

The Passion of Jesus

Work with a partner or in small groups to research the political, religious and historical context within which the crucifixion of Jesus took place. Use the following to guide your research:

- ▶ Find a map of the Roman Empire in the time of Jesus, the first-century AD.
- ▶ Find a map of Palestine within the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus.
- ▶ Research how the Roman Empire imposed its rule on countries within its territory:

What taxes were collected? Who collected these taxes and for what purpose were they used?

Were there local rulers or kings? What powers did these rulers have?

Did the Roman Empire have any military presence in first-century Palestine?

Was there a local Palestinian army and, if so, what powers did it have?

What status did the Jewish religion have within the Roman Empire?

Why did the religious leaders see Jesus' message as a threat?
