

# 60-Second Reads Guidance

The National Curriculum states that:

*Pupils in Years 3 and 4 should be able to read books written at an age-appropriate interest level. They should be able to read them accurately and at a speed that is sufficient for them to focus on understanding what they read rather than on decoding individual words. They should be able to decode most new words outside their spoken vocabulary, making a good approximation to the word's pronunciation.*

This resource aims to give you the ability to test a pupil's level of fluency to this expected standard. Each 60-Second Read Activity Card features a short extract of age-appropriate text with an average word count of 100 words. The cumulative word count for each line of text is shown in the left-hand margin of each card. Each of the cards also contain a set of comprehension questions that link to the KS2 reading content domains.

Each different question type has its own canine helper to remind children of what they need to do to answer a question appropriately:

## Vocabulary Questions

Vocabulary Victor is there to help you work out the meaning of unknown words and phrases using context clues.

2a: Give / explain the meaning of words in context.



## Retrieval Questions

Rex Retriever is there to help you to go into a text and just simply retrieve the facts and key details.

2b: Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.



## Summary Questions

Summarising Sheba is there to remind you to summarise the main point(s) or main event(s) of a paragraph or text.

2c: Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.



### Inference Questions

Inference Iggy will help you hunt for clues in a text about how someone might be feeling or why something is happening.

2d: Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.



### Prediction Questions

Predicting Pip tries to see the future and she will help you to work out what might happen next from clues in the text.

2e: Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.



### Compare, Contrast & Comment Questions

Cassie the Commentator discusses the content of a paragraph/text and compares events and characters. Can you do the same?

2f: Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

2h: Make comparisons within the text.



### Author Choice Questions

Arlo the Author likes to help you to spot examples of ambitious vocabulary and figurative language, and explain how these words/phrases add to the meaning of the text.

2g: Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.



# Caesar's Calendar Conundrum

9 The Julian calendar, created by Julius Caesar in 46BC,  
18 was a correction of the Roman calendar - a complicated  
29 lunar calendar based on the phases of the moon. It needed  
39 a group of scholars to regularly meet and decide when  
50 days should be added or removed to keep the calendar in  
60 line with the seasons. In order to create a standardised  
67 calendar, Caesar worked with an astronomer named  
75 Sosigene, and together they made a solar calendar  
84 based entirely on the Earth's journey around the sun.  
95 This calendar had a regular year of 365 days, split into  
105 twelve months, with a leap year added to February every  
116 fourth year. At the time, February was the last month of  
125 the year. However, the Julian calendar was replaced by  
130 the Gregorian calendar in 1582.



# Quick Questions



1. Which calendar was based on the moon?

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2. Recap the main points of this text in 20 words or less.

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3. Why do you think that the Julian calendar was replaced?

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4. How does the Julian calendar compare to the calendar we use today? Explain your answer.

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125 the year. However, the Julian calendar was replaced by  
130 the Gregorian calendar in 1582.



# Answers



1. Which calendar was based on the moon?

**Accept: (the) Roman calendar.**



2. Recap the main points of this text in 20 words or less.

**Accept any reasonable summary which includes that Caesar attempted to correct the existing calendar from lunar to solar and is 20 words or less.**



3. Why do you think that the Julian calendar was replaced?

**Accept an answer which states that it possibly became incorrect, became outdated or was later found to be wrong.**



4. How does the Julian calendar compare to the calendar we use today? Explain your answer.

**Accept any reasonable answer which states a relevant similarity or difference found within the text.**

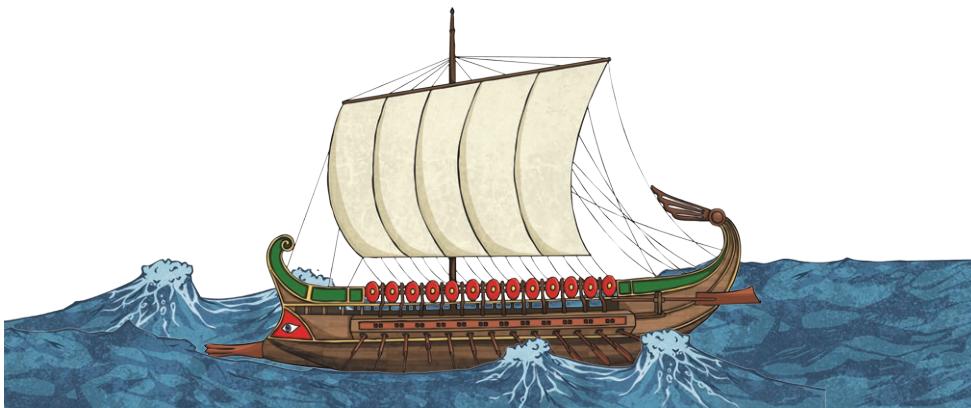
# Defeat or Retreat?

10 We had almost made it to Britain after a horrendous  
21 journey – my tunic was soaked and the iron studs of my  
32 caligae kept slipping around on the wet floor of the boat.

40 At 20,000 legionaries strong and our greatest general,  
50 Caesar, at the helm, we thought we could conquer and  
62 settle on these new shores; I would finally get the land I  
71 was promised for my family after all this time...

80 But as we approached the coast, the waves violently  
91 lapped over the sides of the boat. Atop the cliffs stood  
99 thousands of warriors, painted in blue woad, wielding  
108 long swords and firing arrows from finely crafted bows.

116 Defeating them, especially in this weather, would be  
124 impossible – we would surely perish. Caesar gave the  
130 command; we headed back to Gaul.



# Quick Questions



1. Through whose eyes is this story told?

\_\_\_\_\_



2. Find and copy two words or phrases which tell you that the journey was unpleasant.

● \_\_\_\_\_

● \_\_\_\_\_



3. What do you think caligae are? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4. What do you think happened in the months after this event?

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\_\_\_\_\_

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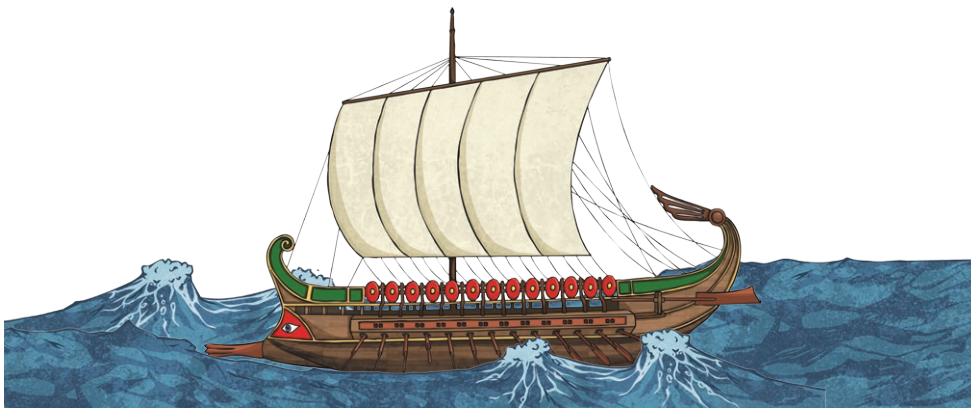
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124 impossible – we would surely perish. Caesar gave the  
130 command; we headed back to Gaul.



# Answers



1. Through whose eyes is this story told?  
**Accept: a Roman soldier's / a legionary's.**



2. Find and copy two words or phrases which tell you that the journey was unpleasant.  
**Accept: horrendous / tunic was soaked / wet floor of the boat / waves violently lapped / especially in this weather.**



3. What do you think caligae are? Explain your answer.  
**Accept a reasonable inference, such as shoes/ boots or a piece of equipment which fits into the context of the story, providing justification is made.**

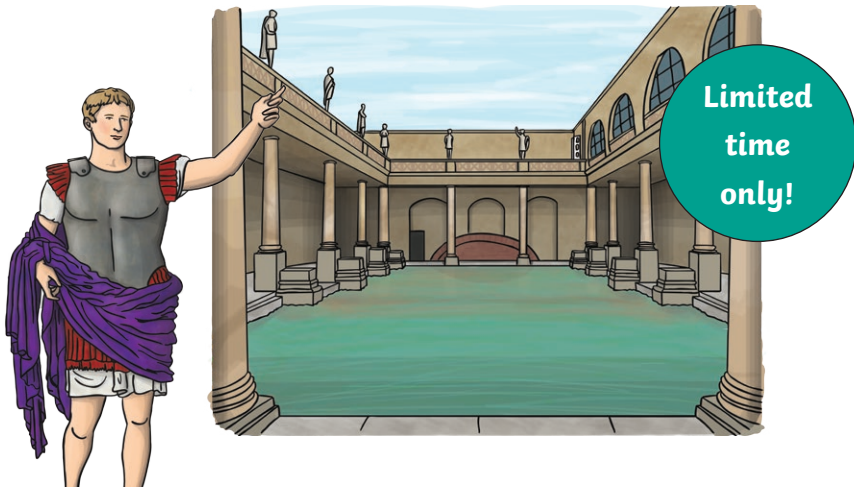


4. What do you think happened in the months after this event?  
**Accept any reasonable answer which predicts a re-attempt, the invasion of another place or further training.**

# Live like an Emperor!

11 Do you have time to spare, require healing or need a  
21 place to socialise with friends? Then bathe in the natural  
29 thermal waters of the extravagant Roman baths. With  
37 exclusive features, such as our new hypocaust system –  
46 underfloor heating using the latest in hot-air technology  
58 – and a new range of perfumed oils for use in the  
70 caldarium, you can bathe and relax in style at one of  
80 Britain’s finest natural hot springs. Why not bathe in the  
88 warm waters of the tepidarium before plunging into the  
94 frigidarium’s cold bath to refresh your senses?

107 For a limited time only, we have a buy one, get one free  
118 offer on strigils – scrape off the day to day dirt, grime  
125 and dead skin to your heart’s content!



# Quick Questions



1. In which room can guests use perfumed oils?

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2. What do you think a 'strigil' is? Explain your answer.

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3. How do the pools in the tepidarium and frigidarium compare?

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4. Give one way that the author has tried to be persuasive.

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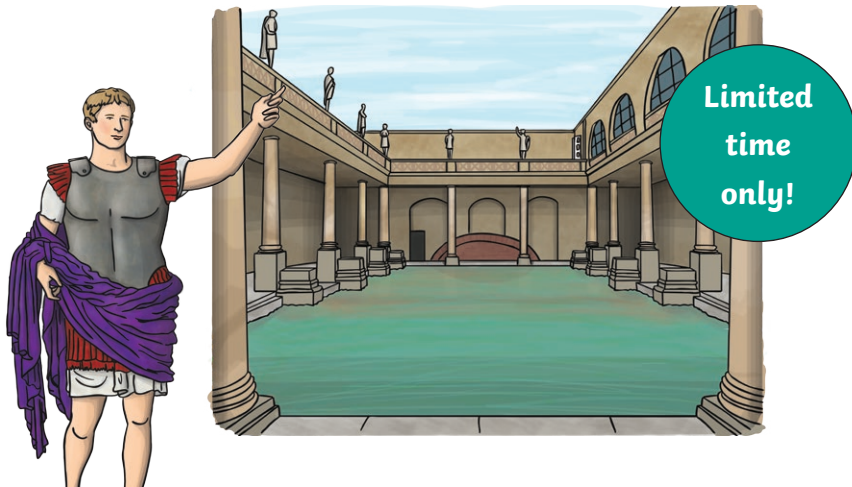
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# Answers



1. In which room can guests use perfumed oils?

**Accept: (the) caldarium.**



2. What do you think a 'strigil' is? Explain your answer.

**Accept any answer which states that a strigil is a tool/instrument used to scrape the skin.**



3. How do the pools in the tepidarium and frigidarium compare?

**Accept an answer which states that the pool in the tepidarium is warm, whilst that in the frigidarium is cold.**



4. Give one way that the author has tried to be persuasive.

**Accept any reasonable answer which relates to any one of the following points: use of exciting adjectives/description, use of rhetorical questions, directly addressing the reader, inclusion of a special / time sensitive offer.**

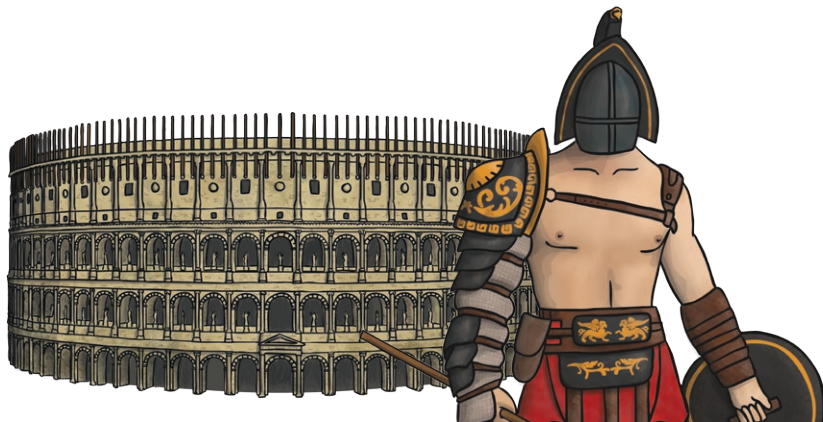


# The Captivating Colosseum

8 The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre,  
17 is an oval-shaped amphitheatre in the centre of Rome –  
28 the capital city of Italy. Built from concrete and sand, its  
36 construction began in 72AD under the emperor Vespasian  
47 and it was completed eight years later. Despite its age, it  
54 still remains the largest amphitheatre ever built.

64 It is estimated that the Colosseum could hold up to  
74 80,000 spectators and was used daily as a place for  
81 entertainment such as gladiator contests, animal hunts,  
89 re-enactments of famous battles and dramas based on  
91 ancient myths.

99 Although damaged by earthquakes and theft of stone,  
109 the Colosseum is still a popular tourist attraction and an  
114 iconic symbol of Imperial Rome.



# Quick Questions



1. In which year was the building of the Colosseum completed?

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2. What does the word 'estimated' tell you about the amount of people that the Colosseum can hold?

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3. How does the entertainment at the Colosseum compare to modern-day entertainment?

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4. Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.

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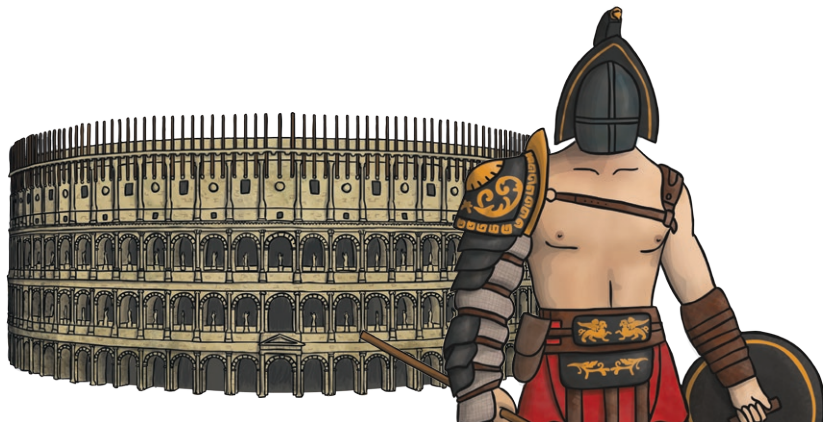
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114 iconic symbol of Imperial Rome.



# Answers



1. In which year was the building of the Colosseum completed?

**Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.**



2. What does the word 'estimated' tell you about the amount of people that the Colosseum can hold?

**Accept any reasonable answer which relates to the fact that it has not been officially measured or counted in recent years.**



3. How does the entertainment at the Colosseum compare to modern-day entertainment?

**Accept any reasonable comparison, whether stating differences (such as no more gladiator contests) or similarities (watching plays) to modern day.**



4. Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.

**Accept any reasonable summary which includes the key points from the text in 20 words or less.**