

What was the impact of the Roman Empire on Britain?











Key Vocabulary

Roman empire	The name used for land that was controlled by the Romans, including parts of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.
Invasion	Invasion- One country attacking another to take it over.
Legion	One unit of the Roman army; had 4,000 to 6,000 soldiers in. Lead by a centurion.
Emperor	The leader of an empire. Similar to a king or queen
Celts	People living in Britain.
Romans	Romans The Romans invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54 BC.
Iceni	A tribe of Celts who lived in the East of Britain
Calendonia	The name used in Roman times for Scotland
Picts	Tribes from Scotland
Amphitheatre	Where the Romans would go to be entertained
Senate	The Roman government

The Big Picture

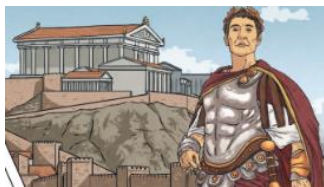
- The Romans lived in Rome, a city in the centre of the country of Italy. Rome started to grow from a small town into a larger and larger city around the year 753B.C. They were one of the most powerful, clever and successful ancient civilizations ever. They ruled over nearly all of Europe and most of North Africa, including Egypt. It is thought that one of the reasons the Romans invaded Britain was to conquer land, gain more slaves and collect the many precious resources in Britain including metals such as lead, tin, gold and silver
- Around 2,000 years ago, Britain was ruled by tribes of people called the Celts. But this was about to change. For around a century, the Roman army had been building an Empire across Europe. Now it was coming for Britain!
- In AD43, the full might of the Roman army landed on the beaches in Kent. Over the next year it battled inland, storming through hillforts and chopping down anyone who stood in their way.
- The Romans wanted Britain's precious metals. However, they weren't just a destructive force - they built new forts, new settlements and roads. They spread their culture, language and laws

Timeline of events

<p>753 BC</p>  <p>The building of Rome begins.</p>	<p>264 BC</p>  <p>The Romans control all of Italy.</p>	<p>146 BC</p>  <p>North Africa, Greece, Spain and France are part of the Roman Empire.</p>	<p>55 BC</p>  <p>Julius Caesar invades Britain but is forced to return to Gaul.</p>	<p>AD 43</p>  <p>The army of Emperor Claudius invades Britain.</p>	<p>AD 60-61</p>  <p>Boudicca leads a rebellion against the Romans.</p>	<p>AD 80</p>  <p>The Colosseum in Rome is opened.</p>	<p>AD 285</p>  <p>The Roman Empire is divided.</p>	<p>AD 313</p>  <p>Christianity is accepted across the Roman Empire.</p>	<p>AD 476</p>  <p>The Roman Empire collapses.</p>
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Key people

Julius Ceaser



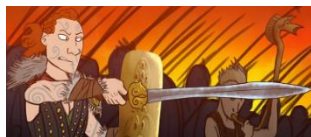
In 55BC, a fleet of ships carrying 20,000 Roman soldiers arrived on the Kent coast. At their head was Julius Caesar, - Rome's greatest general! Waiting for them on the beach were thousands of Celtic warriors. The Romans struggled to land and stormy seas wrecked their ships. Caesar had underestimated the Britons (and their weather) and he was forced to return home. The next year, he was back with 50,000 soldiers. This time the Romans were too strong. They defeated many tribes and marched all the way to the River Thames. After three months of fighting, the Romans left Britain to stop a rebellion in Gau

Claudius

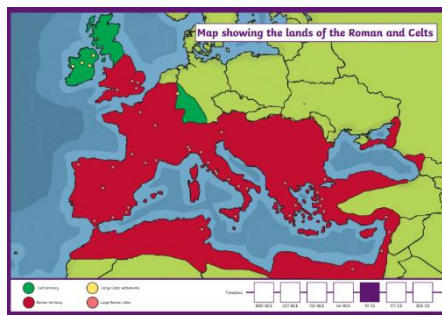


Nearly a hundred years after Julius Caesar first tried to invade Britain, the Emperor Claudius finally succeeded. This time the Romans were here to stay! They brought with them new weapons, like huge catapults called *ballistas*. Claudius himself even turned up with a troop of war elephants to make sure the battle was won. But Britain wasn't conquered overnight. It took around 30 years of fighting for the Romans to control most of southern Britain.

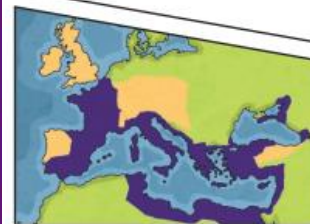
Queen Boudicca



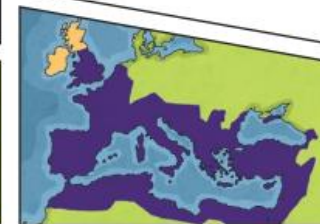
After years of heavy taxes and the Romans taking their land, some Celtic tribes were desperate for revenge. In AD60, one leader who chose to fight was Queen Boudicca of the Iceni tribe. She raised a huge army and went on a rampage, burning the Roman towns of Colchester and London, before heading north to St Albans. When the Roman army heard about this, they turned back from their campaign in Wales to face Boudicca. Even though the Romans were outnumbered by Boudicca's 200,000 warriors, they were better trained and had better armour. Both sides clashed in a fierce battle, but the Romans won.



Map showing the Roman Empire in 44 BC



Map showing the Roman Empire in AD 305



Building and leisure

The Romans built elaborately designed Roman baths where people would go and relax and socialise. Some of these buildings still remain today. The Romans were famous for building long straight roads to transport legions, supplies and trading goods and messages from the emperor.



Religion

In early Roman times, the Roman believed in many different gods and goddesses whom they believed controlled the different aspects of their lives such as time, love and the seas. When Christianity started to get popular, the Romans **banned it**. Christians refused to worship the Roman emperor and anyone who was caught following the new religion could be whipped or even executed. By the beginning of the 4th century, more and more people were following Christianity. In AD313 the Emperor Constantine declared that Christians were free to worship in peace. By 391, Christianity was the official Roman religion, but pagan beliefs were still popular in Britain.