

LO: to find out about Roman roads.

Before Roads

The Celts rode horses, walked, or travelled in carts pulled by oxen. Before the Romans arrived, Britain had no proper roads. There were paths and tracks to connect local farms and hamlets, and there were some longer routes for trade. These tracks were often in very poor condition.



The Romans were famous
for their roads. You can
still see some Roman
roads today, two
thousand years after they
were built.



Why Did the Romans Want Better Roads?

Movement of troops quickly

Getting supplies to different areas of the country

The Emperor had more control if messages could be sent quickly

Trading goods



How Did They Build The Roads?

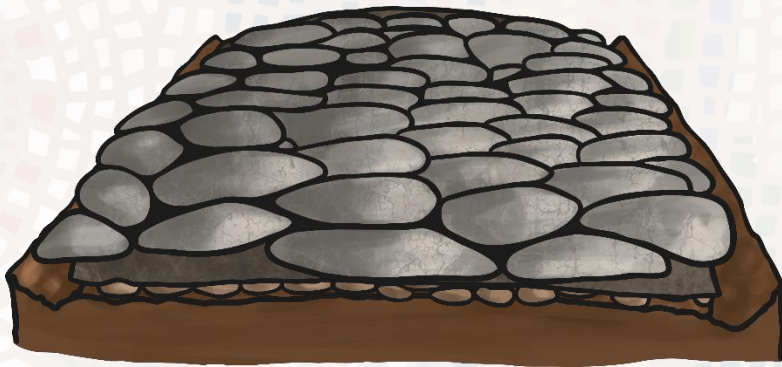
Watch the video then think about the correct order of the instructions. Click the link below to play.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zfgrq6f>

How Did They Build The Roads?

To build a Roman road, we would need to:



1. Dig two ditches, each 2ft wide.
2. Put all the earth in the middle to make a camber so that rain will drain off into the ditches.
3. Spread gravel on top to make a smooth and compact surface.
4. Add rough stones to make a hard surface.

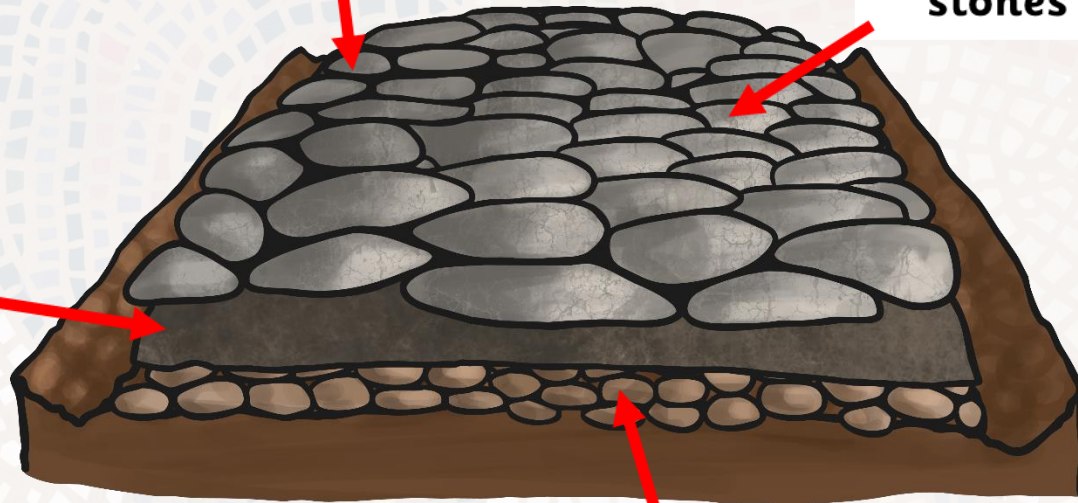
Cross Section of a Roman Road

Can you name the parts of this Roman road?

paving stones cut to fit

large
stones

gravel



broken stones/pebbles/sand/cement



Key

● The Fosse Way

● Military Centre

● Port

The first roads linked the ports with the military centres.

The **Fosse Way** was the first great Roman Road in Britain. It ran from Exeter to Lincoln, passing through Bath, Gloucester and Leicester.



Key

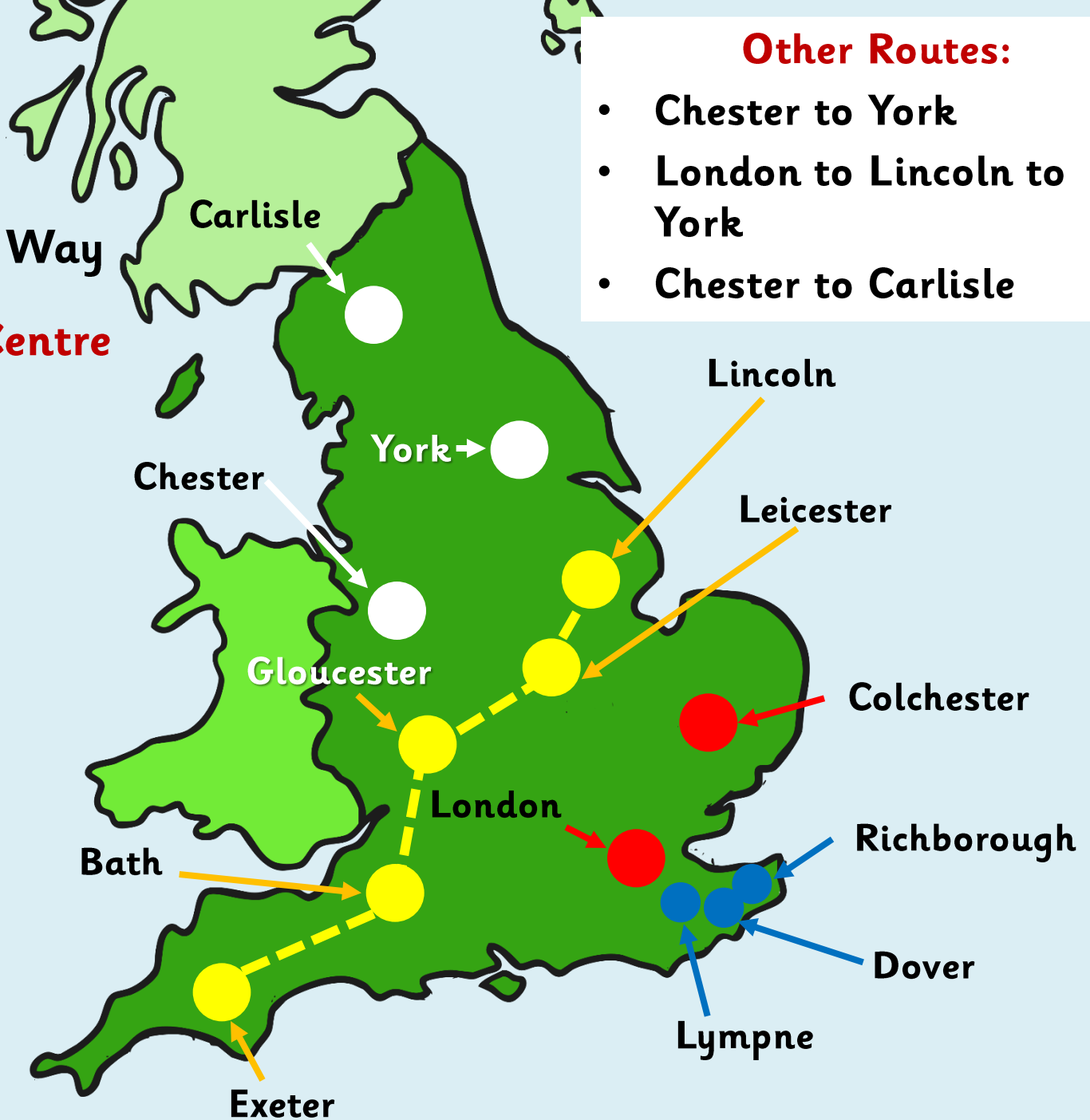
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Other Routes:

- Chester to York
- London to Lincoln to York
- Chester to Carlisle



Your Task

Use an atlas to locate the start and finish points of these Roman Roads. Mark and label the places on your map and then draw and label the road.

Use a different colour for each road:

- **The Fosse Way, Exeter to Lincoln**
- **Stane Street, Chichester to London**
- **Dere Street, York to Scotland**
- **Ermine Street, London to York (via Lincoln)**
- **Akeman Street, St Albans to Cirencester**
- **Watling Street, Richborough to Wroxeter**

Extension activities:

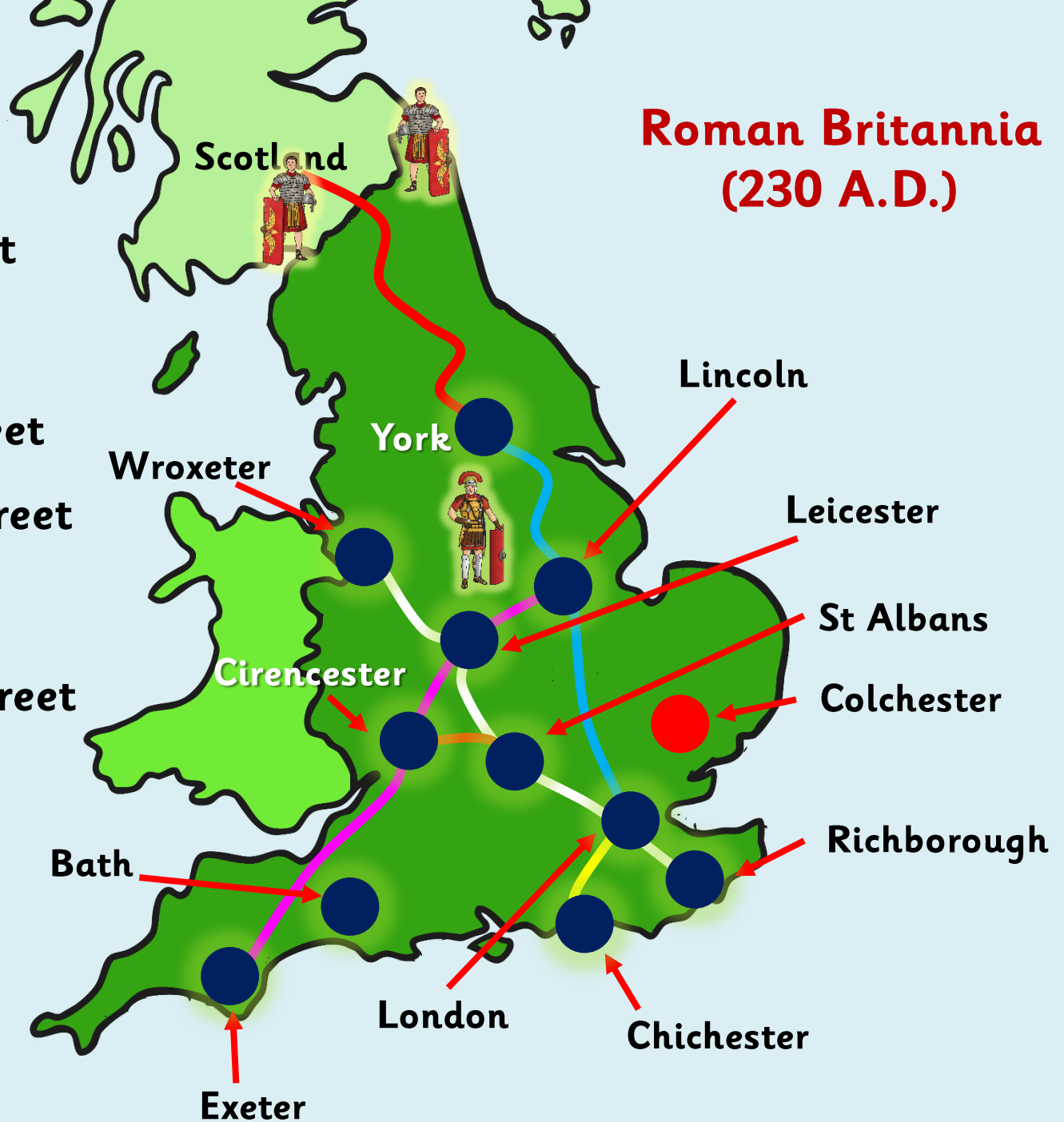
1. Can you find out what London, Exeter, Chichester, York, Lincoln, St Albans and Cirencester were called in Roman Britain?
2. Draw and label a cross section of a Roman road.



Roman Britannia (230 A.D.)

Key

- Stane Street
- Dere Street
- Ermine Street
- Akeman Street
- Fosse Way
- Watling Street



Can You Match the Modern Place with the Roman Name ?

Cirencester

St Albans

Eboracum

Londinium

Noviomagus Reginorum

Lincoln

Chichester

York

Isca Dumnoniorum

Corinium Dobunnorum

Exeter

London

Lindum Colonia

Verulamium

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THE END