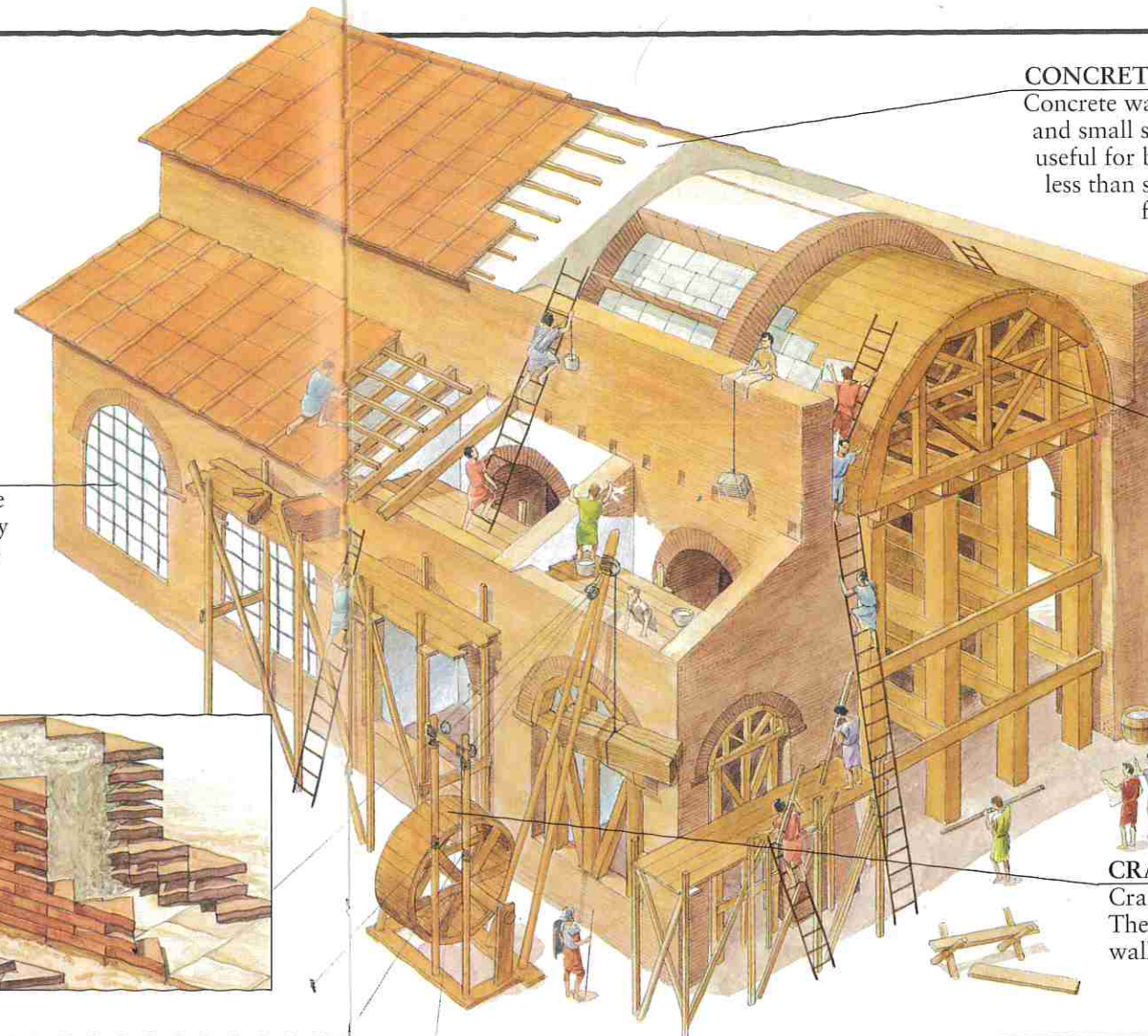


BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

The Romans were skilful builders. Roman buildings were very strong and many are still standing today. Most Roman buildings were built of bricks and concrete. Stone was expensive so it was often used just to decorate buildings. Roman builders were the first to become expert at using concrete and building arches. The Romans also invented the dome. Because of these skills their buildings could be very spacious, with high roofs and big windows.

Some of the best builders and surveyors were in the army. In peacetime the army helped to plan and build whole towns. Town councils also owned slaves who were used as labourers on building sites.



CONCRETE

Concrete was made out of lime, sand and small stones. Concrete was very useful for building roofs. It weighed less than stone and could not catch fire like wood. It was also cheap to make.

ROOF BUILDING

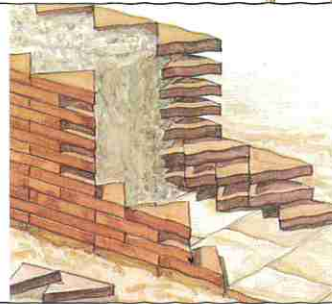
A temporary wooden arch was built first. A layer of bricks was laid on top of the arch. A layer of concrete was then poured over the bricks.

WINDOWS

Glass windows were very expensive. Only important buildings had them.

ROMAN WALL

Two low brick or stone walls were built with a space in-between. Then the space was filled with concrete. Another layer could be built on top after the concrete had dried.



CRANE

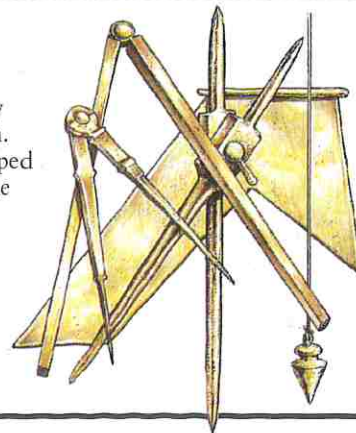
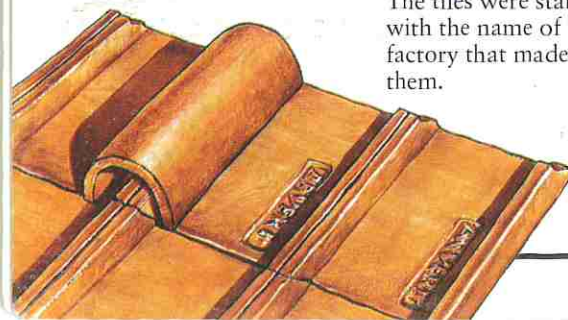
Cranes lifted heavy loads. They were operated by slaves walking inside a treadmill.



LOOK OUT FOR THESE

ROOF TILES

Roof tiles were moulded out of clay then baked in a kiln. The tiles were stamped with the name of the factory that made them.

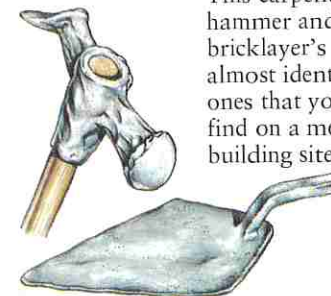


ARCHITECTS' AND MASONS' TOOLS

The tools shown here are a folding ruler, dividers, a set square and a plumb line. A plumb line was used to check that walls were straight. The ruler measures a Roman foot (296mm).

TOOLS

This carpenter's hammer and bricklayer's trowel are almost identical to ones that you might find on a modern building site.



INSCRIPTION

Inscriptions are found on many Roman buildings. They explain when they were built

and who built them. This inscription comes from a theatre at Leptis Magna, Africa.