

# Create your own Roman coins

Coins from the ancient Roman Empire have circulated in Britain since around AD 43, when Britain became part of the empire. They have been found all over Britain, including Fulham Palace!

Coins from the ancient Roman Empire were typically made from gold, silver or brass. They feature symbols which represented beliefs and significant events during the Roman Empire. Coins were not just used by Romans as currency but also as a way of telling a story.

Earlier Roman coins featured images of deities including Roma, a female that personified the city of Rome. Later coins typically feature a portrait of an emperor. Julius Caesar was the first Roman emperor to have his portrait on a coin, but later emperors continued this tradition after him.



## **You will need:**

Coloured pencils

Paper

Scissors

A bottle cap

Glue

Cardboard box



## **The Roman Empire**

The largest empire of the Ancient World, The Roman Empire dated from 27 BC until 476 AD, which was the end of the Ancient World and the beginning of the Middle Ages. The name comes from the capital of the empire, Rome. Many modern countries were once a part of the Roman Empire, for example Britain, Spain, Portugal, France, Egypt and the north coast of Africa.

Since the empire was so large, the Romans developed important ideas about law and government, in order to control the empire. Not only did they have the best army in the world at the time, but they also developed advanced engineering and built roads, cities and magnificent buildings.





Rome was the largest city in the world at that point, and therefore trading was important to feed the population. They traded with other countries in the empire and in return, the Romans developed their cities, protected them from barbarians and provided education and career opportunities for young people, for example jobs in the Roman Army.

The Roman Empire was ruled by emperors and the main languages were Latin and Greek. Emperors had absolute control, and could do as they pleased, but they also had a Roman Senate to advise. The emperors had to decide what were the most important issues facing the Empire, and how to solve them, this means they faced many difficult problems. Most emperors tried to do two things: improve the life of Romans in peacetime and to fight and defeat Rome's enemies. And since the Roman Empire was very wealthy it had a lot of enemies.

Between AD 43 to 410 Britain was a part of the Roman Empire, and traces have been found all over Fulham and the Fulham Palace site. Roman coins, pottery, building materials and evidence of paths and roadways have been discovered on the Fulham Palace site. It's even possible a Roman Villa once stood close to the walled garden, before the Palace was built.

### How to create your own Roman coins:

1. Place the bottle cap on a piece of paper and draw a circle around it using a pencil. You need two circles to create one coin.



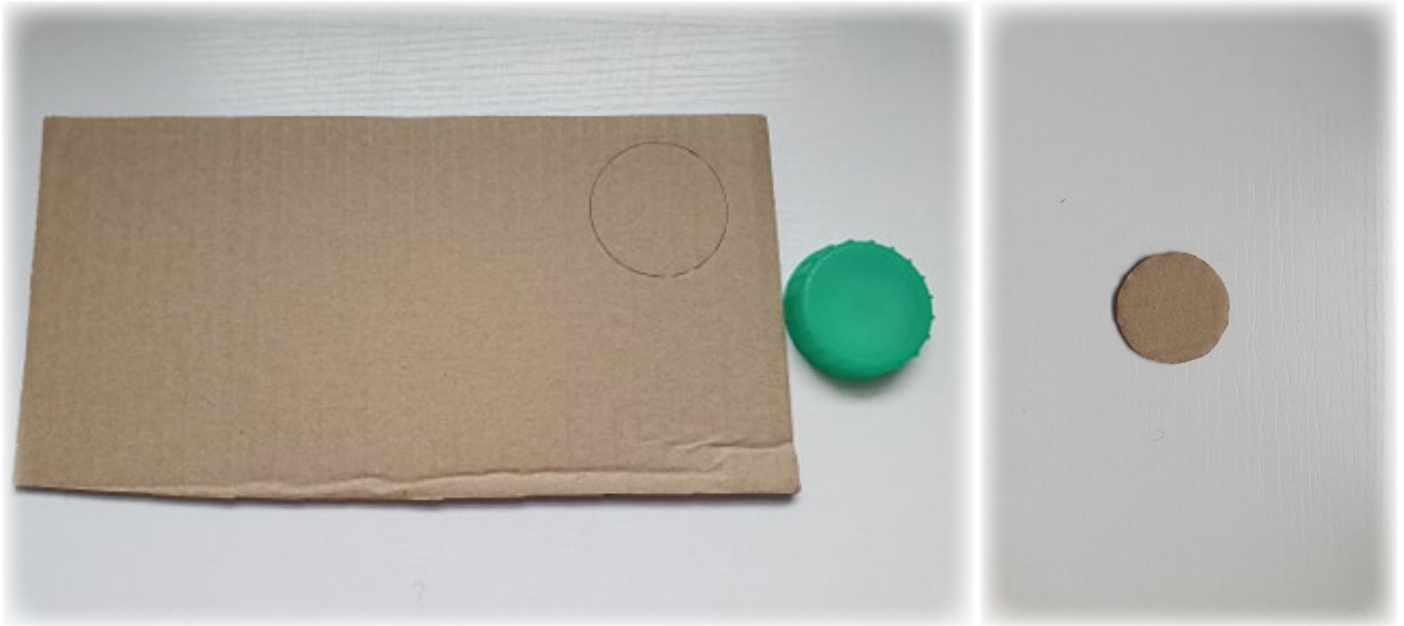
2. Create your designs inside the circles using coloured pencils.

For example, one side of a coin can have a portrait of an emperor and the other side a Roman number.

Have a look at the images on this worksheet and the Roman number chart for inspiration.



3. Place the bottle cap on a piece of cardboard and draw a circle around it. Cut out the circle with some scissors. This will create the base of the coin.



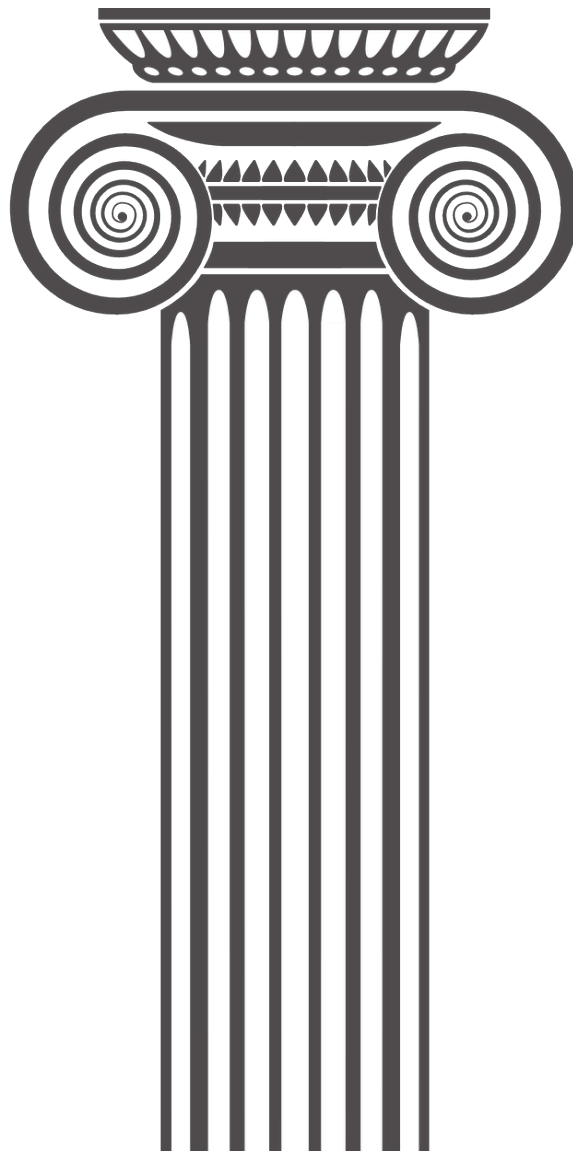
4. Cut out the two paper circles with your design on.



5. Glue the paper circles onto the cardboard circle. One side should now have a number, and the other side an emperor or another design of your choice.



6. Repeat and make more coins in different sizes and with different motifs. Make coins of various sizes using larger and smaller templates for your circles.



## Roman Numerals: 1 - 1000

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

### Roman numerals chart

The ancient Romans used a different numeral system to what we use today. The numbers would be made up from different combinations of letters from the Latin alphabet. Instead of the numbers 1, 5 and 10 the Romans would use the letters I, V and X.

To write numbers they would then have to combine the right letters to create the correct numeral combination. The letters are then added together. For example, the number 3 is written as III (1+1+1). To write 11 we add X (10) and I (1) and write it as XI. For 22 we add X and X and I and I, so XXII.

Roman numerals are usually written in order, from largest to smallest and from left to right, but more than three identical symbols never appear in a row. Instead, a system of subtraction is used: when a smaller number appears in front of a larger one, that needs to be subtracted, so IV is 4 (5 - 1) and IX is 9 (10 - 1).

Use the Roman numerals chart above to practice your Roman numbers. Start with working out your age in Roman numerals. You can then use the chart to write the correct Roman numbers on your coins!



# ROMAN NUMERALS CHART

## 1 TO 100

1	I	21	XXI	41	XLI	61	LXI	81	LXXXI
2	II	22	XXII	42	XLII	62	LXII	82	LXXXII
3	III	23	XXIII	43	XLIII	63	LXIII	83	LXXXIII
4	IV	24	XXIV	44	XLIV	64	LXIV	84	LXXXIV
5	V	25	XXV	45	XLV	65	LXV	85	LXXXV
6	VI	26	XXVI	46	XLVI	66	LXVI	86	LXXXVI
7	VII	27	XXVII	47	XLVII	67	LXVII	87	LXXXVII
8	VIII	28	XXVIII	48	XLVIII	68	LXVIII	88	LXXXVIII
9	IX	29	XXIX	49	XLIX	69	LXIX	89	LXXXIX
10	X	30	XXX	50	L	70	LXX	90	XC
11	XI	31	XXXI	51	LI	71	LXXI	91	XCI
12	XII	32	XXXII	52	LII	72	LXXII	92	XCII
13	XIII	33	XXXIII	53	LIII	73	LXXIII	93	XCIII
14	XIV	34	XXXIV	54	LIV	74	LXXIV	94	XCIV
15	XV	35	XXXV	55	LV	75	LXXV	95	XCV
16	XVI	36	XXXVI	56	LVI	76	LXXVI	96	XCVI
17	XVII	37	XXXVII	57	LVII	77	LXXVII	97	XCVII
18	XVIII	38	XXXVIII	58	LVIII	78	LXXVIII	98	XCVIII
19	XIX	39	XXXIX	59	LIX	79	LXXIX	99	XCIX
20	XX	40	XL	60	LX	80	LXXX	100	C

### Optional:

On this page you find a more advanced Roman numerals chart. If you want to, you can further practice your Roman numerals knowledge and become an expert. In this chart you can properly see how the different numbers are created by combining Latin letters.

