

Keystage history

Knowledge organiser

Roman Britain



Roman Britain

Why this period is important

The arrival of the Romans to Britain and their occupation for over 350 years marks a turning point in the history of Britain. Not only did they transform the landscape they also left written records for the first time in the form of letters and coins and even graffiti. What people remember the Romans for most is the strength of their rule and their advanced lifestyle compared to the Iron age Britons. They introduced organised cities, roads, villas and even public baths connected through impressive system of well engineered roads. The Romans were able to keep control of Britain through use of their disciplined and well organised army which shortly after 410 AD left the Britons to rule themselves. Their legacy is still felt to this day, in the form of the Latin language, buildings, laws etc

Iron age

Romans

Saxons

55 BC

43 AD

61AD

122 AD

410 AD

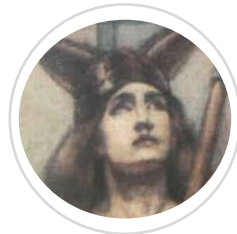
Julius Caesar's army lands and briefly defeats some tribes and then leaves

Claudius invades and stays. Romans begin 367 years of continuous occupation

Queen Boudica of the Iceni leads rebellion against Romans but is defeated

Romans start to build Hadrian's Wall, marking the northern edge of their empire

Roman army leaves Britain



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Books to read

- **What the Romans did for us: Age 7-8**, Alison Hawes
- **Everything: Romans in Britain: March onwards for facts, photos and fun!** (National Geographic Kids)
- **Ancient Rome** (DK Eyewitness)
- **Roman Life in Britain: Band 12/Copper** (Collins Big Cat)
- **See Inside Ancient Rome** (Usborne Flap Book)

Key vocabulary

Conquer/conquest	To take over land belonging to another country
Empire/Emperor	A sovereign ruler of an empire.
Frontier	Area near boundary with another country
Gaul	Name for area we call France
Govern/governor/government	The way the country is ruled
Hypocaust	Central heating system
Invalidate/invasion	When an army or country takes over another country
Legion	Very large group of soldiers
Province	Part of a country brought under control of a government
Raid	When people resist how they are being treated by using force against the ruler
Slave	Person who was owned by and worked for another
Tax/taxes	Money people had to pay to the government each year
Temple	Place of worship
Tribe/tribal	Group of people, often from same family, who live in same place and have the same interests
Trade	Buying and selling goods
Villa	Large country house for the rich, lots of which have survived
Worship/worshipped	To show a strong feeling of respect for a god(s)

Websites

- [English Heritage >>](#)
- [BBC Teach – Class clips 1 >>](#)
- [BBC Teach – Class clips 2 >>](#)
- [British Museum](#)
- [Roman Baths](#)
- [St Albans Museum](#)
- [Schools Learning Zone](#)

Top takeaways

Having studied this topic you should be able to:

- Explain why Claudius invaded Britain when Caesar didn't stay
- Describe how Boudica stood up to the Romans
- Explain why we have different interpretations of Boudica today
- Describe 4 of the most significant changes the Romans made to how people lived, and how we know for sure
- Explain why the Romans were so powerful but then left Britain after nearly 400 years
- Describe the main ways in which the Romans still impact on our lives today, 2000 years later