



Year 4: Roman Empire and its impact on Britain



54 B.C.	AD 43	AD 61	AD 122	AD 200	AD 410
Julius Caesar attempts to invade Britain	Invasion ordered by Claudius is successful	Iceni revolt led by Boudicca in Britain	Hadrian's Wall built to separate Scotland and England	Christianity introduced	Romans leave Britain

Key Vocabulary	
aqueduct	Long stone waterways that delivered fresh water to cities, flowing into a holding tank (castellum).
amphitheatre	An open air venue used for entertainment, performances and sports. E.g The Colosseum
bath house	Using a central heating system, the Romans would create public bathing areas using terracotta bricks.
centurion	An officer of the Roman army who led 60 – 100 soldiers.
empire	a group of territories ruled by one single ruler or state
emperor	a man who rules an empire or is the head of state in an empire
rebellion	When people refuse to follow orders.
artefact	Anything made, used or modified by humans, often used to learn about the past.
invasion	Entering a place to take control of it
legacy	Something that is handed down from one period of time to another.
Christianity	Religion of the Romans
Rome	In the course of centuries Rome grew from a small town on the Tiber River in central Italy into a vast empire
republic	form of government in which a state is ruled by representatives of the citizen body
conquer	overcome and take control of (a place or people) by military force

Who were they?
The Romans lived in Rome, a city on the centre of Italy. They put together an army to take over new land and they were successful. The Roman Empire covered much of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Why did Romans invade Britain?
The emperors were keen to extend their empire and therefore their power (and ability to collect more taxes). They wanted control of the land to access natural resources in the ground. Britain had many, including iron, lead, zinc, copper and silver.

Why did the Romans leave Britain?
Their homes in Italy were being attacked by fierce tribes and every soldier was needed.

Julius Caesar – A famous Roman leader. Other leaders after him called themselves Caesar.

Claudius Caesar – The fourth Roman emperor.

Boudicca – A Celtic Queen who led the rebellion against the Romans.

What did Romans introduce to Britain? What is their legacy?

The Calendar
Did you know that the calendar we use today is more than 2,000 years old? It was started by Julius Caesar, a Roman ruler. It is based on the movement of the earth around the sun, and so is called the 'solar calendar.' The solar calendar has 365 days a year, and 366 days every leap year, or every fourth year. The names of our months are taken from the names of Roman gods and rulers. The month 'July,' in fact, is named after Julius Caesar himself!

The Census
The Roman Empire was huge and included millions of people living over a large area. How did they keep track of all these people? Easy! They counted them! The Roman Empire began the practice of taking a census, or a 'count,' of all the people within its boundaries every so often. Today, many countries like ours take a census every 10 years.

Language
The language we use today was developed from the Romans. The Romans spoke and wrote in Latin and many of our words are based on Latin words.

Laws and a legal system
The laws and ways we determine what to do with someone who is accused of breaking a law came originally from the Roman Empire.

The Romans also gave us:
Straight roads, central heating, sewers, concrete, aqueducts (bridges for water).

Did you know? Coins were used to trade but were also ways for the emperor to tell people about the great things they did (or wanted people to think they did). Coins could be minted that showed pictures of them with their name or other words and symbols on it.