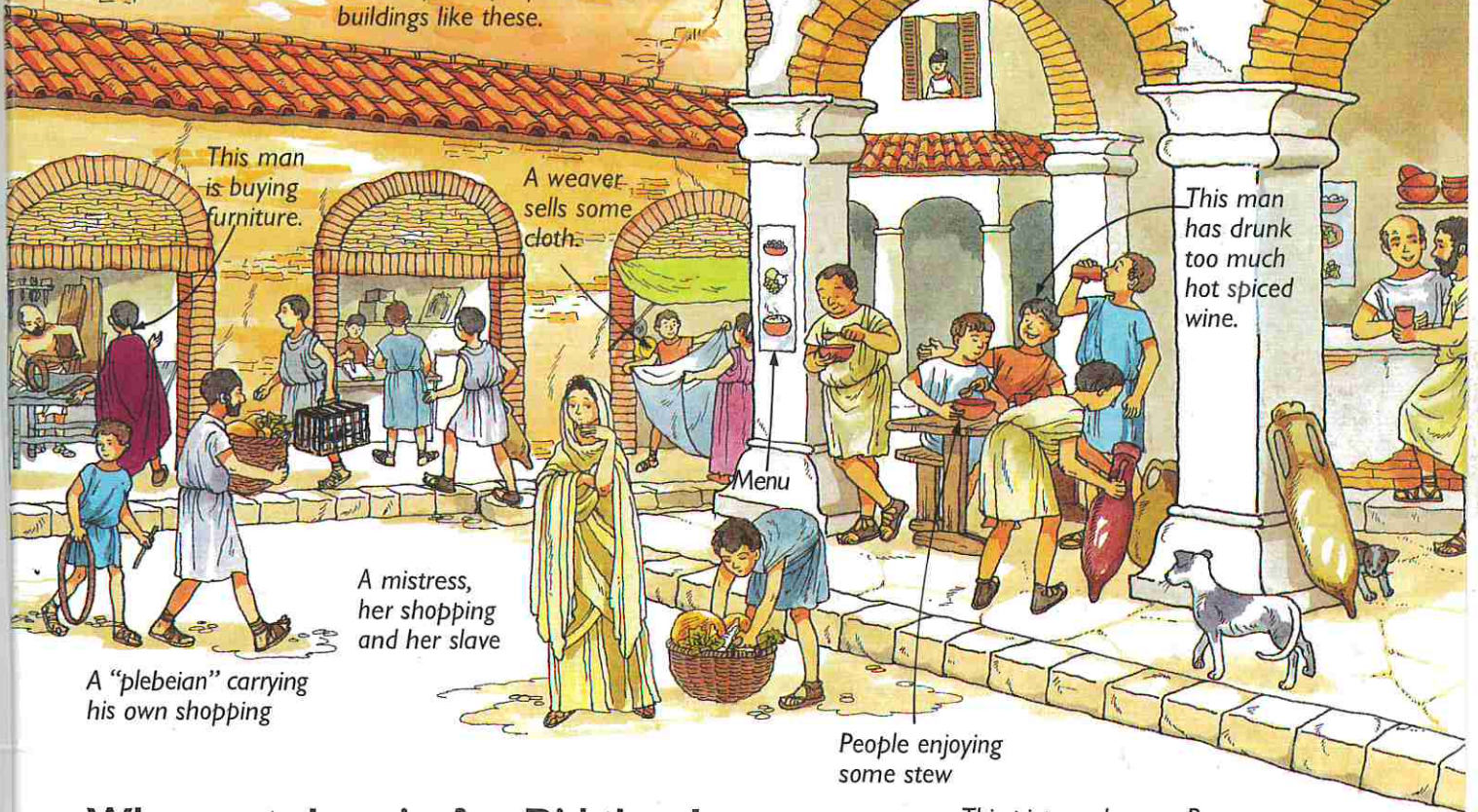


# Where did they go shopping?

In large towns there were lots of different stores. Most of them didn't have doors or windows, but opened onto the street. The counters went right across the front of the stores, and the storekeepers stood behind them.

Stores were usually on the bottom floor of apartment buildings like these.



This man is buying furniture.

A weaver sells some cloth.

This man has drunk too much hot spiced wine.

A mistress, her shopping and her slave

A "plebeian" carrying his own shopping

Menu

People enjoying some stew

## Who went shopping?

Rich Romans would only go shopping when they wanted to choose expensive things for themselves. Many of the richer Romans had paid servants. If they wanted ordinary things like food, they sent the servants, or slaves, instead.

## Did they have supermarkets?

No. Although the Romans put up many large buildings, they didn't think of building supermarkets. Stores were usually very small. Those storekeepers who sold luxuries could make a lot of money.

This picture shows a Roman street corner, with people out shopping.

## Did they have cafés?

Yes, there were places to buy hot food and drinks. Customers could eat the food there or take it with them.



There's more on the next page.

**Did they have pharmacists?**

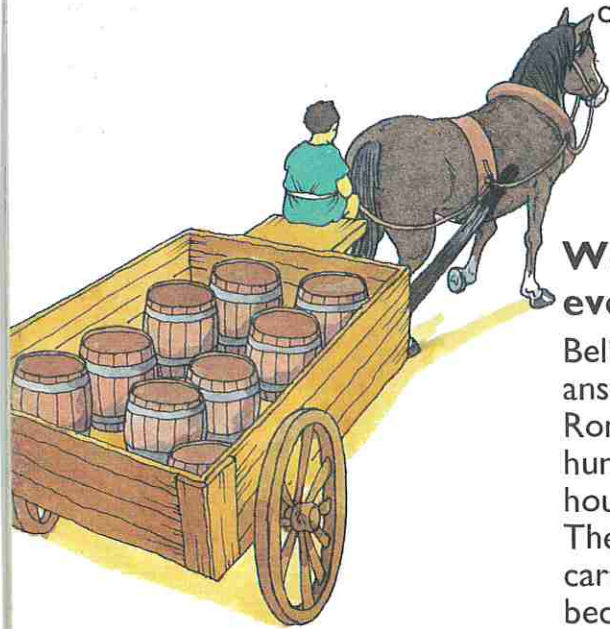
Yes, but they weren't anything like the ones we know today. They sold magic spells as well as their special herbs and potions.

**Did the Romans have outdoor markets?**

Yes they did. As well as the usual stores, a town would also have market stalls. These were set up in the middle of town in a square called a *forum*. Markets were held once a week.

**Were there ever traffic jams?**

Believe it or not, the answer is yes. In the city of Rome itself, there were hundreds of stores and houses needing goods. These had to be delivered in carts, and the roads often became blocked. Later, to stop this, horse-drawn carts and chariots were not allowed into the city during the day.



This stallholder is bringing his casks of wine to market very early in the morning.

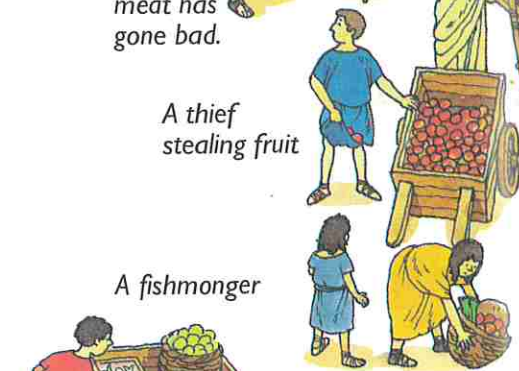


A Roman dog shopping for scraps

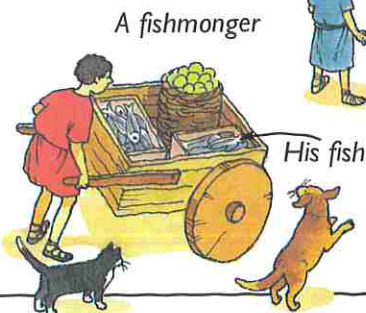
An outdoor Roman market in a town square



This shopper suspects that some meat has gone bad.

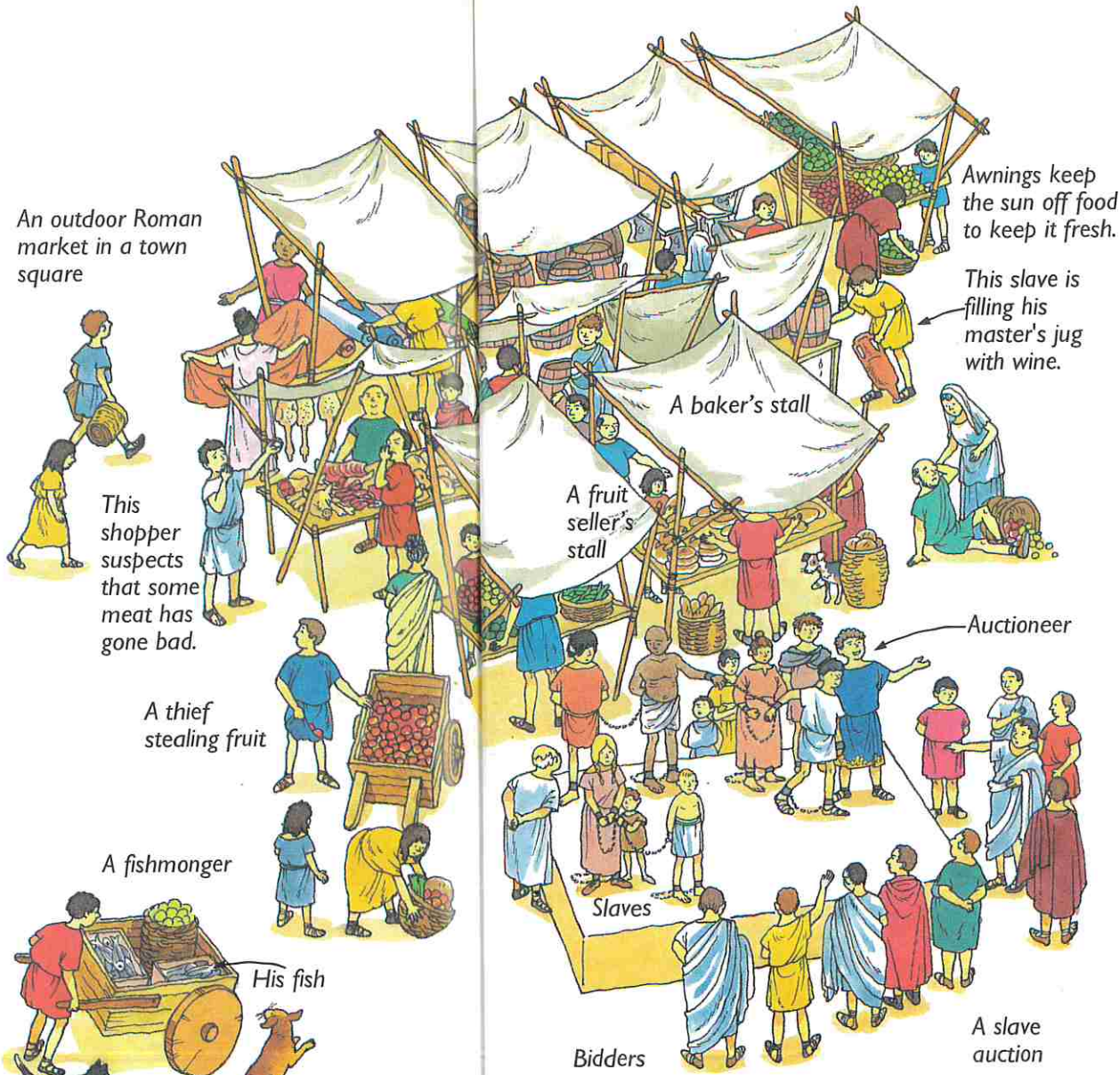


A thief stealing fruit



A fishmonger

His fish



Awnings keep the sun off food to keep it fresh.

This slave is filling his master's jug with wine.

A baker's stall

A fruit seller's stall

Auctioneer

Slaves

Bidders

A slave auction

**Did they recycle packaging?**

No, because nearly everything bought from a Roman store was loose. All bread, meat, and clothing would be sold unwrapped. There was no packaging, so it didn't need recycling.



Wine jars



Slaves



Mistress

These shoppers don't have cars or plastic shopping bags.

If you were buying wine, you would take along your own jugs to be filled, or would buy a whole jar. This meant that no bottles needed to be recycled.

**Where did Romans buy their slaves?**

From a slave market, of course! The slaves would often wear signs around their necks saying what they were good at. They were sold by auction to the person who offered to pay the most.

**Did you know they had special "toga cleaners"?**

Men, called fullers, used to bleach the togas.

The togas were then put in a mixture of water and a special kind of clay.

Once the togas had dried, they were folded and pressed flat in a machine.

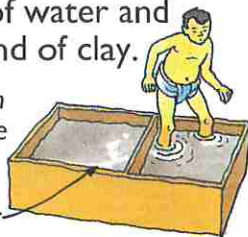


Frame

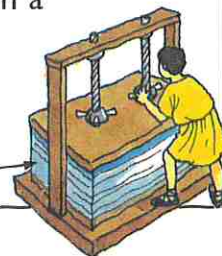
Toga

Fullers tread on togas to get the dirt out.

Clay and water



Flattened togas



**What did people pay with?**

The Romans had coins made from bronze, silver and gold. The gold ones were worth the most. Over the centuries, hundreds of different kinds of Roman coins have been found.

These coins are from different periods in Roman history.



The first kind of Roman coin. It was made of copper.



An "aes grave". The first type of round coin.

Silver coins, like this "denarius", were first used in about 200BC.



This coin was made to record the death of Julius Caesar.

