

Did the Romans only build buildings?

No. As well as putting up apartment buildings, villas, stores, temples, bathhouses and lots of other types of buildings, Romans are famous for building aqueducts and roads.

This picture shows what an enormous Roman building site might have looked like. An aqueduct and a road are both being built.

What was an aqueduct?

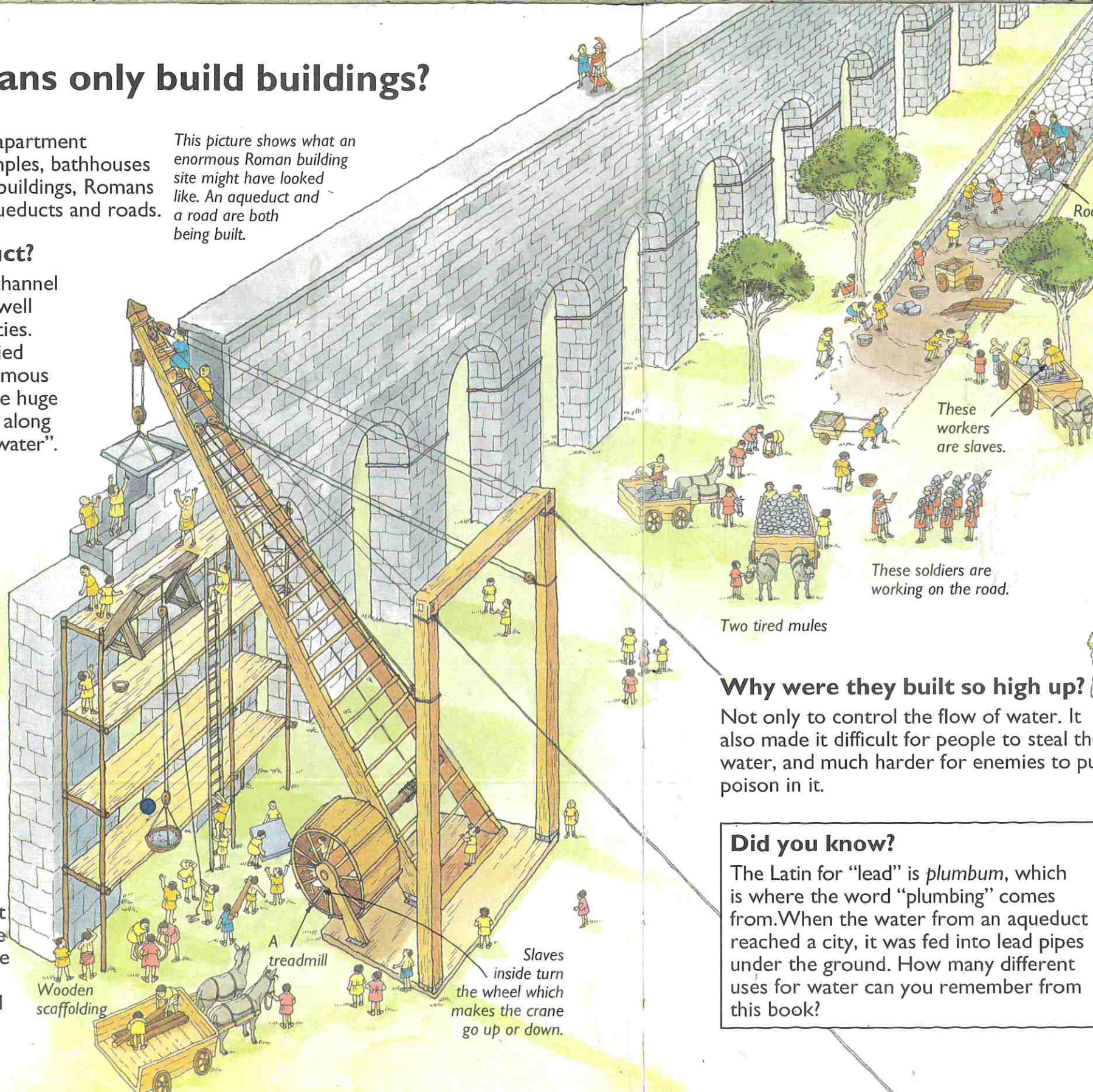
An aqueduct was a pipe or channel that carried water from a well or stream to towns and cities. Some aqueducts were buried underground. The more famous Roman aqueducts were like huge bridges carrying the water along the top. *Aqua* is Latin for "water".



Wood for making scaffolding

Were they easy to build?

No. They are examples of very clever Roman building and design. Water cannot flow uphill, so it was very important that an aqueduct was built at exactly the right angle. Otherwise the water might flow back to where it came from! Most aqueducts were over 17m (55ft) high. One famous aqueduct stretched for over 55km (34miles).



Wooden scaffolding

A treadmill

Slaves inside turn the wheel which makes the crane go up or down.

Two tired mules

These soldiers are working on the road.

These workers are slaves.

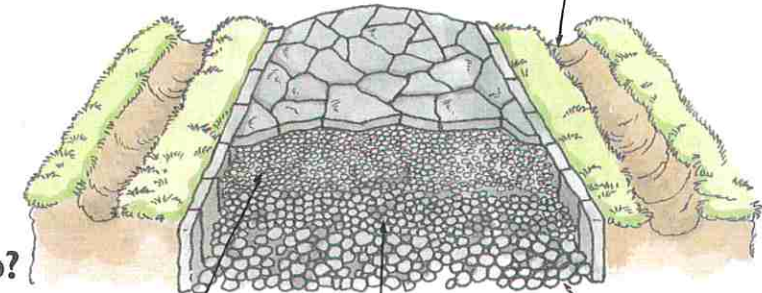
Why are Roman roads so famous?

Partly because many modern roads follow the path of old Roman roads, partly because Roman roads were so straight, and partly because they were so well made.

How was a Roman road made?

To start with, the shortest, flattest route was chosen. Then the area was cleared of trees and rocks. After that, a 1m (3ft) trench was dug and filled with stones of different sizes. The top layer of stones had a mound in the middle. This was so that rainwater would run down the sides into ditches.

This is a typical Roman road. Lump in middle called a camber Ditch for rainwater



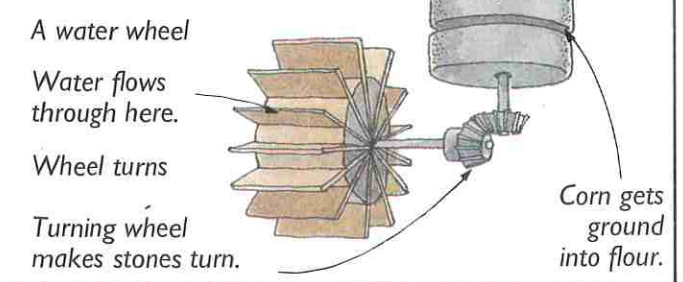
Small stones, sometimes mixed with cement Tightly-packed gravel Bottom layer of large stones

Why were they built so high up?

Not only to control the flow of water. It also made it difficult for people to steal the water, and much harder for enemies to put poison in it.

Did you know?

The Latin for "lead" is *plumbum*, which is where the word "plumbing" comes from. When the water from an aqueduct reached a city, it was fed into lead pipes under the ground. How many different uses for water can you remember from this book?



A water wheel Water flows through here. Wheel turns Turning wheel makes stones turn. Corn gets ground into flour.