



Knowledge Organiser Year 5 History- Romans in Britain

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Summary



The Roman army first tried to invade Britain in 55 and 54 BCE. However, they were back almost one hundred years later in 43 CE under the command of Emperor Claudius. The Romans travelled as far as modern-day Scotland but were unable to keep this area under control, building a wall to keep the northernmost tribes out.

Main Events and Where they Fit:

- 54BCE** Julius Caesar's invasion attempt
- 43CE** Successful invasion ordered by Claudius
- 51CE** Defeat of Caratacus
- 61CE** Iceni revolt led by Boudicca
- 122CE** Construction of Hadrian's wall
- 200CE** Introduction of Christianity
- 306CE** Constantine proclaimed emperor in York
- 406CE** Suevi, Alans, Vandals and Burgundians attack Gaul, and break contact between Rome and Britain: Remaining Roman army in Britain mutinies
- 408CE** Devastating attacks by the Picts, Scots and Saxons. Britons expel Roman officials and fight for themselves
- 409CE** Britain is independent.

Big Ideas

Change and continuity:

The Romans brought many wide-reaching changes to Britain. They built over 10,000 miles of roads and built houses, forts and temples from stone rather than wood. Before the Romans arrived, most Britons had lived in the countryside. The Romans also brought bathhouses, central heating, **aqueducts** and better **sanitation**. They also built one of the most famous set of defences in history: **Hadrian's Wall**, built by 15,000 men over 6 years.

Conflict:

It was not easy for the Romans to establish themselves as leaders in Britain at first. Nevertheless, the Roman army was very powerful and despite **resistance** from many British tribes, came to control most of England and Wales by about 100 CE. The most famous **resistance** to Roman rule was led by **Queen Boudicca**, the leader of the Iceni tribe. She led a huge army against the Romans in the cities of Colchester, London and St Albans. Her army was finally defeated by a skilful and well-trained group of 1,200 Roman soldiers who defeated almost 80,000 men.

Power:

Like many **empires**, the Romans were always looking for other regions to conquer. By expanding their territory, they were able to increase the money they received from **taxing** local people. Trade made the Roman empire even more powerful because vast amounts of money was made importing and exporting goods.



Roman Britain 200CE

There are many sites of Roman remains in Britain. Among the most famous are the bathhouses in Bath. Also, there are sites of Roman houses at Chedworth, sections of Hadrian's wall and the remains of around **320 amphitheatres**, such as Caerleon Amphitheatre in Wales.

Vocabulary

- amphitheatre:** an open-air venue for entertainment and sport.
- aqueduct:** a bridge to move water over an obstacle.
- importing:** buying goods from another country.
- empire:** a group of countries ruled by another country or leader.
- exporting:** selling goods to another country.
- hypocaust:** a system of central heating in a building which circulates hot air under the floor.
- resistance:** groups of armed men and women fighting against an occupying force.
- sanitation:** keeping clean, especially through clean water and sewage disposal.
- slave:** an unpaid worker with no freedom, owned by another.
- tax:** money paid by the people to pay for the government's business
- tribe:** a group of people with a common culture and leader

Key Questions:

- Why did the Romans invade Britain?
- How did they establish control?
- What is the legacy of the Roman invasion?

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