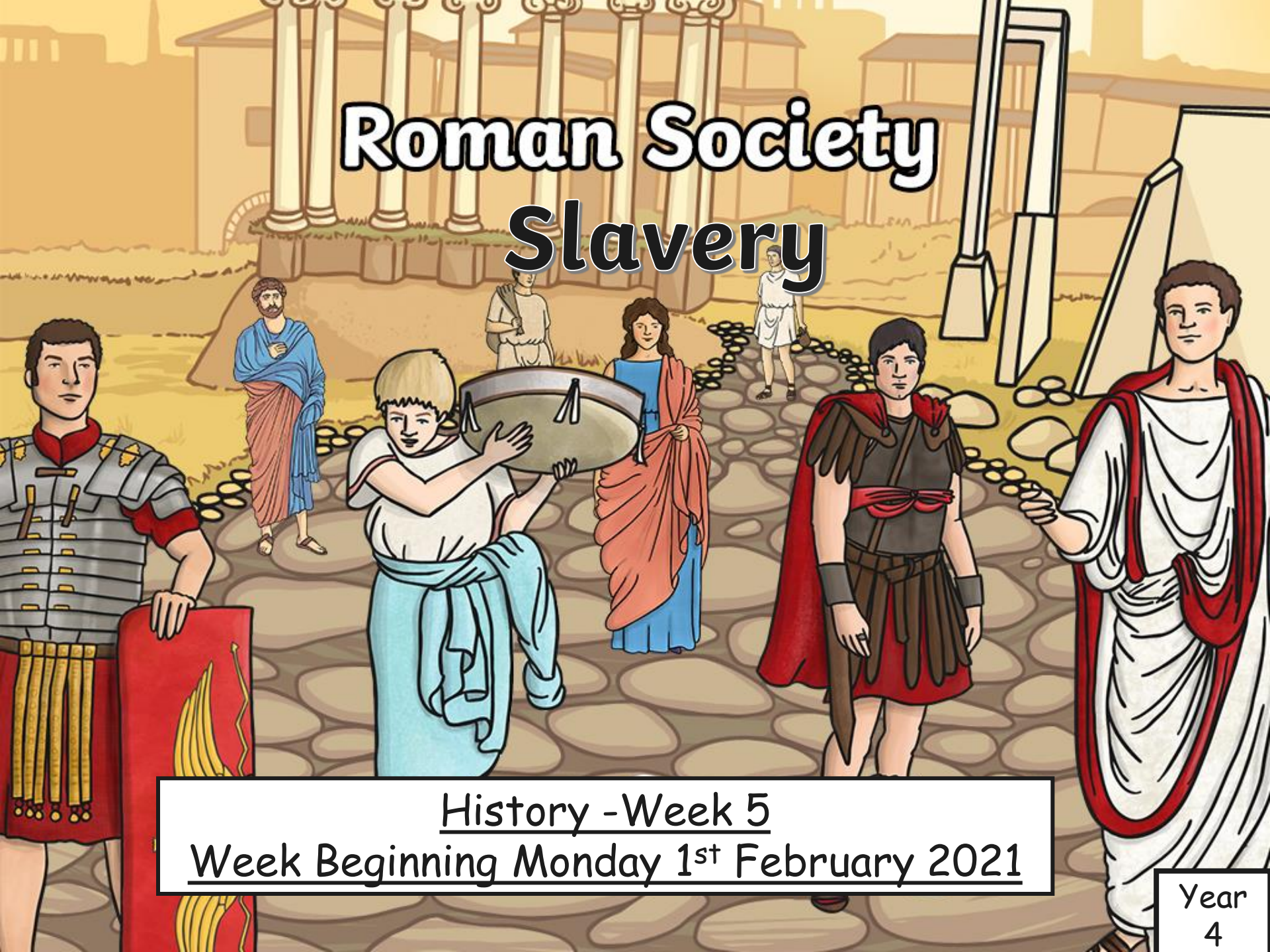


Roman Society

Slavery

History -Week 5

Week Beginning Monday 1st February 2021

Year 4

L.O. to understand the position of a slave in Roman society.

Roman Society

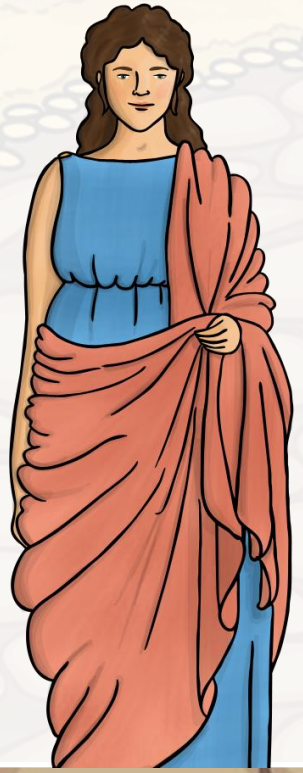
Week 5

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Roman Society

In Roman society, people were not seen as equals.

You were either a citizen, a non-citizen (also known as provincials) or a slave.





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Roman Slavery

Most Romans accepted slavery. Slaves could be men, women, girls or boys.

If you had been captured in battle, it was likely that you may be made to become a slave. You were then sent back to Rome and sold.

Abandoned children were taken as slaves.

Sometimes, fathers could even choose to sell their older children into the slave trade if they were desperate for money.



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Roman Slavery



Slaves were bought and sold at a slave market. Their individual prices depended on their skills and talents. For example, a slave that could cook would be more expensive than one that couldn't.

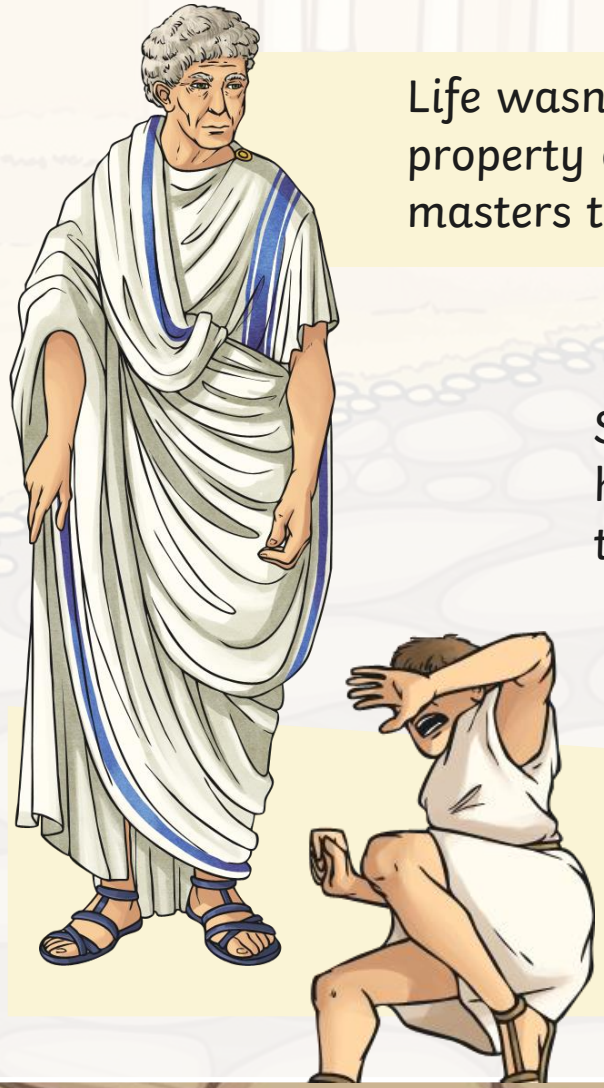
As a slave, having important skills could be your ticket to better treatment from your 'master'.

Age also played a massive part in slave prices. Younger slaves were usually more expensive as they were often stronger and fitter.



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Life as a Roman Slave



Life wasn't easy for slaves. They were seen as the property of their master and had no rights. Some masters treated their slaves very harshly.

Some worked in the homes of the wealthy and had jobs such as cleaning, washing, dressing their master and preparing the meals.

Mining was the toughest job a slave could be given as it was very dangerous.

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Life as a Roman Slave

Some slaves worked on farms and those, who were educated, often tutored the children of their masters.

A slave that had served within a household for a long time may have been treated as an important part of the family.



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Manumission

Manumission was the act of a slave master freeing his or her slaves.

Slaves could buy their freedom or be freed by their master after many years of service, making them ‘freedmen'.



Formal manumission, performed by a magistrate, gave a former slave full Roman citizenship. However, they were never allowed to become involved in politics. Children of ‘freedmen’ also had full rights of citizenship and could be involved with politics when they became older.



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Manumission

Informal manumission gave fewer rights. If the master freed the slave themselves, the individual didn't become a proper Roman citizen.

Any money or property they came to own through their lives went back to their master when they died.

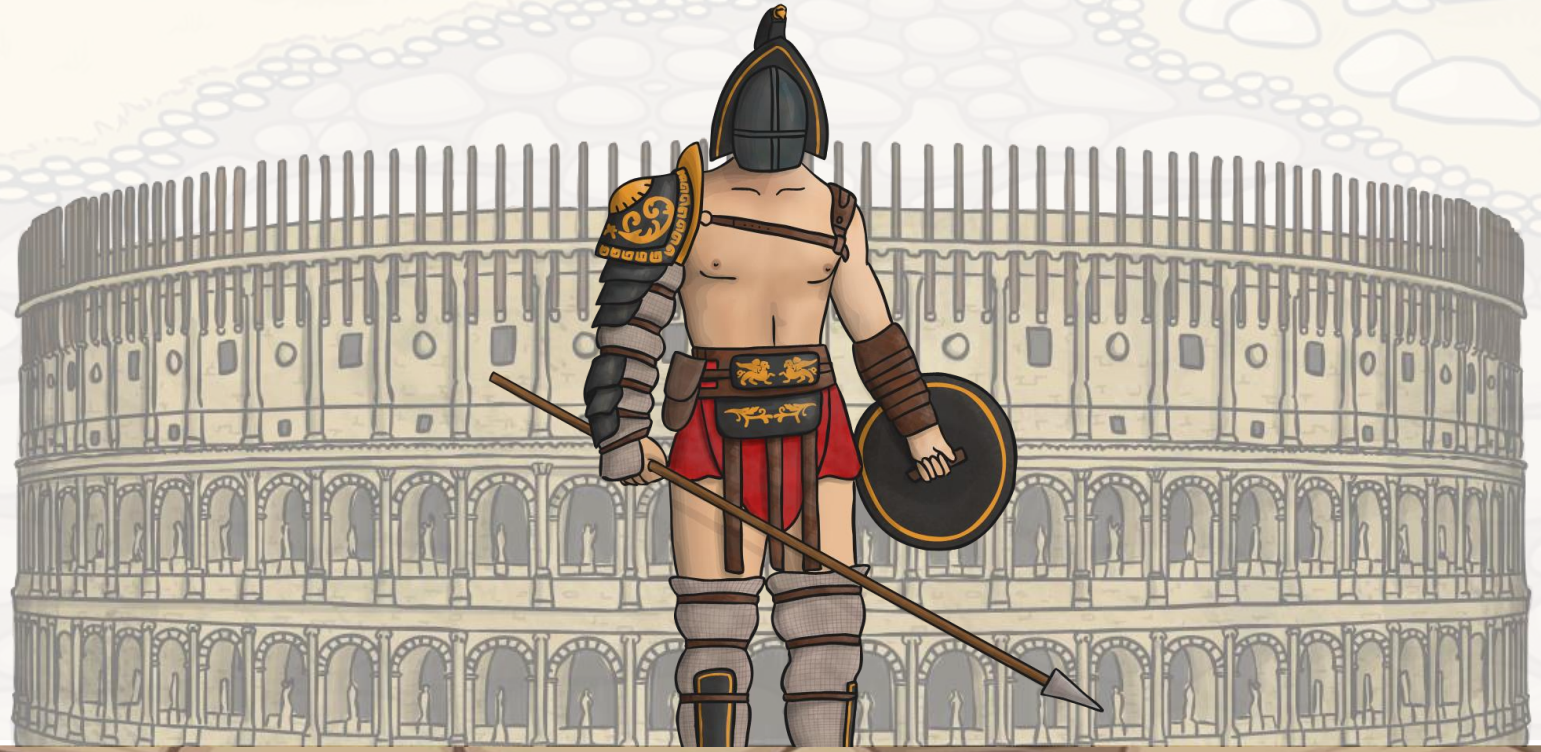


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Gladiators

Most gladiators were slaves who were taught to fight.

However, they could win their freedom by fighting successfully in amphitheatres.



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Your Task

Imagine you were a slave.

How did you get to the slave market?

Who is your master?

What is life like for you now?

Write a short diary entry as a slave.

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