

## The Jews and Roman Occupation



At the time of Jesus (about 500 years after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon) the Romans occupied Israel. King Herod, although Jewish, was a Roman puppet and, at the time of Jesus' death, Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor. There were many



good things about Roman rule; roads, water, sanitation etc but the people paid very high taxes for these. Under the Romans, the Jews

were initially allowed to practice their religion, but it was a harsh regime and the Romans were hated. Any

Jew suspected of harbouring rebellious thoughts was dealt with very severely. Crucifixion was a common form of execution, being used as a deterrent. Jesus was crucified by the Romans as he was seen as a threat.



## Activities

**Complete activity one and then choose one of the other activities to do.**

- 1** Imagine how you would feel if England was invaded by a foreign power. Describe how things might be different and what freedoms you might lose. How would you feel?  

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- 2** Write a poem expressing sorrow and sadness at some of the tragic events taking place in the world. Illustrate your poem.
- 3** Imagine you are a Jew and write a poem expressing your feelings about your land being taken over by the Romans. Illustrate your poem.