



Who were the Romans? How did they progress British civilisation?

Background Information

Roman Britain was a province of the Roman Empire from 43BC to 409AD. Before the invasions the tribes of Britain had already established cultural and economic links with continental Europe, but the Roman invaders introduced new developments in agriculture, urbanisation, industry, and architecture. After the initial rebellions of Caratacus and Boudicca, the Romans controlled the lands south of Hadrian's wall in relative peace & a distinctively Romano British culture developed. From 400 Britain suffered repeated attacks from barbarian invasions and in c. 409 Roman officials departed. Over the next 150 years most of the Roman cities fell into ruins, nevertheless, the legacy of Roman rule was felt for many centuries.

In this unit the children will:

- Learn about the Roman ruling system and the expansion of the Roman empire.
- The rise of the Roman Empire and what life was like in the Roman army.
- To understand why Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55BC.
- To explore and design Roman Mosaics.
- To explore the Roman heating system and how it was created.



The Roman Empire at its largest

Historical Skills and Concepts:

- Chronology – key events in world history.
- Questioning – develop their historical questioning skills.
- Sources – use a range of sources to explore our knowledge of the past.
- -Debate – listen and discuss the pros and cons of the Roman empire.



Julius Caesar
Born 100Bc – Died 44BC

Timeline of Key Events:

753BC – The city of Rome is founded.
509BC- Rome became a Republic.
73BC – Spartacus the gladiator leads the slaves in an uprising.
45BC – Julius Caesar becomes the first dictator of Rome.
44BC – Julius Caesar is assassinated.
26BC – The Roman empire begins as Caesar Augustus becomes the first Roman Emperor.
64AD- Much of Rome burns.
80AD- The colosseum is built and is one of the greatest examples of Roman engineering.
121AD – The Hadrian wall is built to keep out the barbarians.
395AD – Rome splits into two empires.
476AD – The end of the Western Roman Empire and the fall of Ancient Rome. The last Roman emperor Romulus Augustus is defeated and it signals the start of the dark ages for Europe.

Key People:

Augustus – The first Emperor of Rome. He ruled 27BC-AD14.
Constantine – The first Roman Emperor to become a Christian. He ruled AD 306-337.
Julius Caesar – The emperor who invaded Britain in 55BC.
Romulus and Remus – The founders of Rome
Boudicca – Queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe who led an uprising against the occupying forces of Rome.
Hercules – A legendary hero of great strength. He became a God after his death.
Juno – The wife of Jupiter the Romans' chief god.
Jupiter – The Romans' chief god, he ruled over all the other gods.



Key facts:

- 1) Rome was founded in 753BC by its first king, Romulus. It grew into a rich and powerful city during the next few hundred years.
- 2) By AD 117 the Roman Empire included the whole of Italy, all the lands around the Mediterranean and much of Europe, including England, Wales and parts of Scotland.
- 3) Roman legend says that Romulus had a twin brother called Remus. As babies they were abandoned in the area which later became Rome. A she-wolf found and raised them, but when they grew up, Romulus fought and killed Remus and became the first ruler of Rome!
- 4) The Romans built such a huge empire and conquered new lands, thanks to their strong army. The Roman army could march up to 40km a day!
- 5) During battle, a Roman soldier or 'legionary' first hurled his spear at the enemy, then he fought him with his sword. To protect himself, he carried a wooden shield and wore a metal helmet and armour.
- 6) The Romans did not spend all their time fighting – they were amazing architects and engineers too! They built roads and walls – things we now take for granted.
- 7) To bring water to their cities, the clever Romans built aqueducts – a system of channels and bridges – to transport water for public baths and toilets!
- 8) The Romans liked to enjoy their food, often lying down on a couch while eating with their hands. They occasionally used a spoon, but they would never use a knife and fork. Rich Romans liked to eat exotic food, such as stork, roast parrot and even flamingo!
- 9) The Romans believed in gods and goddesses who ruled over different areas of life. For example, Neptune was the god of the ocean, and they prayed to him to protect them at sea. Temples were built to honour the gods, and people would visit them with offerings.

Key Vocabulary:

Amphitheatre – A large, open-air arena, usually circular.

Aqueducts – Raised channels carrying fresh water over long distances.

Barbarian – A word used by the Romans to describe the less civilised people who lived outside their empire.

Cavalry – Soldiers who fought on horseback.

Colosseum – A famous Amphitheatre in Rome. It could seat as many as 75000 people.

Consul – The most senior government officer in the Roman Republic. Two were elected each year. They lost powers under the emperor.

Legion – Division of the Roman army.

Emperor – A king like ruler who held supreme powers in the Roman State.

Transferable vocabulary and concepts:

- Invader – A person or group that invades a county, region or other place.
- Rebellion – The act of armed resistance to an established government or leader.
- Soldier – A person who serves in an army.
- Siege – A military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies with the aim of compelling them to surrender.
- Battle – A sustained fight between large organised armed forces.
- Gladiator – A slave specifically trained to fight in the Amphitheatres.