Walk along the Colonnade and stop to read Tessa Wheeler’s memorial tablet. Notice how the date is written the Roman way, using letters for numbers. Can you work out the year by adding up the Roman numbers?

- M = 1000
- C = 100
- X = 10
- V = 5
- I = 1

**Hint:** Take away any smaller numbers put before larger numbers. For example, CM is 1000 – 100 = 900.

Explore the green gallery and learn about the Catuvellauni, the Iron Age tribe who lived here before the Romans. Can you spot these Iron Age objects?

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Head for the Central area and look closer at the small bronze statues. Can you find the messenger god Mercury and Venus the goddess of love?

Which of these objects are similar to things you can see in the Roman displays? Circle them.

Why do you think Romans had statues like these?

- for worship
- for decoration
- for playing with

Look around the Rites and Recreation gallery, where you can see popular activities and hobbies enjoyed by the Romans. Which of these activities do you like doing today?

- fishing
- playing games
- hunting
- going to the theatre
- listening to music

Enter the Merchants and Markets area to see the large food jars called amphorae. Can you label these jars with the foods they contained?

Visit the Making a Living gallery and try building an arch just like the Roman builders did. Find the building blocks!

First position the semi-circular support block called a centring piece. Position the last block called the keystone in the centre to lock the other blocks in place.

Remove the centring piece carefully. Like magic — your arch will support itself!

Next build up the wedge-shaped blocks called voussoirs around the support.

Admire the beautiful mosaics that decorated the houses or villas of rich Romans. The different floor designs were made of small cubes of stone or tile arranged in colourful patterns.

What design would you put on a mosaic to impress your visitors? Draw it here.

Wander through the At Home in Verulamium gallery. (Turn left by the mosaics)

Find these things that the Romans used for reading and writing.

They used metal pens called styli to scratch words onto a wax tablet.

Try writing your name or a word on this tablet using the Roman letters you can see in the case.

Peek at the small pottery lamps. These were used to burn olive oil by lighting a wick placed in the nozzle. How much light do you think these lamps could give out?

This tiny mystery object helped the Romans keep clean and look good! Can you give it a label?

Look around the Roman kitchen. What’s different to a modern-day kitchen?

Draw the tools and equipment that look similar to things you use at home.

Admire the beautiful mosaics that decorated the houses or villas of rich Romans. The different floor designs were made of small cubes of stone or tile arranged in colourful patterns.

What design would you put on a mosaic to impress your visitors? Draw it here.

Welcome to the Roman town of Verulamium, which stood here 2,000 years ago! My name is Tessa Wheeler and I worked with a team of archaeologists to dig up the ruins of the town in the 1930s. You can see many of the Roman treasures we discovered on your visit to the Museum today.
As you leave the museum today, imagine you are stepping out into the bustling centre of Verulamium. This important Roman town stood here for 400 years and covered the whole area you can see and beyond. Explore Verulamium Park to see the excavated remains of the town walls and buildings and discover life long ago in Roman Britain.

Discover the site of Verulamium’s Forum. This was the busy town square and market place surrounded by open colonnades containing shops and temples to the Roman gods. The Basilica or town hall and law court was also here, with offices for gathering taxes and keeping town records. Did you spot the carved fragments of the Basilica inscription inside the Museum?

Examine the Hypocaust or underfloor heating system that warmed the rooms of the villa. Hot air from a furnace or fire flowed under the floor mosaics and up into the hollow walls of the rooms. Do you think it would have been easy to control the temperature?

Visit the Roman Theatre (separate entrance fee applies), which could seat several thousand spectators in the open air. People came to watch plays and mime shows on stage. The arena was also used for religious processions, sports and entertainments such as wrestling and wild beast shows. Look at the column and imagine how it might have felt to perform on this stage in Roman times.

Find the London Gate – one of four huge gateways of the walled town. This gateway let carts and pedestrians in and out from Watling Street, the busy Roman road running from London to Chester. How many paces wide is the gateway?

Follow the Roman wall made of flint and red brick tiles, which once surrounded the whole of Verulamium to keep the town safe. Stand next to the Roman town wall and strike a pose! Take a photo and share it @stalbansmuseums.

Hunt for the treasure discovery spots!

Did you know that hidden from view under the grass lie the buried remains of Verulamium’s streets and buildings, still waiting to be discovered? Use this map to stand on the very spot where some of the town’s beautiful treasures were dug up by archaeologists working with me in the 1930s.

Romans used the Hypocaust system to keep their houses and public buildings warm. Hot air from a furnace flowed under the floor and into hollow walls to heat the rooms. It was a much more efficient way of heating than using open fires.