

Let's imagine: bowl

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is a Roman bowl that can be found in the special exhibition called Villa. Read the information below the picture to find out more about this type of bowl.

Imagine you're an archaeologist who has dug up this bowl, describe the bowl in detail. Include what material it is made from, its colour and shape and anything else you can see.

Paint a picture of this bowl – make it glossy and red.

Write a story or poem about being transported back to Roman Britain. What do you see and do?



This is a bowl from Roman times. It is made from clay and is a type of pottery called Samian ware. Samian ware is always a glossy red colour. Samian ware was usually imported from Gaul (France) and was very expensive, although inferior copies could be bought more cheaply. Wealthy people would buy this pottery to use at dinner parties as a way of showing off their importance and wealth. This dish would have been used to present and serve food and that food would probably have been served with garum, a popular fermented fish sauce.