



ROMAN MONUMENTS IN ENGLISH CULTURE

The Written Word as Monument

INTRODUCTION

- This lesson focuses on how the British interpreted and reinterpreted Roman history according to changing political events leading to their own national identity. Students will examine two of the paradigm shifts (republic to empire and empire to decay) with the idea of the written word as a monument.
- Students will close read an introduction that will provide them with the necessary background, then will use a dialectic notebook to examine quotes from British authors from various times, identifying their perspectives and writing down their interpretations and reactions.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How did the British use Roman history to build a national identity?
- Can the written word be considered a monument?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The students will be able to:

- Explain why the British reinterpreted Roman history according to changing political events;
- Categorize quotations from British authors according to their ideal and cite evidence supporting their choice;
- Construct an argument using primary and secondary sources examining whether or not the written word can be considered a monument.

DIALECTICAL NOTEBOOK EXAMPLE

Quotation	Represented Ideal	What it means to me
<p><i>“the time may <u>come when the traveler may ask where proud London stood?</u> When its temples, its laws, and its trade may be <u>buried in one common ruin</u>, and only serve as a byword to <u>point a moral</u>, or furnish senators, who wage a <u>worldly war</u>, on the other side of the Atlantic, with tropes to swell their thundering bursts of elegance.” -Mary Wollstoncraft (1790)</i></p>	<p><i>Changing national identity</i></p>	<p><i>I think she is saying that empires do not last. if London is not careful, America will be the next empire and will use London as the moral, as London had used Rome.</i></p>