

British History: Invaders: The Romans

Knowledge Organiser

Key Dates and Events			
Century	Emperor	Year	Event
Pre 1 st		753BC	Rome is founded by Romulus
	Augustus	55BC	Julius Caesar attempts to invade Britain for the first time
		54BC	Julius Caesar attempts to invade Britain for the second time
1 st	Claudius	41D	Claudius successfully invades Britain
		50AD	London is founded and known as Londinium
	Nero	60AD	Boudicca rebels against the Roman occupation of Britain
	Domitian	83AD	Julius Agricola and his armies have captured a large area of Scotland
2 nd	Hadrian	122AD	Building of Hadrian's Wall begins
	Pius	142AD	Antonius Pius builds the 'Antonine Wall'
	Commodus	192AD	Great political unrest in Rome
3 rd	Severus	208AD	Septimus Severus splits Britain into Britannia Superior and Inferior
	Aurelian	273AD	Aurelian brings provinces back under Roman control
	Diocletian & Maximian	End of 3 rd Century	Saxons begin to invade Britain
4 th	Honorius	End of 4 th Century	Roman power over Western Europe begins to decline
5 th		410AD	Honorius withdraws Roman armies from Britain

What was the Roman Empire?

The Roman Empire began in Rome and spread across most of Europe and some of Africa and Asia. Over a period of 400 years, most of Britain was part of this empire.



Why did the Romans want Britain to be part of their Empire?



Britain, or Britannia as the Romans called it, was said to be rich in gold and silver. The Romans wanted it to be part of their expanding empire and thought that they could invade easily.

In 54BC, Julius Caesar attempted to invade but he was unsuccessful. He tried again in 55BC but was again unsuccessful.

Over 100 years later, Emperor Claudius decided to invade for a third time. This invasion was successful and 41AD marks the beginning of Roman rule in Britain.



Boudicca

Tacitus

Roman politician, military general and historian who played a key role in the rise of the Roman Empire.

Roman Emperor who led the Roman conquest of Britain during his reign.

Queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire.

Senator and historian who is considered to be one of the greatest Roman historians.

Glossary

1	Rome (n)	The capital of the Roman Empire
2	romans (n)	Citizens who are from Ancient Rome
3	century (n)	A period of 100 years e.g. the 2nd century is from 100–199AD
4	empire (n)	A group of nations that are controlled by the ruler of one country
5	Britannia (n)	The Roman name for the southern part of Great Britain
6	Gaul (n)	The Roman name for an ancient part of western Europe
7	invade (v)	To enter another country by force and with an army
8	conquer (v)	When a country or group take control of land and people
9	emperor (n)	A man who rules an empire
10	tribe (n)	A group of people who share a location, language and customs
11	Catuvellauni (n)	A tribe from southeastern Britain
12	Atrebates (n)	A large tribe from southern Britain
13	Iceni (n)	A tribe from Eastern Britain
14	legion (n)	A large group of soldiers who form one part of an army
15	legionary (n)	A soldier who belongs to a legion
16	rebel (n)	People who fight against their own country's army
17	fort (n)	A strong building with a wall or fence around which is safe from enemies
18	barracks (n)	A group of buildings where soldiers live and work
19	Saxons (n)	Members of a West Germanic tribe
20	decline (v)	When something becomes less in quantity, importance or strength

How were the Romans able to invade?

The Roman army was the largest fighting force of its time and was both strong and well organised. The fighters were the best equipped and strictly trained – this made them unstoppable.







Did the British people fight back?

At the time, Britain was ruled by many different tribes who had different leaders. These tribes often fought each other.

Some of the tribes accepted the Romans and paid taxes to them but other tribes rebelled and fought against the Romans. The main rebellion was the one led by Boudicca but over the years there were other rebellions too.



Significant People and Places

			
Julius Agricola	Emperor Hadrian	Hadrian's Wall	Vindolanda
Roman general responsible for much of the Roman conquest of Britain.	Roman Emperor who is most famous for building Hadrian's Wall in northern Britain.	A 73 mile wall built by the Romans to keep out the unconquered people of Scotland.	A Roman fort built just to the south of Hadrian's Wall.