

**Name:**

# Science at the Roman Baths

## Weathering and Corrosion

The Roman Baths were built almost 2000 years ago. Since then, they have been buried and lost, and then rediscovered and conserved. Not all of the buildings look the same as they did when the Romans were here.



Your challenge is to find out how the Roman Baths have changed over time and why these changes have occurred.

- I. Walk onto the terrace which overlooks the Great Bath (number 2 on your map) and look at the statues' faces. Choose one face that is very clear and one that looks worn away and draw a sketch in the boxes below.**

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Which statue do you think is newer?

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Give 2 reasons why you think some of the faces look worn away:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! You have just recognised the scientific process of weathering. You have earned yourself the title of *Curator of Statues* and it is now your responsibility to protect the statues from further weathering.

What ideas do you have to help the team at the Roman Baths to protect the statues?

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**II. In the museum there are a lot of artefacts that were discovered and can tell us a lot of information about how the Romans used to live. Go down the steps into the museum (number 8 on your map) and at the bottom of the stairs you will notice 3 sections of the drains in front of you.**

What would the Romans use the drains for?

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Why do **you** think the drain sections look different?

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Now find a **partner** and write down **another** reason for the difference.

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III. **Some things that the Romans used are still intact today. Look around the museum to explore the different materials used and draw diagrams of your findings in the correct boxes below.**

Find something that...

...looks brand new...	...we still use today...
...you think looks different to how it would when it was new...	...the Roman Baths team have re-created to show something that decomposed over time...

Imagine you dropped your school bag on this trip and it became lost for the next 2000 years.

What objects in your bag do you think would have survived and why?  
Do you think that the people in 2000 years would still be using those objects?

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