

PARENT NOTES

English: Reading

Understanding Texts: The Romans at Robin Hill



At A Glance:

- ✓ English - Reading
- ✓ Lower & Upper Key Stage 2 (Y3-Y6)
- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Practises Reading skills
- ✓ Pre- or Post-visit activity

About this activity

Before or after your child's planned visit to Robin Hill Country Park, this activity enables students to engage with a venue-relevant text, encouraging them to practise their reading and comprehension skills. The task links to specific information about the Combley Roman Villa that once stood on the site, its features, discoveries, and how it was discovered, excavated and then re-covered. The resources are relevant to students in both lower and upper years of key stage 2.

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Students will read a fact sheet about

the Combley Roman Villa found in the grounds of Robin Hill Country Park. They will be asked to read the text carefully to identify key information.

They will be able to practise reading, comprehension and summarising skills.



“The Romans used every housing form known today and they have a remarkably modern look”

- Stephen Gardiner

www.edudest.uk

This is a reading task that enables students to practise their comprehension skills. Students read an information sheet on the Roman villa at Combley (now the site of the park), and they answer questions on the content.

How does this link to my child's learning?

- ▶ Questions have been chosen because they enable students to practise their comprehension and reading of unseen texts, focusing on interpreting and retrieving information.

What will they learn?

- ▶ Students will learn how to read different types of information text.
- ▶ They will demonstrate their reading skills, by answering questions and comprehending the language and information contained within the text.

How does this enrich study undertaken in school?

- ▶ This resource enables students to gain an enriched view of the subject and venue context as relating to local Roman history, both at the Robin Hill park and on the Isle of Wight. Students will then explore the venue with a view to learning more about the villa.
- ▶ Essentially, this task links with the school visit in a supporting way, allowing for the key skills of English to be practised (as well as the crossover History aspects enabled by the text's topic) whilst engaging with all contextual aspects of the Robin Hill Country Park.
- ▶ The task could also be useful in preparing students for visiting the Isle of Wight as they will then have an insight into the Roman history they could discover there, enriching their entire experience.

What do they need to have done in preparation?

- ▶ It is suggested to teachers that they complete this resource as a pre-visit task. Students should have at least practised comprehension skills before this, as part of earlier curriculum work. They could potentially complete the task as a post-visit activity, perhaps identifying the aspects of the Roman villa they did see in the park's interpretation barn.
- ▶ Parents can encourage students to research the Isle of Wight and its Roman history and other sites of interest that are found there, pre-visit.

What skills do they need to demonstrate?

- ▶ Reading for meaning and information
- ▶ Interpretation skills
- ▶ Summarising skills

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This activity was compiled by Education Destination in conjunction with Robin Hill Country Park. We help students of all ages and abilities to experience excellent curriculum based learning opportunities at many Island venues and attractions.



edudest.info

Robin Hill's 88 acres provide plenty of educational opportunities and attractions, making a whole day out excellent value for money. Over 16,000 school pupils come through the gates each year to enjoy the park.

www.edudest.uk



robin-hill.com

For further reading about Romans and Isle of Wight, wikipedia offers an excellent article.

This would serve as an ideal introduction for learners prior to their visit, and is suitable for ages 7 upwards.



wikipedia.org

What follow-up tasks are there?

Teachers could engage the students in many follow-up tasks, including:

- ▶ Whole class discussion about the responses to the questions
- ▶ Project work about Romans on the Isle of Wight, and in Great Britain.

Is there any scope for future learning at Robin Hill Country Park

Yes. There are many other subjects and tasks developed for this key stage and for subsequent visits. Much can be learned at this venue!

See the ED website for further learning opportunities by key stage.

