

Roman Middlewich **Teachers' Pack**

Contents of loans box (in detail)

Fragments of Roman pottery found at Middlewich (separate details provided). The fragments are in their own box.

REPLICA ITEMS

Toilet set

A pocket toilet set which would have been made of bronze. It contains items used for personal hygiene: an ear-scoop, nail cleaner and tweezers.

Strigil

It was used for scraping oil, sweat and grime from the skin. It might have been part of a kit which also contained an oil flask.

Hairpin

Hairpins were often necessary for the elaborate hairstyles worn by Roman women. Frequently they were made of bone.

Torc

The torc was jewellery worn by the Celtic warriors and was sometimes made of gold. They were booty that was highly prized by the Roman captors. Many torcs were elaborately coiled.

Wax tablet

Beeswax was melted and poured into the shallow cavity of a wooden tablet. It was scraped smooth and formed a reusable writing surface. Letters were scratched into it using a stylus.

Wooden writing tablet

Fine wooden tablets were used for writing on in ink made from soot. The split nib pens were made of reed or metal.

Metal stylus

The pointed end would be used for writing on wax tablets. The blunt end was a spatula and was used for smoothing the wax to erase the writing.

Wooden stylus

The pointed end would be used for writing on wax tablets. The blunt end was a spatula and was used for smoothing the wax to erase the writing.

Scraper for wax tablet

This was used to create a smooth writing surface when the wax was poured in.

Folding frying pan

The folding handle suggests that this was used by someone for whom space was at a premium i.e. a soldier on the move.