

Building on Knowledge and Skills

Just like the Greeks, evidence of the Romans is all around us, for example if you were to look at the edge of a £1 coin, you would see a phrase in Latin, the language of the Romans. The Romans introduced many things to Britain which are still important to us today. In maths in Year 4, you will learn about Roman numerals and the Roman calendar we use today. When studying Ancient Greece, you will have learned that many words that you will say, read and write originate from other times in history. Some of our place names come from Roman times, such as London, which was called Londinium by the Romans. The Greeks worshipped many gods, and so did the Romans, who had lots of different gods and goddesses. There were gods for almost everything, like thunder, love, war, wisdom and even the sewer in Rome. The Anglo-Saxons were the next people to rule Britain, who you will learn about in Upper Key Stage 2. The Romans eventually conquered the Greeks.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- BBC Bitesize – [Class Clips](#)
- Meet the Ancient Romans - James Davies
- DK Eyewitness – Ancient Rome
- What the Romans did for us – Alison Hawes
- Look Inside: Roman Town – Conrad Mason

Suggested family experience:

- Visit a Roman Bathhouse. Bath has a preserved Roman bathhouse, click [here](#) link to find out more.
- Visit Chester, which has the largest amphitheatre in the world and the city is has lots of evidence of Roman architecture. Click [here](#) to find out more.

National Curriculum:

The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain, this could include: Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BC. The Roman Empire by AD42 and the power of its army. Successful invasion by Claudius and conquest, including Hadrian's Wall. British resistance, for example Boudica. Romanisation of Britain – impact of technology, culture, including early Christianity.

Local History Links:

Wychbury Ring is on the border of Halesowen and Hagley. Roman coins and masonry have been found nearby, suggesting it was the place of a Roman Villa.



Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
architects	People who design buildings
civil war	A war between people in a country
dictator	A ruler with total power of a country
emperor	Person who rules an empire
empire	Group of people with one ruler
fort	A building used to protect an area
military	Soldiers and armed forces from a country
multicultural	When several cultures are part of a society
resistance	Fighting back against attackers
sanitation	Keeping places clean with a sewage system and clean water supply
taxes	A way that rulers can collect money from its people to pay for things that the people need, like schools, armies and roads
territory	Land controlled by a ruler
treaty	A written agreement
turmoil	A state of confusion and uncertainty

Quick Summary

The story of how a small village grew to become one of the largest empires the world has ever seen stretches over centuries. At its most powerful, the Roman Empire spread across Europe, parts of North Africa and the Middle East. Its army was one of the most organised and skilful ever created. Romans took their technology, art and beliefs with them and had a significant effect on the culture and society of every land they conquered. However, the Romans faced struggles at home, with civil war and political turmoil. By the end of the fifth century, they had been attacked on several different frontiers and were finding it difficult to hold their vast empire together. As a consequence, the Western Roman Empire finally came to an end in 476 CE.

Main events

- 753 BCE: Founding of Rome
- 575 BCE: Rome ruled by kings
- 509 BCE: Rome became a republic
- 55 BCE: Caesar tries to invade Britain and fails
- 27 BCE: Augustus became Emperor and leader of the Empire
- 43 CE: Emperor Claudius invades Britain
- c.380 CE: Christianity becomes official religion of Roman Empire.
- 476 CE: Fall of Rome

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Where in the world was the Roman Empire?

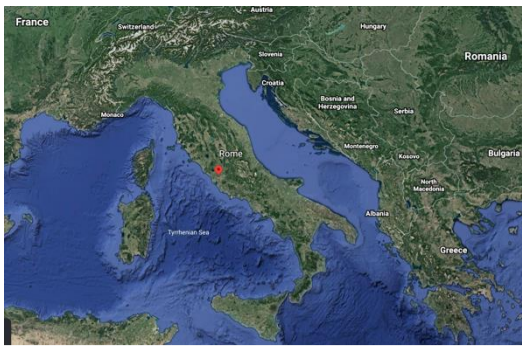
How did the culture or beliefs of the Romans impact on Britain?

Describe the attempts by the Romans to invade Britain and how they were resisted.

What impact did the Romans have on Britain?

What evidence is there of this that remains today?

Who Were The Romans?

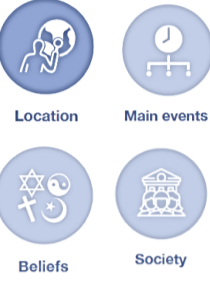


Myths (stories told to explain customs and beliefs) were a significant part of Roman life. There is even a myth to explain how the city of Rome was founded. It tells the tale of two brothers Romulus and Remus.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out about the story and what life was like in ancient Rome.



The Romans had many rulers, we will learn about Julius Caesar, who tried to invade Britain.



Rome is the capital city of modern-day Italy, 2,000 years ago, it was the city at the centre of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire is the name used for the land that was controlled by the Romans. This includes parts of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Click on the map above to use Google Earth to see Rome's modern-day location.

Like many empires, the Romans were always looking for other regions to conquer. The Romans invented new ways of fighting and were always looking to improve their military. As a consequence, they won more and more territory and set their sights beyond Italy. At its peak the Romans ruled over 45 million people.

Why Were They So Powerful?

Ancient Rome's success depended on its ability to win battles against invaders and neighbouring armies.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out more about the Roman army.

By expanding their territory, they were able to increase the money they received from tributes (taxes). Military power also meant the Romans controlled the significant, valuable trade routes that ran across and around the Mediterranean Sea. Having a reliable and capable army was important when building an empire, but it was trade (exchanging, buying and selling goods) that made the Roman Empire powerful and prosperous, vast amounts of money were made importing and exporting goods.



The early Romans also made treaties (agreements) with neighbours and other city-states until, with their powerful, well trained army, they became the undisputed rulers of Italy.



The Romans were a group of people who were named after the important city of Rome. However, many soldiers fighting in the Roman army did not come from Rome itself. Instead, they came from one of the many countries which were part of the Roman Empire. The Roman army became multicultural.

Click [here](#) to find out more about life as a Roman soldier.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out who fought in the Roman army.

Roman Britain

The Romans attempted to invade Britain 3 times. Click [here](#) to find out more.



(1) Led by the famous military commander Julius Caesar, the Roman army first tried to invade Britain in 55 and 54 BCE. The attempt in 55 BCE failed because of bad weather.

(2) A year later the Romans had some success, but only conquered the southern Celtic tribes. They collected tributes (taxes) but made no major attempts to expand their territories.

(3) The Romans were back almost 100 years later in 43 CE under the command of Emperor Claudius. Claudius brought a much larger army which landed in Kent, on the south coast of England. 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. Following the successful conquest of much of Britain, the Romans stayed in Britain until 410 CE.



Boudicca

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. One of the most famous rebellions of this time 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.



The Romans built one of the most famous set of defences in history: Hadrian's Wall. In 122CE Emperor Hadrian, ordered a great wall, made up of 15 forts, to be built to separate Roman Britain from Scotland. The remains of many of these forts can still be seen today.

Roman Impact on Britain

In AD410, the Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote, "fight bravely and defend your lives . . . you are on your own now". The city of Rome was under attack and the empire was falling apart, so the Romans had to leave to take care of matters back home. After they left, the country fell into chaos. Native tribes and foreign invaders battled for power. Many of the Roman towns crumbled away as people went to living back in the countryside.

Britain had no proper roads before the Romans — they were just muddy tracks. So, the Romans built new roads all across the landscape. Some Roman roads have been converted into motorways and main roads that we still use today.



Click [here](#) to find out more about Roman roads or scan the QR code.



Even after they were gone, the Romans left their mark all over the country. They gave us new towns, plants, animals, a new religion, the census a calendar, laws and the legal system and ways of reading and counting. Even the word 'Britain' comes from the Romans.



Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write in Britain. Instead, information was passed on from person to person by word of mouth. The Romans wrote down their history, literature and laws. Their language was Latin, and people in Britain began using it too. Some words and phrases we use today came from Latin, e.g. 'exit' means 'he or she goes out' and 'pedestrian' which means 'going on foot'.

The Romans also took their culture, traditions and beliefs to Britain too. As the Roman Empire expanded, it encountered new religious customs and traditions. Having been influenced by the Ancient Greeks, the Romans were usually comfortable with people holding other beliefs. However, they felt it was important that people acknowledged Roman beliefs too. When Christians refused to worship Roman gods, they were persecuted. The Romans later adopted Christianity, and it became the Empire's official religion.

The Romans brought significant 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, sanitation.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see the new ideas and ways of living the Romans brought to Britain.

Click [here](#) and [here](#) to see what the Romans did for us in Britain and what they invented or scan the QR codes.



Remains of mosaics, pottery, jewellery and coins help to explain the structure of society and give details of the beliefs of the early Romans. Thanks to the engineering and architectural skills of the Romans, ancient buildings which were built thousands of years ago from concrete, are a significant source of historical evidence that survive to this day.

