



History Knowledge Organiser

Autumn Term

Roman Britain

Year 4

Key Knowledge

Learn this information

Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

The Roman Empire

The first Romans lived in Italy nearly 3000 years ago. They founded the city of Rome in 753 BC and, over the centuries, **conquered** many lands to create a huge **empire**. Britain was a province of the Roman Empire from 43BC to 410AD. Before the invasions the tribes of Britain had established links with Europe, but the Roman invaders introduced new developments in agriculture, urbanization, industry and architecture. After initial rebellions from Caratacus and Boudicca. The Romans controlled the lands south of Hadrian's Wall in relative peace. From 400AD, repeated attacks and invasions meant Roman officials left and cities fell into ruins.



Why did the Romans invade Britain?

The Romans wanted Britain's precious metals gold, tin and iron - and its cattle. A number of Roman emperors wanted the glory of conquering Britain and adding it to the empire.

Julius Caesar Invades in 55 BC and 54 BC

The Roman General Julius Caesar made two attempts to **conquer** Britain. He wanted to add the rich land to the **Roman Empire** and punish the **Celts** for helping his enemies. His **legions** weren't able to overcome the **Celts** in 55 BC or 54 BC, but some leaders did pay tributes (a tax) so the Romans would leave. This meant the **Celts** could continue to live as they were.



Emperor Claudius Conquers Britain in AD 43

In AD 43, **Emperor** Claudius launched a third attack on Britain. He sent a powerful and well-organised army of around 40,000 men (that landed in southern England) to **conquer** the **Celtic tribes**. This time, much of Britain (or Britannia as the Romans called it) did become another province of Rome.



Vocabulary	Definition
Celts	People living in Britain in tribes, including the Iceni, Brigantes and Catuvellauni.
citizen	A person with all the rights and protections of a nation or land. In the Roman Empire, only citizens were able to vote.
legion	A large section of the Roman army, made up of around 5000 soldiers.
rebellion	An uprising or revolt by people who want to challenge what they believe is unfair treatment by rulers
Boudicca	The Queen of the Iceni tribe.
Caledonia	The name used for Scotland in Roman times.
Picts	Tribes from Caledonia.
BC (Before Christ)	Relating to any dates before the birth of Jesus. These time periods can also be referred to as BCE, which stands for 'Before the Common Era.'
AD (Anno Domini)	Used for dates AFTER the birth of Jesus. It is a Latin word that means, 'In the year of the Lord.'

Key Knowledge

Learn this information

Boudicca Rebels in AD 60/61

The Romans seized the land and wealth of the Iceni tribe after King Prasutagus died. Queen Boudicca objected and she led a rebellion against the Romans. At first, her army was very successful but in the Battle of Watling Street, the Roman army finally defeated Boudicca and the Celts. Many people were killed in the rebellion.



Hadrian's Wall in AD 122

In AD 122, Emperor Hadrian gave an order to build a wall in the north of the country. Roman legions had tried to conquer Caledonia (Scotland), but the Picts would not give up their lands and they also raided land that the Romans controlled. Hadrian's Wall took around six years to build and it was 73 miles long. Around 15,000 troops lived at Hadrian's Wall so they could defend this northern border of the Roman Empire.

Roman Roads and Towns

The Roman army are famous for building long, straight roads. Special engineers planned these roads and they criss-crossed the whole Roman Empire. They boosted trade, communication with the Emperor and helped the legions to keep control of all the different provinces.

The Romans built new towns all over Britain. Each one had a marketplace, town hall, shops, temples and homes; larger towns had an amphitheatre. Bath houses were elaborately designed and were popular places to relax and meet friends.

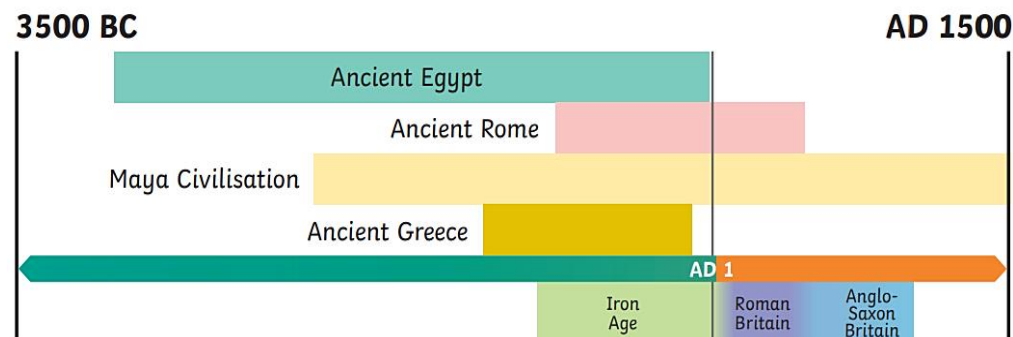
Key Concepts

emperor	The male ruler of an empire.
empire	A group of nations or people ruled over by an Emperor, Empress or government.
Conquer/ conquest	Taking control of a place by force, often with an army.
tribe	A group of people, often related by family, who live together and share the same culture and values.
Agriculture/ farming	It includes both growing and harvesting crops and raising animals, or livestock. It provides the food and many raw materials that humans need to survive.
trade	Buying, selling or exchanging goods or services between two or more groups of people or countries.
Tax (tributes)	Giving money to the rulers of either the country or the local area to help pay for services like road maintenance, defence and building new structures.

Key Events

55BC	Julius Caesar's first invasion attempt.
54BC	Julius Caesar's second invasion attempt.
43AD	Successful invasion ordered by Claudius.
61AD	Iceni revolt led by Boudicca.
122AD	Construction of Hadrian's Wall.
200AD	Introduction of Christianity
408AD	Devastating attacks by Picts, Scots and Saxons.
409AD	Britons expel Roman officials and fight for themselves.
410AD	Britain is independent.
400-500AD	Civil War and famine in Britain. Pict invasions.
c. 480-550AD	Arrival of Anglo-Saxons.

Chronology



What have the Romans done for us?

The Romans changed the British culture, geography and even their way of thinking and had an effect on the British language. The Romans left behind a huge legacy: they brought clean drinking water, a calendar, Roman numerals, laws and an infrastructure of roads and aqueducts. Many types of animals and plants were brought to Britain in Roman times.

