

Colour in a Roman oil lamp



The Museum has several Roman oil lamps on display in the permanent exhibition, Lives and Landscapes, and the special exhibition, Villa.

This one is made from bronze, although many oil lamps were made from clay, and its looped handle is missing. Oil lamps were used as a portable source of light. Animal fat or olive oil was put inside and a wick, a small piece of linen or similar, was put in the hole at the front and lit. Imported olive oil was expensive, but it burned more cleanly than animal fat so would be preferred by wealthy Romano-British households.

Using felt tip pens or colouring pencils, colour in the Roman oil lamp.

