

Roman Emperors and Empresses

The most important people in the Roman world were the emperor and the empress. They were a little bit like the king and queen today, only they were a lot more powerful.

Roman towns and cities would have been full of statues of emperors and empresses like the statues of kings and queens that you can still see in Britain today. Portraits (pictures showing just the head) of emperors and empresses would also appear on coins, just as the Queen's portrait still appears on coins today.

Activity 1

Join the dots together on the coin below to reveal a portrait of an emperor.



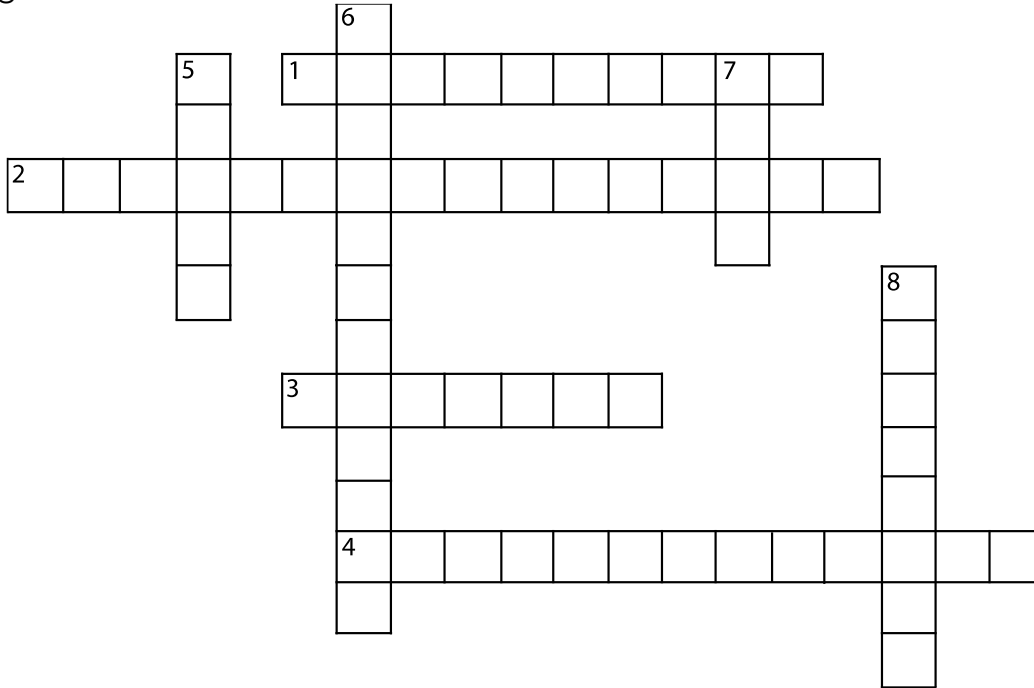
Have you finished?

This is a coin of the emperor Vespasian. If you look very carefully at the letters running around the outside of the coin you might be able to see his name?

Roman Emperors and Empresses

Activity 2

Are you ready for the emperors and empresses crossword challenge? Use the clues below to complete the crossword. The names of some of the emperors and empresses you may already know but for some extra clues study the coins on the next page.



Down

Across

1. This empress was married to Septimius Severus. She a very Roman unusual hairstyle.
2. The first Africa emperor, born in a country today called Libya. Sometimes has pictures of his children on his coins.
3. This emperor travelled a lot and sometimes has a horse on his coins. He also built a very long wall across the top of Roman Britain.
4. Some coins of this emperor show the goddess *Britannia* seated with a round shield by her side.

5. This emperor opened the largest amphitheatre in the Roman world, the Colosseum in Rome.
6. Not really an emperor, but still very powerful. Invaded many countries with some of his coins showing the god of war, *Mars* wearing nothing but a helmet.
7. A bad emperor who sang even when Rome was burning. Look for a coin with someone playing a musical instrument.
8. This emperor invaded Britain and was so pleased with himself that he built an arch in Rome with a statue of a horse on top.

Roman Emperors and Empresses



Coin of Julius Caesar
© The Trustees of the British Museum.



Coin of Hadrian
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Claudius
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Antoninus Pius.
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Nero
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Septimius Severus
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Titus
© The Trustees of the British Museum



Coin of Julia Domna
© The Trustees of the British Museum

Roman Emperors and Empresses

Activity 3

Emperors and empresses lived in huge palaces on a hill in Rome overlooking the city. These amazing buildings were decorated with marble columns, paintings on the wall and mosaic pavements on the floor. Mosaics are made of small cubes of differently coloured stone - carefully arranged into of make a pattern or a picture like in the picture on the right. This mosaic floor decorated the house of a rich roman living in London, or Londinium as it was called then.

Colour in the squares below to create your own Roman mosaic fit for an emperor and empress.

