

It's All Greek (and Latin) to Me - Answers

1. What is Latin? Who spoke it originally?

Latin is the language of the Roman people of Italy. It was originally spoken by them but later spread throughout Europe as the Roman Empire expanded.

2. How did Latin come to Britain? Give two ways.

Students might mention the Roman Empire expanding into Britain or the growth of Latin among Christian missionaries who spread it to the Angles and the Saxons.

3. When did direct Roman rule of Britain end? Why?

Direct rule of Britain ended in AD 410 (C.E) when the Romans needed their armies to fight in several battles in mainland Europe.

4. Who were the Hellenes?

This was another name for the ancient Greeks.

5. What did the Romans borrow from the Greeks?

Students might mention mythology and words from the article but the Romans also borrowed building styles, religion, drama, political systems and artistic styles.

6. How did the word 'chemistry' end up in the English language?

The word comes to us from the Greek 'khemia' which meant 'to transform'. It made its way into English through Arabic and Old French until it became the English word 'alchemy' relating to turning other metals into gold. Eventually this became our modern field of chemistry.

7. Where does the word 'telescope' come from?

Telescope was an original Greek word meaning far-seeing but it became the chosen word for the instrument used to see the stars when the equipment was invented.

8. Who invented the word 'dinosaur'? What does it mean?

Sir Richard Owen invented the word. It means terrible or great lizard.

9. Where does our month of July get its name?

It comes from Julius and relates to the Latin name given to the month. The name was changed to this in 44 B.C.E after the assassination of Julius Caesar. July was the month he had been born in.

10. 'It's all Greek to me' is an English idiom or well-known saying. When might you use it?

The saying means that something is gibberish or unintelligible.