

# YEAR 4: HISTORY: ANCIENT ROMANS INVASION OF BRITAIN

## Key Vocabulary

Romans	People from Italy who invaded and settled in Britain until 410AD
Celts	People who lived in Britain during the Iron Age.
Emperor	The person in charge of an empire.
Invade	To take over or take control of land.
Conquer	To take control using an army.
Rebellion	Going against the wishes of those in control.
Status	Whether somebody is rich or poor.
Ancestors	Relatives.
Legacy	A long lasting impact
Century	80 Roman soldiers controlled by a Centurion.

## The Roman Empire:

The Romans arrived in Britain under the rule of **Emperor** Claudius in 43CE. Claudius helped bring peace to Rome and restore Roman rule. One of his biggest achievements was **invading** Britain. The Roman Empire was the largest empire in the ancient world and their powerful army helped them to **conquer** the majority of Europe, parts of North Africa and parts of Western Asia.



## Invasion of Britain:

In AD 43, **Emperor** Claudius sent a huge army across the sea to take over the land of Britain. The **Roman** soldiers wore shiny armour and marched in straight lines with their shields held high. They landed in Kent and quickly started to fight the British tribes.

The Romans wanted Britain's gold, tin and farmland. They also wanted to show how powerful they were. Some tribes tried to fight back, but the Roman army was strong and well-trained. Soon, towns, roads and forts were built. The Roman rule began across Britain.

## Boudicca and the Iceni:

The Iceni were a Celtic tribe that lived in a region of Britain now known as East Anglia. Prasutagus (Boudicca's husband) was the leader of this tribe and he made a deal with the Romans that he could continue as ruler of the Iceni. When he died, the Romans turned on the Iceni. They stole from them and captured them as slaves.

Boudicca started a **rebellion** against the Romans. She marched her Iceni tribe on Colchester, London and St Albans to battle the Romans. The Roman Army defeated the Iceni despite being outnumbered.

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## Roman Roads:

When the Romans arrived in Britain, the Celtic dirt tracks were in poor condition. The Romans needed better roads to move soldiers, goods, messages and supplies quicker.

1. Dig a ditch 2. Fill ditch with stones 3. Dig two smaller ditches each side 4. Cover stones with sand with a hump in the middle for drainage 5. Finish with a layer of paving stones

## Life in Roman Britain:

Life in Roman Britain was very different from before the Romans came. People lived in stone houses with tiled roofs instead of small huts. Some rich Romans had underfloor heating and even their own baths at home! Towns were busy with markets, shops, and temples. Roman roads made it easier to travel and trade. Many people wore togas or tunics and ate foods like bread, olives, and meats. Some British people worked on farms, while others became soldiers or builders. Life could be hard, but the Romans brought new ideas, buildings and ways of living that changed Britain forever.

## Sanitation and Aqueducts:

The Romans were very clever at building things to keep people clean and healthy. They made **aqueducts**, which were long stone channels that carried fresh water from the mountains into towns and cities. This water was used for drinking, cooking, and washing.

The Romans also built **public baths**, where people could go to wash, relax, and meet their friends. These baths had hot and cold rooms, and even steam! To keep the towns clean, the Romans made **drainage systems** to carry dirty water and waste away.

Their smart ideas about water and cleanliness helped people live better lives.

## Legacy:

The Romans left behind many things that we still see in Britain today.

They built strong, straight roads, some of which are still used now. They also built towns with stone buildings, shops, and public baths.

The Romans brought new ideas like writing in Latin, using coins, and living in houses with underfloor heating! They also helped spread Christianity. Even after the Romans left, their way of building, living and thinking stayed in Britain for a long time.

Their legacy is still part of our lives today.

## Roman Rulers:

Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus (Mars, God of War's sons) who were abandoned as babies and raised by a wolf. Rome was first ruled by Roman kings, then by the Roman republic, then by Roman emperors.

Caesar (49-44BCE)

Augustus (31BCE-14CE)

Caligula (37-41CE)

Claudius (41-54CE)

Nero (54-68CE)

Hadrian (117-138CE)

