

WHAT DID THE ROMANS CHANGE BRITAIN?

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

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.



Emperor Claudius Conquers Britain in AD 43

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.



Lorica Segmentata (Armor)

Focale (scarf)

Cassis or Galea (helmet)

Scutum (shield)

Balteus (belt)

Tunica (tunic)

Baltea (Dangly straps)

Caligae (army sandals)



Julius Caesar Invades in 55 BC and 54 BC

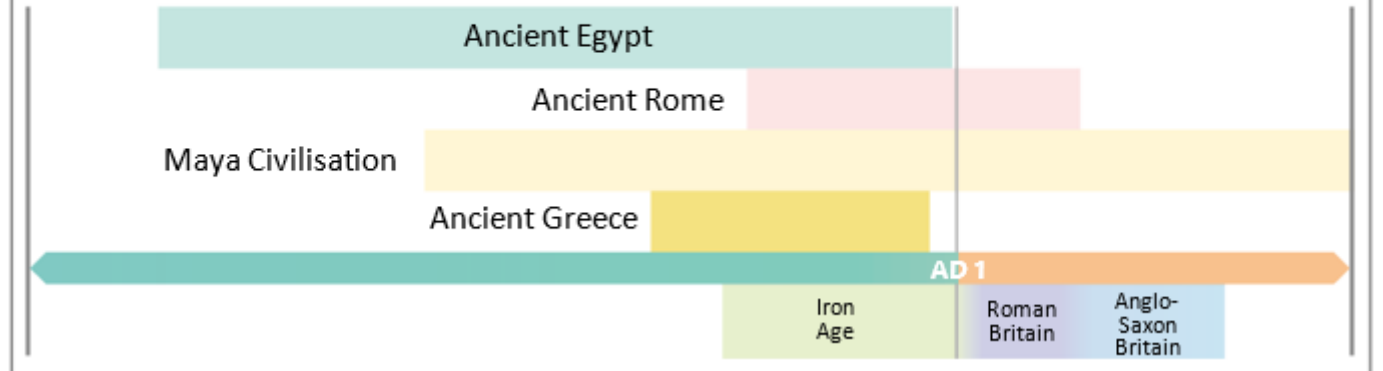
In AD 43, Emperor Claudius launched a third attack on Britain. He sent a powerful and well-organised army of around 40,000 men (that landed in southern England) to conquer the Celtic tribes. This time, much of Britain (or Britannia as the Romans called it) did become another province of Rome.



Timeline

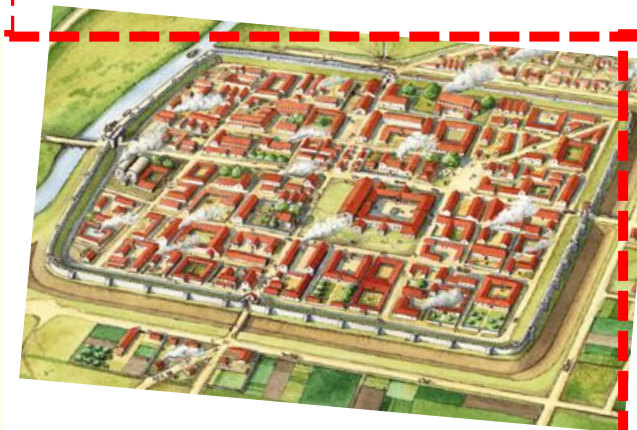
3500 BC

AD 1500



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

Roman Roads



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

The Roman army was highly successful in defeating the Celts due to their superior organisation, discipline, and advanced tactics. Roman soldiers worked together in well-trained units, using strong armour, shields, and effective weapons like swords and javelins. Unlike the Celts, who often fought individually, the Romans coordinated their attacks with carefully planned strategies. They also built forts, roads, and supply lines to support their armies over long campaigns. In addition, the Romans were skilled at forming alliances with different Celtic tribes, weakening their enemies through diplomacy as well as battle. This combination of military strength and strategic planning gave the Romans a major advantage.

Key Vocabulary			
amphitheatre	An open circular or oval building with a central space for events, such as gladiator fights, surrounded by tiers of seats.	fort	A military building used by the Romans for defense and shelter.
auxiliaries	Non-Roman troops recruited to fight for the Roman army.	invasion	The act of entering another country by force, like the Roman invasion of Britain in 43 AD.
basilica	A large public building used for meetings and legal matters in Roman towns.	Latin	The language of the Romans, spoken across the Roman Empire.
bathhouse	A public facility where Romans bathed, socialized, and relaxed.	legend	A traditional story that blends history and mythology, often involving heroes or gods. These stories explain significant events, such as the founding of Rome, or convey moral lessons and cultural values.
centuria	A military unit of about 80 soldiers, led by a centurion.	legion	A unit of the Roman army consisting of around 5,000 soldiers.
Centurion	An officer in charge of 100 soldiers in the Roman army.	mosaic	A picture or pattern made from small pieces of colored stone or glass, often used to decorate Roman floors and walls.
chariot	A two-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses, often used in Roman racing and warfare.	palisade	A fence of wooden stakes or iron that surrounded Roman forts for defense.
Colosseum	The large amphitheater in Rome where gladiator contests were held.	Romanisation	The spread of Roman culture, language, and infrastructure in conquered territories.
conquer	Conquer is a verb meaning the act of taking control of a place or people through force. Example: "The Romans sought to conquer new lands."	senate	The assembly or council of the Roman government.
conquest	Conquest is a noun that refers to the result or process of having taken control of something through force. Example: "The Roman conquest of Britain took place in AD 43."	toga	A distinctive garment worn by Roman citizens as a symbol of status.
empire	A group of countries or regions ruled by a single leader or government, such as the Roman Empire.	tunic	A garment worn by men and women in ancient Rome.
forum	A public square or marketplace used for political and economic matters in Roman towns.	