

4 Romans

Why did the Romans invade Britain?

The Romans were keen to invade Britain because of fertile lands, natural resources and to increase their own political power.

Julius Caesar led an unsuccessful invasion in 55BC.

Emperor Claudius commanded a second invasion led by Aulus Plautius in 43AD.

Britain was part of the Roman Empire from 43AD to 410AD.

What was the Roman Empire?

Roman history includes ancient myths. E.g. Rome was founded in Italy by Romulus in 753BC following a fight with his brother Remus.

Over time, the Roman Empire spread across Europe, parts of Asia and North Africa.

There were different social classes in Roman society. The aristocracy, plebeians, slaves and freed slaves.

The Roman army was successful because it was well-organised, well-equipped and inspired great loyalty.

Soldiers were responsible for building roads, forts and aqueducts.



How do we know so much about Ancient Rome?

The climate and geography of Italy today helps us to understand trade, food and farming.

Archaeological evidence – buildings, artefacts (bones, jewellery, mosaics, coins) written and spoken evidence (Myths and Legends)

Historical sites, such as Pompeii.



Septimius Severus



Queen Boudicca



Emperor Claudius

Did the British fight back?

In 60 AD, Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, led a rebellion against Roman rule.

The Romans built Hadrian's Wall to keep Scottish tribes out of England.

Septimius Severus was a Roman General based in York who led defence against the Scots and reinforced Hadrian's Wall.

Despite conquering 11 tribes in 14 days, it took decades to conquer the rest of England and Wales.

There was a heavy military presence throughout Roman rule in order to stop revolts.

How did the Romans change Britain?

The Celts occupied Britain before the Romans arrived.

Mostly the lives of wealthier people that changed. Poor still worked the land and lived simply.

At first, Romans and Britons worshipped many Gods. In 200 AD Christianity was introduced.

Romans introduced bricks and concrete to build town and roads as well as hypocaust systems, sewers, aqueducts, toilets and public baths.

Many of our words, including 'Britain', come from Latin.

System of numbers and counting, including the calendar.

Introduced plants and animals, including peas, pears, carrots and the domestic cat.

Amphitheatres and Roman baths.



The building of Rome begins.

Rome becomes a republic. Officials elected.

Julius Caesar fails to invade Britain.

The birth of Jesus. Christian belief.

The Romans conquer Britain.

Londinium founded.

Boudicca leads rebellion.

The building of Hadrian's Wall begins.

Christianity introduced to Britain.

Roman rule in Britain comes to an end.

Vandals destroy Rome and the Empire collapses.

753 BC

510 BC

55 BC

1 AD

43 AD

47 AD

60 AD

122 AD

200 AD

410 AD

455 AD

Amphitheatre
a circular building with tiered seats for spectators.

Empire
A group of countries ruled by a common ruler.

Emperor
Ruler of an Empire, also a monarch.

Latin
the language of ancient Rome.

Paganism
worshipping several gods.
Iceni
a tribe of ancient Britons.

Hypocaust
a system of underfloor heating.
Hierarchy
being ranked according to status.

Legion
a group of men in the Roman army.

Mosaic
a picture created from small pieces of stone, tile or glass.

BC
Before Christ. Based on the Christian calendar as a way of marking time.

AD
anno Domini. Latin for 'in the year of the Lord' marking years since the birth of Jesus. Christian calendar.

Fertile
land which can produce lots of crops

Invasion
an unwelcome entry into a country using force.

Archaeology
the study of human history through ruins and artefacts.

Primary source
a source created at or from the time studied.

Secondary source
a source created after the event, based on primary sources.