Reading and speaking
The not so distant past

There is a saying that *history repeats itself*. What does this mean? Can you think of any examples?

6.12 Read and Listen to the Breaking News. Answer the questions.

What are the three news bulletins about? When did you last hear about these problems? Who were the people involved?
Does your country have any of these problems?

THE PAST IN THE PRESENT

BREAKING NEWS!

1 THE WEST HAS SENT MORE SOLDIERS TO IRAQ.

Enemy fighters there have captured and executed the leader of the Western army.

2 MORE REFUGEES HAVE TRIED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY, AFTER THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT NO MORE WILL BE ALLOWED IN.

One leader has already built a wall to try and keep foreigners out.

3 THERE HAVE BEEN MORE PROTESTS AGAINST HIGH GOVERNMENT TAXES.

Protestors say that ordinary people are paying too much tax because the rich have found ways to avoid paying theirs.

Read **Same old problems** and **The Romans in Britain**. What is often surprising about ancient history? Answer the questions.

1 What was modern Iraq called two thousand years ago?
2 Why were Goth refugees trying to get into the Roman Empire?
3 Which Roman Emperor built a wall to try and keep foreigners out?
4 Why were taxes so high in ancient Rome? How did rich people avoid them?
5 Why do many things in modern Britain come from the ancient Romans?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SAME OLD PROBLEMS

Surprisingly, these are not recent news stories – they're ancient history! *This was all happening 2,000 years ago!*

- The 'West' was the Roman Empire and 'Iraq' was Mesopotamia.
- The refugees were the Goths, escaping the Huns who were invading their land. The wall was Hadrian's Wall, in the North of England, built to stop the early Scots coming into Roman Britain.
- Taxes were high to pay for Roman wars and unemployment, but rich people knew how to move their money to places where the government couldn't tax it.

So, perhaps it's true that history repeats itself!

THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN

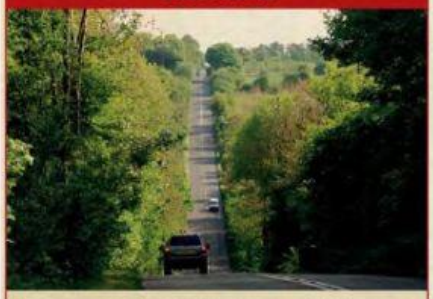
However, many of the good things in our lives are also reminders of our ancient past. People often don't realize this, because they've forgotten how much of their culture has come from foreign peoples. This is certainly true in Britain, where the Romans ruled for nearly 400 years.

Read the rest of the text: **What good have the Romans done for us?** Correct these false statements.

1 There are 9,600 km of modern roads in Britain.
2 The British have never used a global currency.
3 There was only one copy of the first Roman newspapers.
4 The Romans needed to wear lots of pairs of socks in their villas.
5 Roman aqueducts in the cities were better than the old British ones.
6 The British used their own recipes to make food for the Romans.
7 We have added an extra day to the Roman year.

SO WHAT GOOD HAVE THE ROMANS DONE FOR US?

ROADS



Romans built the first super highways for their armies to move along quickly. It's easy to see which modern British roads have followed the 9,600 km of old Roman roads. They are long, wide, and incredibly straight!

GLOBAL CURRENCY



The British said no to the Euro in 1992, but they have had a global currency before. People could spend Roman coins all over Europe, and in Turkey and North Africa, too!

NEWSPAPERS



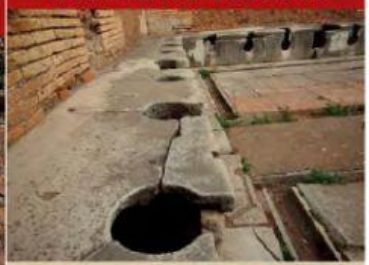
The first newspaper was created in 53 BC, on the orders of Julius Caesar. It was actually a 'newsstone', and people could read copies of it in public places.

CENTRAL HEATING



The Romans didn't enjoy British winters – a soldier's letter sent home from Hadrian's Wall asked for more socks and underpants to keep the cold out! However, life inside their villas was lovely and warm, and we've taken the idea of underfloor central heating from them!

FLUSHING TOILETS



Roman aqueducts brought fresh water into towns and cities. This was completely new in Britain. There was the amazing luxury of public baths, even hot ones in the city of Bath. And we've certainly learnt the importance of another use for this water system – to flush away the sewage from toilets.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

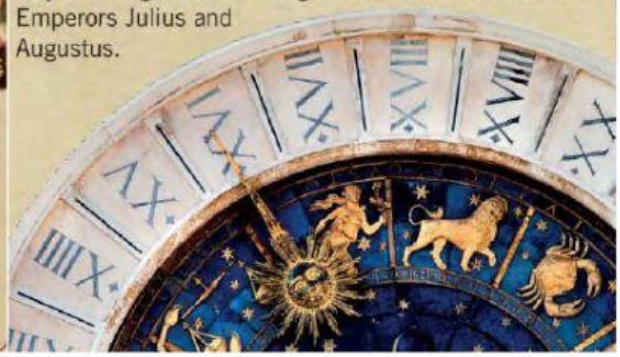
FAST FOOD



The Romans created large towns, and the soldiers passing through them wanted quick and easy food to eat on the move. The British began selling food from street stalls, using new foods and recipes the Romans brought with them. The minced meat 'patties' with bread and lettuce sound very like our modern hamburgers!

CALENDARS

We've continued to use the Roman year, with 365 days and a leap year every four years. The months of July and August are a living reminder of the Roman Emperors Julius and Augustus.



Match these words from the text with their definitions.

A	B
1 to capture	a something that makes you remember
2 to execute	b cut into very small pieces
3 to announce	c to kill a prisoner
4 to avoid	d what comes out of toilets
5 to invade	e to catch and take prisoner
6 taxes	f to enter as an enemy
7 a reminder	g to say something publicly
8 to rule	h money you pay to the government
9 minced	I to find a way not to do something
10 sewage	j to control a country

What do you think?

Why don't we learn from the mistakes of history?
What could we do to help us stop repeating history's problems?
What periods of history would you *like* to see repeated?

Watch a video and learn more about the impact the Romans had on life in Britain.



LIVEWORKSHEETS