

Pre-reading work

Match the words to their closest synonym.

established

territories

constructed

enable

excess

empire

deteriorated

allow

made

surplus

kingdom

declined

areas

built

Skimming and scanning for information

Find the words above in the text below and highlight them.

Roman Roads

The Roman Empire lasted from approximately 290BC to AD410. During that period the Romans established an extensive network of very straight roads to help them conquer and govern their vast territories. The road system was carefully designed and constructed to enable the armies of Rome to reach the furthest parts of their Empire in the quickest time possible. They used skilful building and engineering techniques to cross rivers and pass through mountain ranges. At the height of the Empire there were in excess of 50,000 miles of first class roads and over 200,000 miles of lesser roads.

In the Forum (a site located in the centre of the city) in Rome there was a Golden Milestone, right at the heart of the Empire. The routes leading out from the Forum were measured off at regular distances from this stone, so that soldiers and other travellers on these great roads would know exactly how far away from the 'Eternal City' they were. So it was true for hundreds of years that all roads in Europe and North Africa at least, really did lead to – or from - Rome.

Although most of these roads deteriorated and fell into disrepair after the decline of the Roman Empire, some of them still exist today. In Italy and other parts of Europe, these ancient roads are still the backbone of the modern road systems. So, as we are driving along motorways in fast cars, we might think of a Roman officer's horse plodding along at the head of a column of Roman soldiers.

Summarise

Summarise the text in less than 15 words.

1. How many years did the Roman Empire last? (1 mark)

2. Why did the Romans build an extensive road network? (1 mark)

3. Find and copy a phrase which suggests the road network was well planned? (1 mark)

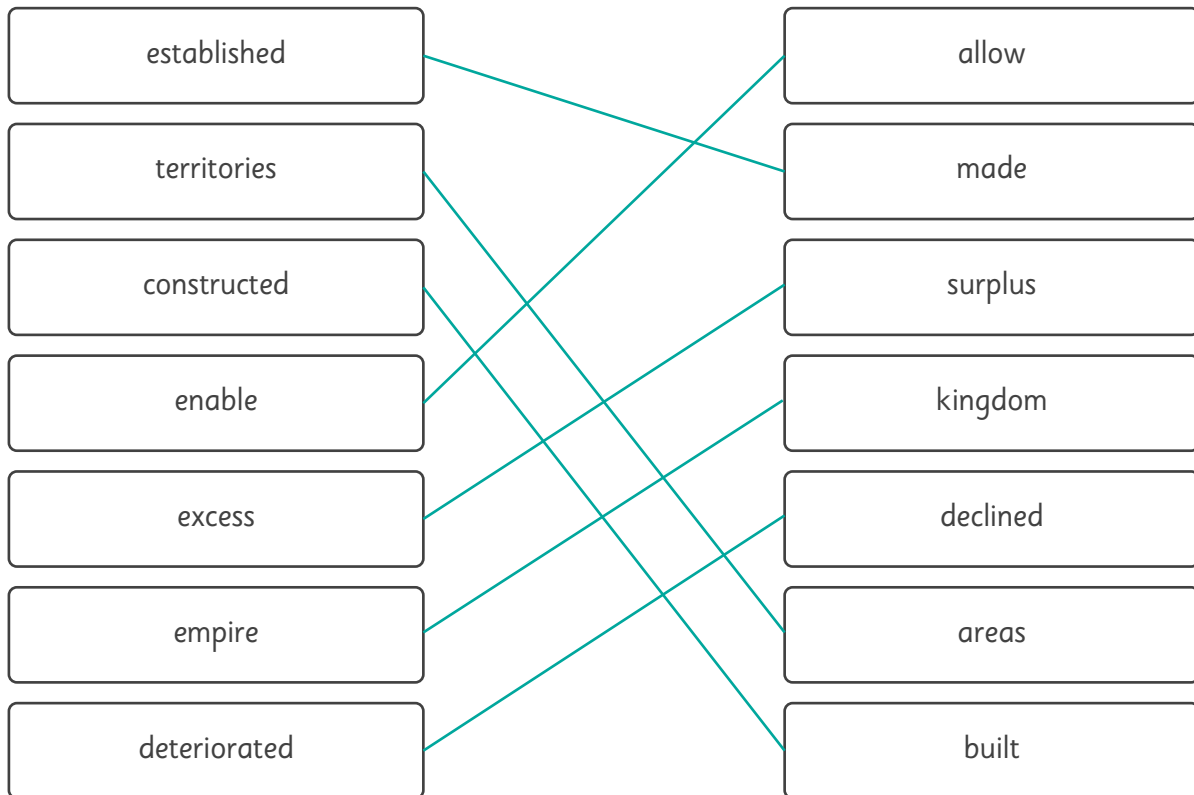
4. What other name is used for Rome in the account? (1 mark)

5. Why do you think the Roman roads fell into disrepair when the Empire declined? (1 mark)

6. The roads are described as 'a backbone', what does this mean? (2 marks)

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Roman Roads

The Roman Empire lasted from approximately 290BC to AD410. During that period the Romans **established** an extensive network of very straight roads to help them conquer and govern their vast **territories**. The road system was carefully designed and **constructed** to **enable** the armies of Rome to reach the furthest parts of their Empire in the quickest time possible. They used skilful building and engineering techniques to cross rivers and pass through mountain ranges. At the height of the **Empire** there were in **excess** of 50,000 miles of first class roads and over 200,000 miles of lesser roads.

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Although most of these roads **deteriorated** and fell into disrepair after the decline of the Roman Empire, some of them still exist today. In Italy and other parts of Europe, these ancient roads are still the backbone of the modern road systems. So, as we are driving along motorways in fast cars, we might think of a Roman officer's horse plodding along at the head of a column of Roman soldiers.

Summarise

Summarise the text in less than 15 words.

Romans built straight roads. Some still exist today.

1. How many years did the Roman Empire last? (1 mark)

about 700 years

2. Why did the Romans build an extensive road network? (1 mark)

so they could get around quickly

3. Find and copy a phrase which suggests the road network was well planned? (1 mark)

carefully designed and constructed

4. What other name is used for Rome in the account? (1 mark)

Eternal City

5. Why do you think the Roman roads fell into disrepair when the Empire declined? (1 mark)

there was nobody left to maintain the roads

6. The roads are described as 'a backbone', what does this mean? (2 marks)

they held the whole city together like a backbone holds your body up