles or activities to come.
- Does anyone see anything weird about Mars' armour? (*He has gorgon faces on his knees! The gorgon was believed to be a terrible creature who had the ability to turn men to stone with just one look! Because of this, soldiers would routinely put terrifying depictions of a gorgon's face on their armour to frighten their enemies!*)
- Can anyone point out any differences between the Roman Mars and the Celtic water nymph statues?

Stop 7 – The
Baths
(Gameboard)

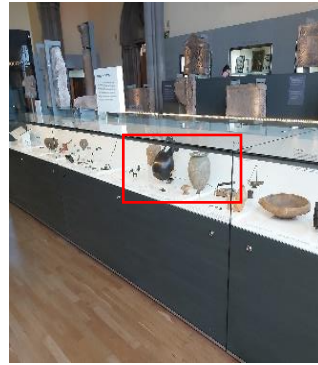


In hopes of not spreading diseases, Ebutius and his fellow soldiers tried to stay as clean as they possibly could. Each fort along the Antonine Wall had its own bathhouse and latrine for the soldiers.

The primary function of a bathhouse was to provide a space and facilities for the soldiers to properly clean themselves, but the soldiers also used them for socialising.

- Ebutius and his friends would head to the bathhouse after a long day's work and relax in the waters of the three different pools while playing board games like this one.
- While this game board might resemble a modern-day chessboard, archaeologists believe that it is a game called *latrunculi*, or "the game of little robbers" (it is believed to have been a game of military tactics, so the soldiers could not escape their soldierly duties even in the bath!)
- The Romans would cover themselves in olive oil and then use a curved stick called a *strigil* (st-rhi-gil, rhyming with *vigil*) to scrape the oil off the skin; this is how they would clean themselves instead of using soap! We can see part of one here next to the gameboard.
- How clean do you think the soldiers would be using this method? Do you think we're better off now using soap?

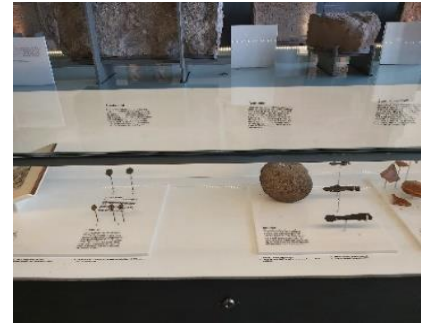
Stop 8 –
Religion and
Belief: *Bronze
Jug & Funerary
Urn*



The Romans had many different types of pottery that were all used for different purposes. Here we can see two different jugs.

- The first one is a funerary urn. Inside the urn, you can see ashes and bone fragments, possibly of a soldier who died at the wall.
- We passed by a couple of gravestones a moment ago, why do you think some soldiers were cremated and put into urns instead of buried with gravestones? (*Wealthier soldiers were the only ones who could afford stone gravestones; the less wealthy soldiers would be cremated, placed into an urn like this one, and buried with a wooden grave marker*)
- This Bronze Jug is an incredibly rare find. The handle depicts a woman holding a bird in her right hand. It dates to the late 1st century AD or early 2nd century. (*How old does that make it? - about 2000 years old*) The leading theory is that an important officer or official (like Ebutius) brought the jug with him from Italy, possibly so he could consume his wine from a jug that reminded him of home.
- It is thought that the jug was then given to a Celt (probably someone of political importance). This Celt eventually brought the jug to the river and offered it to one of their own gods by burying it in the riverbed.
- Why do you think the Roman soldier would have given the jug to a Celt if it meant enough to him to bring with him all the way from Italy? (*The Celt might have helped the soldier in some way, and the soldier gave the jug as repayment. Or it could have been traded as a political move*).

Stop 9 –
Destruction &
Abandonment:
*Ballista Ball &
Coins*



When a Celtic tribe fought back against the Roman soldiers stationed at the Antonine Wall, the soldiers would fire ballista balls like this one at them.

- Ebutius and the other soldiers would heat the ballista balls until they were at burning hot temperatures and then fire them from a catapult towards the Celts that were attacking them.
- Why do you think this ballista ball has a giant crack in it? (*This ballista ball was discovered inside Leckie broch, and archaeologists believe that the inhabitants of the broch poured water onto the burning hot ball immediately after it came crashing through their room to (hopefully) keep it from catching everything on fire.*)
- These coins we see here are incredibly important in dating the abandonment of the Antonine Wall, why do you think this is? (*They provide us with an end date for when the Romans were last living at the wall*)
- They also show us who was emperor when the Antonine Wall was abandoned and other aspects of life that the Romans considered important.
- As the Romans abandoned the wall, they destroyed their forts and buried the distance stones. What they could not destroy they dumped down the wells that they had dug in the courtyards of the forts. Most of the artefacts that we have seen were found inside these wells where they were almost perfectly preserved throughout the two-thousand years since the Romans retreated. We can't be entirely sure of the reason for this retreat.