

Oil Lamp



Date	AD 120-180
Material	Clay
How was it made?	The clay was shaped in a mould and then fired in a kiln to harden it.
What is it for?	Light - it was filled with olive oil through the hole in the top, a wick was placed in the spout and then set on fire.
Where is it from?	Thysdrus (modern El Djem, Tunisia)
What does it say?	<p>Text M(arcus) Novius T(---)</p> <p>Translation: 'Marcus Novius T(?) (made this)'</p>

More information:

- Many lamps with this makers' mark have been found. Going by where most of these lamps were found, we can guess that they were made somewhere in North Africa.
- Eagles are associated with the Roman god Jupiter and represent his power. They were also used as symbols of the power of Ancient Rome - especially in the Roman Army.

Topics to investigate: Roman Tunisia; Mass production in ancient Rome - what was life like for craftsmen? What kinds of objects were mass produced? Why the eagle was important to Romans - where else are they found? Lamps - what they were like to use? Were there other forms of artificial light available to the Romans?