

To use sources to develop our understanding of the past

Background Information: Over one million people lived in Rome, and there was a lot of crime in the city. It cost a lot to sort out crime and the people didn't want to pay taxes to deal with it. Crimes were anything from stealing to murder. The Romans were tough, serious punishments were needed to warn other people not to commit crimes. Read the two key words you will need these later.

Cruelty; making someone feel pain and suffering on purpose

Unfair; when people are treated differently by the law, different groups get different punishments. The punishment is too much for the crime.

1. READ SOURCE 1 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What does the source tell you about punishments?
Starter: Source 1 tells me that...
- What types of crimes does it mention? *[If it tells you]*
Starter: Some crimes committed in Rome were...
- Do you think this source shows a cruel punishment? Why/Why not?
Starter: According to my definition this was/was not a cruel punishment..
- Do you think this punishment is unfair? Why/Why not?
Starter: I think it was fair/unfair...

SOURCE 1 - The Roman Arena by Shelby Brown, 1997

“The arena was where public executions took place. Some of the ways people were killed included crucifixion on the cross, burning alive, throwing people to the beasts. The people executed in public were usually criminals, prisoners of war, men who ran away from the army, and other troublemakers as well as slaves who had run away. However Emperor Nero murdered Christians just to be cruel and Emperor Caligula famously punished anyone he didn't like, even throwing the audience into the Arena”.



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2. READ SOURCE 2 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- What does the source tell you about punishments?

Starter: Source 2 tells me that...

- What types of crimes does it mention? *[If it tells you]*

Starter: One crime committed in Rome was...

- Do you think this source shows a cruel punishment? Why/Why not?

Starter: According to my definition this was/was not a cruel punishment..

- Do you think this punishment is unfair? Why/Why not?

Starter: I think it was fair/unfair...

SOURCE 2 – Molten Lead

Journal of Clinical Pathology by F.R.W van de Goot (2003)

Pouring hot liquids or metals, such as lead or gold, into the mouth of a victim was used as a punishment. Several sources mention the bursting of internal organs. Romans wanted to punish criminals as well as entertain the crowds who watched executions. Usually thieves got this punishment, this was mostly used against very poor people.



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3. READ SOURCE 3 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What does the source tell you about punishments? *Starter: Source 3 tells me that...*

What types of crimes does it mention? *[If it tells you] Starter: One crime committed in Rome was...*

Do you think this source shows a cruel punishment? Why/Why not? *Starter: According to my definition this was/was not a cruel punishment..*

Do you think this punishment is unfair? Why/Why not? *Starter: I think it was fair/unfair...*

SOURCE 3 – Crucifixion (information by roman-colloseum.info website)

Roman crucifixion was a horrible way of killing someone. Crucifixion was incredibly painful. When nailed to the cross there was a massive strain put on the wrists, arms and shoulders often resulting in the joints being pulled out their sockets. The rib cage was held in a fixed position, which made it extremely difficult to breath out, and impossible to take a full breath. It could take anywhere from a couple of hours to a couple of days to die. Only Jews and slaves were crucified, Roman citizens were beheaded because it was a much quicker death. Crucifixion could be a punishment for murder, theft or refusing to worship Roman Gods. Jesus was crucified for claiming to be the son of God.



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3. Which source did you find the most helpful in finding out about Roman punishments? Write down why you found it the best.
4. Were punishments cruel and unfair in Roman times? Give some examples of the punishments you learnt about.

[This is a five mark question try to make five clear points]

Starters: *Roman punishments were definitely cruel...*

Some punishments were cruel...

Roman punishments weren't cruel...

Everyone was treated the same under Roman law...

Not everyone were treated the same...

One group of people who were treated unfairly...

I would/would not like to visit Roman times...

HISTORY SKILLS – This homework is focused on Roman times [509BC to AD 410] and you are using both primary [written at the time] and secondary sources [written later]. BC = before the birth of Jesus Christ. AD = after the birth of Jesus Christ. Historians investigate the past by examining primary and secondary sources.