

Roman Pottery

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Quality Standard
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Roman Pottery

We know from the work of archaeologists that the Romans used pottery in everyday life.

Studying archaeological finds give us clues on how the Romans lived.



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Types of Roman Pottery

Romans used pottery for many of their everyday items.

Roman pottery was influenced by ancient Greek pottery; however, Roman pottery often had decorations cut into it. By contrast, the ancient Greeks painted images on their pottery.

Roman pottery is split into two different types: **coarse ware** and **fine ware**.



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Coarse Ware



Coarse means rough and coarse ware was made roughly.

It was thick (because it was used in kitchens) and it was used for everyday purposes, such as cooking, carrying water and also eating if you were poor.

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Fine Ware



Fine ware, as the name suggests, was more decorative than coarse ware.

Fine ware was used for dining on special occasions. Unlike coarse ware, fine ware was thinner and more delicate. It often had beautiful decorations and a shiny glaze.

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Terra Sigillata

The Latin phrase 'terra sigillata' means 'clay showing little pictures'.

It is also known as Samian ware. This was a specific type of fine ware, which was made in Gaul (the Roman name for France).



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Amphorae

Amphorae are Roman pottery jars with two handles, which were used to store food and liquids, such as olive oil, fish sauce and wine.

The shape and size of the amphorae depended on the liquid they contained.

They were designed so that they could be carried easily.



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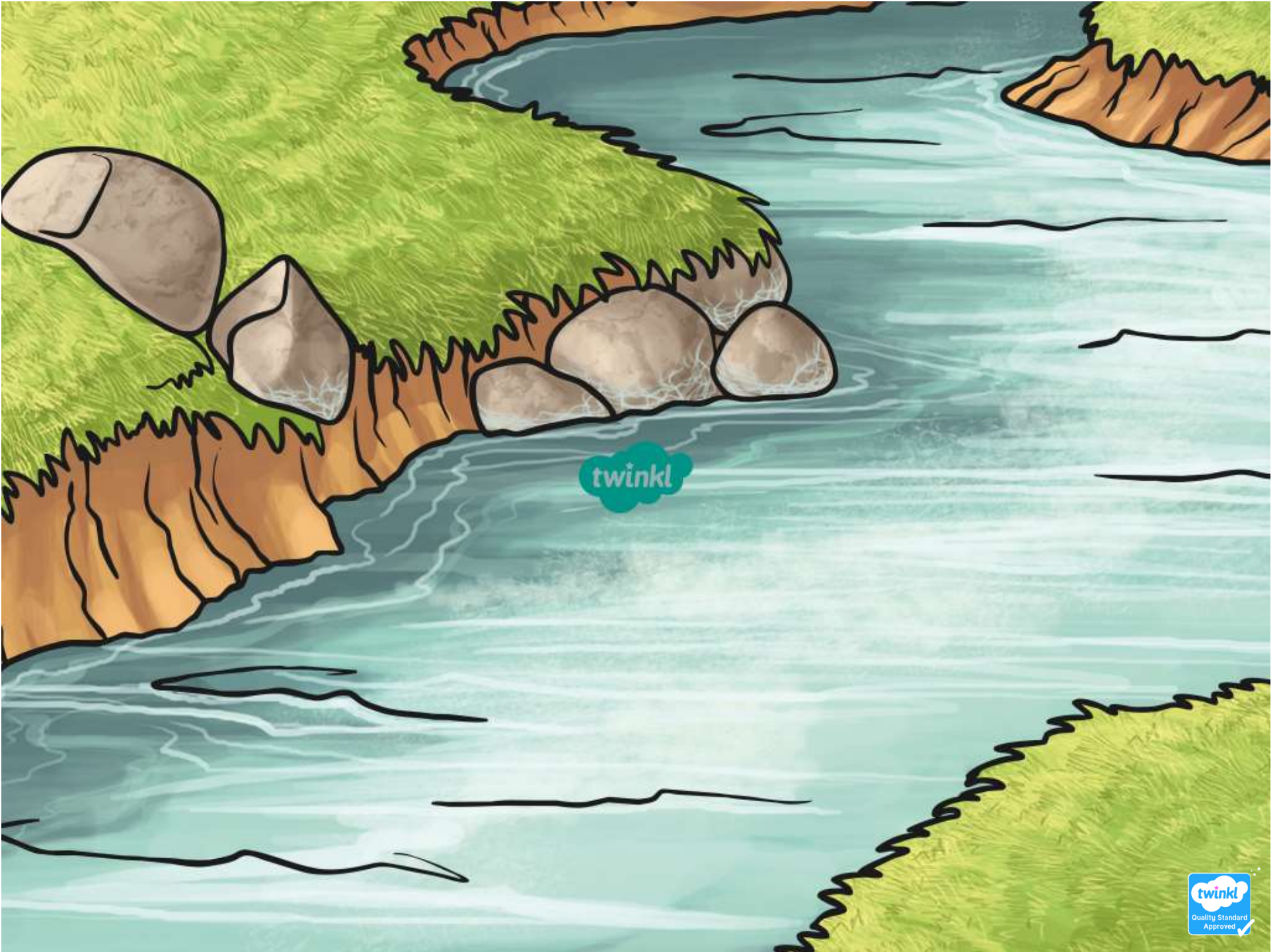
Other Pottery Items



The Romans not only used pottery for crockery and food-related items, but also for a wide variety of purposes, such as tiles, bricks, small statues, lamps and parts for heating systems.

Roman oil lamp

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