

## Curriculum Intent:

**History** Children will gain clear knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world, exploring significant events in history as well as acknowledging how these have impacted on society today.



Subject	Term	Unit	Year
History	Spring 2	The Romans	Year 4

Prior knowledge Building on knowledge and skills	National Curriculum Focus
<p>Y3 Stone Age to Iron Age changes in Britain over this time and how archaeologists and historians consider evidence to determine what life was like prehistory.</p> <p>Y3 How the Ancient Greeks lived what they achieved and how it influences life today.</p> <p>Y4 Autumn Term .The achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilisation appeared and a depth study of Ancient Egypt and The Mayans.</p>	<p>Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study.</p> <p>The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain</p>

<b>What?</b>	<b>An understanding of what the Roman Empire was and why Britain became part of it . To discover the impact the Roman invasion and occupation had on Britain and our lives today . To know why the Romans left Britain.</b>
<b>Why?</b>	Our lives today are impacted by the Roman occupation of Britain . The Place names, city plans, Roman remains , Roads and knowledge of road building ,house building and civil engineering , number systems and calendar.
<b>How?</b>	Through eye witness records, and drama, a visit and guided tour of Wroxeter a Roman city , film footage of enactments of Roman information and books.

## Key vocabulary

archaeologist	Someone who studies history by excavating sites and analysing artefacts and remains.	<b>Invade</b>	To go to a country and try to take it over using force The Roman Empire was created by invading most of Europe.
<b>Legion</b>	A group of around 5,000 soldiers in the Roman army. Three legions stayed in Britannia after it was conquered	<b>Convert</b>	To change your religious beliefs. Many Romans converted to Christianity during the 4th century
<b>Democracy</b>	A system where many people decide the law. This was the job of the Senate in the Roman Empire.	<b>Centurion</b>	A centurion is a soldier in the Roman army responsible for command of a century or 100 men.
<b>Rebellion</b>	To fight against the rules of somebody in charge. Boudicca rebelled against the Romans by burning down three cities.	<b>Boudicca</b>	British queen of the Iceni tribe
<b>Empire</b>	A group of countries controlled by one person.	<b>Emperors</b>	The person who were in charge of the Roman Empire
tribe	A group of people who share the same culture and values.	Roman Empire	The name used for the land that was controlled by the Romans, including large parts of Europe plus parts of North Africa and West Asia.
emperor	The ruler of an empire.	rebellion	An uprising or revolt by people who want to challenge what they

			believe is unfair treatment by rulers.
conquest	Taking control of a place by force, often with an army.		

**Key Questions: End of unit quiz.**

1. When did the Romans invaded Britain?
2. How did you become a Roman legion?
3. Why was Boudicca an important figure in The Roman period?
4. What would you see in a Roman town?
5. How and where did the Romans build roads and fortifications?
6. How have the Roman number system and calendar affected life today in Britain?
7. Why did the Roman's leave Britain and what impact does their stay in Britain affect our lives today?

**Key learning**

Objective	Learning
<p>Can I explain Who were the Romans were and why they wanted to invade Britain?</p>	<p>Investigate the chronology of the Roman Empire and their time in Britain compared to the other ancient civilizations studied in years 3 and 4.</p> <div data-bbox="427 1406 1401 1776" data-label="Figure"> <p>The diagram is a horizontal timeline with several key dates and events marked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>753 BC:</b> Rome begins</li> <li><b>27 BC:</b> Roman Empire</li> <li><b>AD 476:</b> Roman Empire collapses</li> <li><b>c. 2400 BC:</b> Bronze Age Britain</li> <li><b>c. 800 BC:</b> Iron Age Britain</li> <li><b>AD 43:</b> Roman Britain</li> <li><b>AD 410:</b> Romans leave Britain</li> <li><b>c. 800,000 BC - c. 2400 BC:</b> Stone Age</li> </ul> </div> <p>Visit the school time line .Note that Britain was not in the Roman Empire for its whole duration as an Empire. The Empire collapsed soon after the Romans departed Britain.</p>

### Invasion 1 and 2.

Julius Caesar Invades in 55 BC and 54 BC.

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.

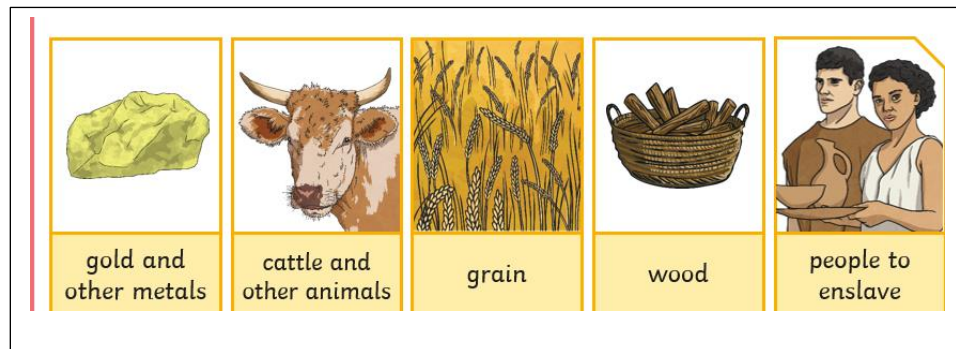
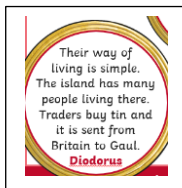
### Invasion 3

Emperor Claudius Conquers Britain in AD 43

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.

Why did the Romans invade Britain?

Use Roman resources to uncover this .



The success of the Roman army was the main reason why the Roman Empire grew and became successful. It was organised and the soldiers were highly trained.

Can I explain  
How the  
Roman army  
was  
organised?

**In the beginning, the soldiers were the better-off citizens who were sent home at the end of the war.  
As the army grew bigger, it had to fight further away from home. Being a soldier became a full-time job, where the soldiers were highly trained and tough. They were no longer sent home at the end of a battle.**

**Roman soldiers were grouped into larger numbers called legions. There were about 30 of these at different times.**

**Legions were divided into 10 cohorts of 480 men.**

**Cohorts were divided into 6 centuries of about 80 men led by a centurion.**

**Centuries were divided into 10 groups of 8 men who shared a tent or barrack room.**

### **How Did You Become a Legionary?**

The legions were made up of recommended Roman citizens. Recruits had to be 25 and in the army for at least 20 years. Legionaries were not allowed to be married whilst they were in the army.

### **What If You Were Not a Roman Citizen?**

Soldiers could join as an auxiliary. Auxiliaries often had special skills such as horse riding and archery. The auxiliary soldiers would receive citizenship when they retired.



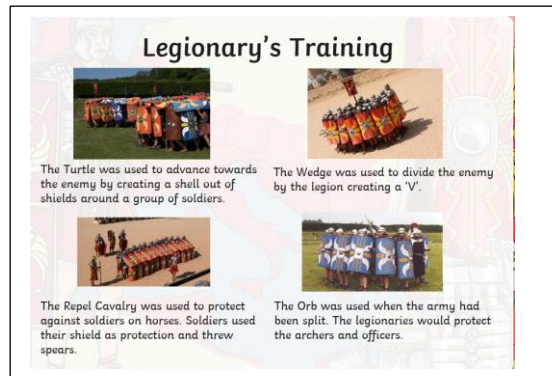
### **Training**

Learn to build camps, swim, sling stones, ride horses, mount and dismount horses fully armed with his shield and no stirrups.

Do a drill once a day, twice if he was a recruit.

March 30km, three times a month, wearing his armour which weighed 20kg.

Learn how to use a sword, spear and fight mock battles with weapons which had covered tips for safety.



### **Punishments and rewards**

Discipline was very harsh. Soldiers were beaten if they did not follow orders.

Deserters and soldiers who left their post or fell asleep whilst on look-out were beaten to death by their fellow soldiers.

On a more positive note, there were awards for bravery for different ranks, such as medals, arm and neck bands. Gold crowns and silver spears were given to officers.

Can I explain  
Who was  
Boudicca and  
what did she  
do?

Boudicca was the wife of Prasutagus, the ruler of a Celtic tribe called the Iceni.

The Iceni lived in a region of Britain that is now called East Anglia.

When Romans settled in the South of England in 43 AD they made an agreement with Prasutagus so that he would be able to continue as ruler of the Iceni.

When Prasutagus died, the Romans turned on the Iceni. They stole from the Iceni tribesmen, made people slaves and they had Boudicca whipped.

In about 60 AD, the Roman governor was sent to North Wales to lead an army. While he was away Boudicca led an attack against the tribe's Roman rulers with several other tribes.

Her army was called the Britons.

They managed to destroy Camulodunum (Colchester), the capital of Roman Britain and defeated the Roman IX legion.

Hearing the news, the Roman governor rushed back from Wales.

He tried to evacuate Londinium (London) as he guessed

this would be the Britons next target.  
Boudicca and her army destroyed Londinium and Verulamium (St Albans).  
People believe that over 70,000 people were killed in the attacks by the Britons.  
The Roman army regrouped in the Midlands and finally defeated the Britons in the battle of Watling Street.  
No one knows what really happened to Boudicca. Some say she killed herself when she knew the Romans had defeated her, others say she fell ill and died.  
“I was whipped by the Romans when they tried to take our lands and now I am fighting for my freedom. Think how many of us are fighting and why. We must win this battle or die. Let the men live as slaves if they want. I will not.”  
**Boudicca’s last speech, as recorded by Dio Cassius**  
Boudicca is a heroine because she achieved a lot and fought for her country, for her people and for herself. Although she lost the final battle, she never let the Romans conquer her.

Can I explain how Roman towns were organised in Britain and what were their houses like ?

**The Romans built lots of cities that were well fortified with city walls. They also introduced lots of luxuries into civilisation, such as public baths, roads and even plumbing!**  
**As a Roman, the type of house you would live in would depend on whether you were rich or poor and whether you lived in the town or the country.**

Lots of Roman towns ended in -um. Today many have -ester at the end.  
Roman towns were built in a very organised way. They were bustling centres of trade with shops and markets selling a range of goods. Wealthy citizens would live in grand town houses built around a courtyard. Less well off citizens would live in small often cramped houses or blocks of apartments.

Most towns would also have :

Forums – The towns main square and meeting place with shops all around.

Basilica-A place where the town council met on one side of the forum.

Baths-A public bath house with pools for bathing, exercising and socialising.

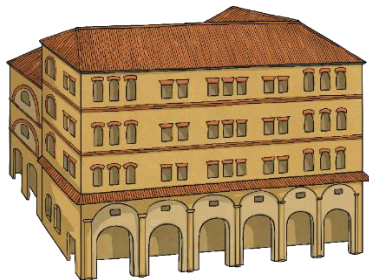
Amphitheatre -An open air arena for entertainment often outside the city walls.

Poor Romans in the countryside lived in small villages of wooden huts with thatched roofs.



Each hut would be very small, usually only having one room with a fire in the centre. This fire would be used for light, heat and for cooking. The floor would have been covered with animal skins and there would be simple furniture, such as benches for beds.

Poor Romans in towns and cities lived in Insulae.

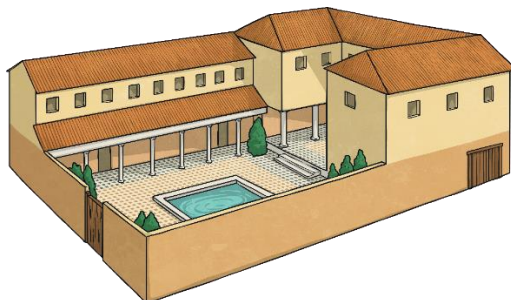


These were like apartment blocks built of wood, mud bricks and, later on, concrete.

They were usually six to eight three-storey buildings grouped around a central courtyard.

They were very poorly built, often dirty and noisy; however, they did have running water!

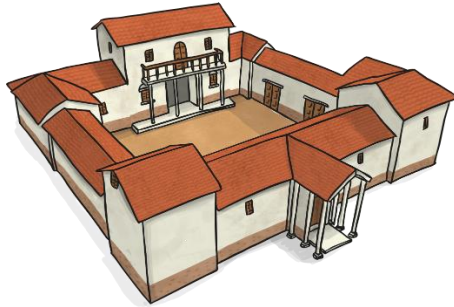
A domus was a type of house in the city in which a rich Roman would have lived.



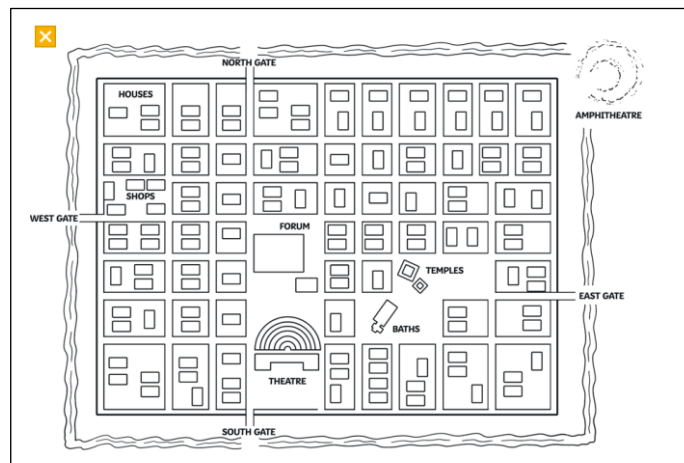
A domus was a very grand single-storey building, often with marble pillars, statues and mosaics on walls and floors.

They would have had multiple rooms, including bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, courtyards, gardens and places to relax and entertain guests.

A Roman villa was a luxurious estate for rich Romans in the countryside.



They were much larger and more comfortable than a domus and had even more rooms, including servants quarters and exercise rooms. Some villas even had underfloor heating! A hypocaust was a system which pumped hot air from a fire around a system of tunnels underneath the villa's main floor.



Can I use evidence of a Roman town Wroxeter to find out more how Romans lived in a town ?

Trip to English heritage “Wroxeter Roman city”  
Guided tour , and mosaic work shop.

Can I explain where the

**Being conquered by the Romans brought many changes to life and culture in Britain. This included the development of a network of roads to join the main towns they built.**

## Romans built roads and fortifications?

Before the Romans arrived, Britain had very few proper roads. People walked, rode horses or travelled in carts pulled by oxen along dirt paths and tracks. They also used the sea to move goods around.

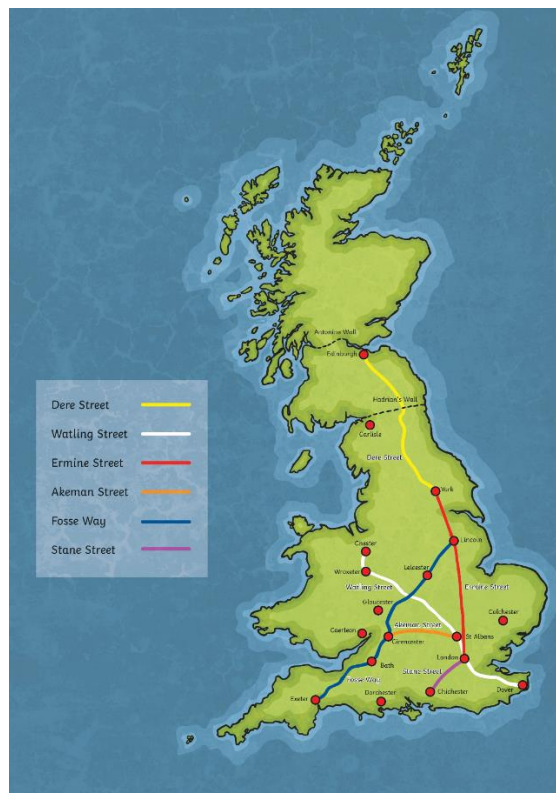
In Celtic Britain, there were no towns, only villages or small groups of houses called hamlets. Some tribes lived in hillforts for security but most Celts lived in roundhouses in the vast, open countryside of Britain. They worked the land while others mined, traded

or crafted natural resources such as gold, tin and lead.

Roads were built :

Troops could be moved quickly between one place and another. Supplies and trade goods could be sent to different areas of the country more easily.

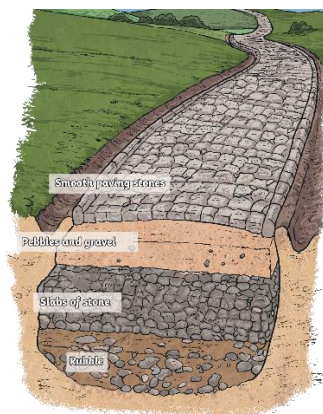
The emperor had more control if messages could be sent quickly.



The Roman network of roads covered almost the entire length and breadth of Britain. The Fosse Way was one of the great Roman roads. It ran from Exeter in the South West to Lincoln in the East Midlands, passing through Bath, Gloucester and Leicester.

Eventually, around 2000 miles of Roman road ways were constructed.

Roman soldiers were responsible for building these new roads. The military had trained experts and they used special equipment like the **groma** to prepare the route before construction.



Fortifications

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zftyhcw#zxt996f>

Can I explain why Roman's left Britain and what the impact they had on Britain today?

Britain stayed part of the empire until AD 410. It was occupied by the Romans 43AD to 410 AD .

Why did the Romans leave Britain?

1. The size of the Roman Empire meant it became very difficult for the Romans to keep it all under control. • In AD 285, to make it easier to manage, Emperor Diocletian decided to split the empire into two. • The Western Roman Empire was controlled by the city of Rome and the Eastern Roman Empire was controlled by the city of Constantinople (now known as Istanbul).
2. The Roman Empire was under attack.

Splitting the empire didn't stop other groups from attacking the Roman Empire. • Throughout the Romans' time in Britain, people such as the Scots, Picts, Saxons, Jutes and Angles tried to claim their British settlements. The Romans took part in battles and built walls to protect their empire. • However, they were not only under attack in Britain. Other tribes in mainland Europe, such as the Visigoths and the Vandals, attempted to overthrow Rome and Gaul (modern-day France, parts of Belgium, Germany and northern Italy).

3. In AD 401, a large number of troops were taken out of Britain to protect their land from the King of the Visigoths, Alaric I. • For the next five years, Britain was frequently attacked by other tribes. Lack of soldiers meant the country struggled to defend itself.
4. In AD 407, the remaining Romans in Britain chose one of their generals, Constantine III, to be Emperor of the Western Roman Empire. • Constantine commanded his troops to leave Britain and protect their empire in Gaul, which left Britain with very few Roman soldiers.
5. The people of Britain no longer supported Emperor Constantine and the final troops and tax collectors of Rome left Britain in AD 409. • Attacks from the Saxons, Picts, Scots and Angles increased and Britain asked Rome for more support. • In AD 410, Honorius (the Roman emperor at the time) wrote a letter to Britain. It explained how they now had to 'look after their own defences'. • This letter marked the end of Roman rule in Britain.

What Was Next?

6. Emperor Constantine Why the Romans Left Britain • In AD 401, a large number of troops were taken out of Britain to protect their land from the King of the Visigoths, Alaric I. • For the next five years, Britain was frequently attacked by other tribes. Lack of soldiers meant the country struggled to defend itself. • The people of Britain no longer supported Emperor Constantine and the final troops and tax collectors of Rome left Britain in AD 409. • Attacks from the Saxons, Picts, Scots and Angles increased and Britain asked Rome for more support. • In AD 410, Honorius (the Roman emperor at the time) wrote a letter to Britain. It explained how they now had to 'look after their own defences'. • This letter marked the end of Roman rule in Britain. • The Angles, the Jutes and the Saxons continued to invade the east of Britain for the next 200 years. During this time, many people left popular Roman cities, such as Londinium (modern-day London) and

they fell into ruin. • By AD 600, the tribes (now known as the Anglo-Saxons) had established their own kingdoms across much of Britain.

### Roman legacy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• laws</li><li>• network of roads</li><li>• Christian religion</li><li>• firefighters and police officers</li><li>• foods, including carrots, apples and peas</li><li>• wine</li><li>• herbs and spices like garlic, nutmeg and pepper</li><li>• money</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• public libraries</li><li>• shops</li><li>• cats</li><li>• stinging nettles</li><li>• advertisements</li><li>• education (schools)</li><li>• street cleaners</li><li>• arenas for mass entertainment</li><li>• homes and other structures built using stone, cement and concrete</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• heating</li><li>• piped water</li><li>• flush toilets</li><li>• places of worship</li><li>• architecture</li><li>• language – Latin</li><li>• numbers – Roman numerals I V X L C D M</li></ul>
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### Calendar – how we measure time

Our modern calendar is a fascinating testament to the past, with its origins deeply rooted in the Roman Empire.

This ancient civilization laid the foundation for the calendar we use today, shaping how we perceive and measure time.

Below, we will delve into the evolution of the Roman calendar, from its inception to the modern system we now know and use. In 45 BCE, Julius Caesar introduced a significant reform known as the Julian calendar.

This new system aimed to resolve the inaccuracies of the earlier Roman calendar by aligning it with the solar year.

Caesar enlisted the help of the Alexandrian astronomer Sosigenes to develop a calendar that added an extra day every four years, known as a leap year.

Although the Roman calendar has undergone significant changes and reforms throughout history, its influence on modern calendar systems is undeniable.

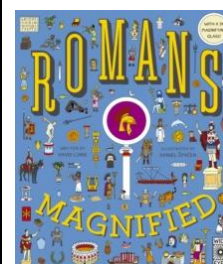
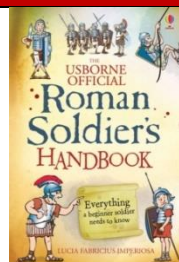
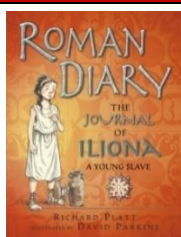
The names of the months and the concept of a seven-day week have their roots in Roman culture and persist to this day.

Month No.	Name	Latin Meaning / Origin
1	January	Named after Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions
2	February	Named after Februa, an ancient Roman purification festival
3	March	Named after Mars, the god of war
4	April	Possibly derived from "aperire" (to open) or "Aphrilis" (from Aphrodite, the Greek equivalent of Venus)
5	May	Named after Maia, a goddess of growth
6	June	Named after Juno, the queen of the gods and goddess of marriage
7	July	Named after Julius Caesar, Roman general and statesman
8	August	Named after Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor
9	September	From the Latin word "septem," meaning seven; originally the seventh month of the Roman calendar
10	October	From the Latin word "octo," meaning eight; originally the eighth month of the Roman calendar
11	November	From the Latin word "novem," meaning nine; originally the ninth month of the Roman calendar
12	December	From the Latin word "decem," meaning ten; originally the tenth month of the Roman calendar

## Websites

Roman Fortifications <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zftyhcw#zxt996f>  
 The Romans - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8>  
 Roman Britain <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j>

## Recommended Reads



## **Golden Thread**

How individuals/events in history have changed our national and personal lives, both locally and nationally.

## **Experience Day (Trip / visitor )**

Wroxeter Roman Museum -English Heritage