

Vocabulary

Aqueduct - a system of pipes and channels used to bring water into towns.

Archaeologist- someone who studies human history by digging up sites and artefacts.

Celts (Celtic) - people who lived in Europe and Britain who fought the Romans.

Centurion - an officer commanding about 80 legionnaires (soldiers)

Conquest - take control using an army

Emperor- the ruler (king or queen) of an empire

Empire - a group of countries ruled over by one person or group.

Gladiator - A man in ancient Rome who fought other men or animals, often to the death, to entertain an audience

The Romans - *Why were the Romans so powerful and what did we learn from them?*

What did the Romans do for us?

The Romans occupied Britain for less than 400 years, but changed our country in a long-lasting way:

1. **language** – many of the words in the English language come from Latin (the language spoken by the Romans) – even the name Britain itself comes from the Latin word Britannia.
2. **legal system** – how we deal with the law being broken is based on the legal system established by the Romans
3. **calendar** – our calendar is based on the one created by Julius Caesar – he even named a month after himself – July
4. **roads** – the Romans built straight roads – some have been turned into motorways or main roads we use today
5. **towns** – the idea of planning and building important towns were brought by the Romans – Chester is an example that still survives
6. **clean water/drains** – the Romans built aqueducts that brought clean water and public baths and flushing toilets



Map of the Roman Empire (117 AD)

Where did the Romans come from?

The Romans lived in Rome, a city in the centre of the country of Italy. Rome started to grow from a small town into a larger and larger city around the year 753 B.C. They were one of the most powerful, clever and successful ancient civilizations ever.

They ruled over nearly all of Europe and most of North Africa, including Egypt. It is thought that one of the reasons the Romans invaded Britain was to conquer the land, gain more slaves and collect the many precious resources in Britain including metals such as lead, tin, gold and silver.

55 – 54 BC - Julius Caesar leads 2 expeditions to Britain, but is beaten by the Celts both times.

43 AD – The Roman emperor Claudius sends four legions to conquer Britain

48 AD – The Romans have now conquered large parts of Britain.

61 AD – Boudicca leads a rebellion of the Iceni tribe against the Romans.

80 AD - The Colosseum is built.

100 AD – Most of the 8000 miles of roads are now completed

121 AD - Hadrian's wall is built to separate Britain and Scotland.

AD 250 onwards – The Picts from Scotland, as well as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes from Scandinavia and Germany begin to attack Roman land

476 AD - Romulus is overthrown and the Roman Empire is no more.

Roman timeline



Vocabulary

Latin - the language spoken and written by the Romans

Legion - the main battle unit of the Roman army

Mosaic - a picture or pattern made from small pieces of tile or glass

Revolt - take violent action against a ruler (king or queen)

Villa - a large house – some were like farms, but some were like palaces

Senate - The Roman government.

Important Places and Daily Life in the Roman Empire

The Colosseum



The Colosseum was built between around 80 AD by the Emperor Vespasian. It could seat about 50,000 spectators who came to watch events including gladiatorial combats, wild animal hunts and sporting games.

Where?
Rome, Italy

Key fact
The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide

Hadrian's Wall



Hadrian's Wall, begun in 122 AD, was a fortification designed to stop tribes in Scotland attacking England (part of the Roman Empire). It took over ten years to build. It was the most heavily fortified wall in the Empire.

Where?
73 miles along northern England

Key fact
Lots of the wall still exists, and can be followed by paths.

Family Life



Family was an important part of Roman life - laws were written to protect the family structure. The family that you belonged to had a lot to do with your place in Roman Society.

Where?
Slaves and servants were counted as 'familia'

Key fact
The 'familia' of Roman Emperors could extend into thousands.

Slaves and Peasants



Slaves performed much of the hard work and construction in the Roman Empire. Most slaves were people captured in times of war, but some children were born as slaves.

Where?
Most slaves worked in buildings or farms

Key fact
Some people sold themselves into slavery to pay debt.

Life in the country



Most of the Roman population lived in the countryside - many were farmers. Life was hard, with most people working from dawn right up until dusk.

Where?
Crops were grown in the countryside

Key fact
The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide

School



Roman children started school at the age of seven. Wealthy children could be taught by a tutor, whilst others went to public school. Poor children could not go to school.

Where?
Children learnt reading, writing and maths

Key fact
The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide

Food



A wide variety of foods were available, depending upon a person's wealth and where they lived. The Romans ate 3 meals a day, with the largest meal eaten in the afternoon.

Where?
Foods were imported all around the empire.

Key fact
The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide

Clothes



Most men and women wore tunics, with a belt. However the women's tunic was normally slightly longer. Women wore white until they were married. Most Romans wore sandals (made of leather) on their feet

Where?
Most clothes were made from wool

Key fact
The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide

Why were the Romans so powerful?

The Roman army was the **largest and meanest** fighting force in the ancient world. One of the main reasons Rome became so powerful was because of the strength of its army. It conquered a vast empire that stretched from Britain all the way to the Middle East. The army was **very advanced** for its time. The soldiers were the best trained, they had the best weapons and the best armour. Being a soldier was a serious business.

When the Romans invaded Britain, their army was so good that it took on armies 10 times its size and won! At its largest, there might have been around half a million soldiers in the Roman army! To keep such a large number of men in order, it was divided up into groups called '**legions**'. Each legion had between 4,000 and 6,000 soldiers.

A legion was further divided into groups of 80 men called '**centuries**'. The man in charge of a century was known as a '**centurion**'. He carried a short rod, to show his importance. He would also use it to beat any soldier who disobeyed him.

Some soldiers had special skills. They shot bows and arrows, flung stones from slingshots, or could swim rivers to surprise an enemy.