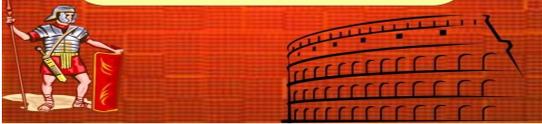


The Romans



Key Learning



Key facts/ information:

The Romans lived in Italy and came to Britain nearly 2000 years ago. They changed our country forever and evidence can still be seen of their presence, in calendars, political systems and in the ruins of Roman buildings, forts, roads, aqueducts and baths that can be found all over Britain. Julius Caesar first invaded Britain in 55BC and won several battles against the Celtic tribes before needing to return to France. He returned in 54BC, and after more fighting, the British tribes promised to pay tributes to Rome and were left in peace for nearly 100 years. In 43AD, the Emperor Claudius decided to invade Britain again, but it took them many years to conquer all of Britain. No one is certain why the Romans came to Britain, but it is thought that it may have been because they were furious that the British tribes had helped the Gauls (the French) against Caesar; that they wanted the fertile land, that the fierce Celtic warriors and iron-makers would make good slaves and most of all, to become rich from the precious metals in Britain, like iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold.

Roman Everyday Life:

Roman families were big, consisting typically of father, mother, children and any married sons with their family and slaves. The father was the most important part of the family. Rich families lived in villas and their children went to school. The less wealthy lived mostly in huts and their children did not go to school, as it was expensive. They tended to eat food they could tend and grow locally —meat, vegetables and cereals, but they also brought imported foods to Britain, such as carrots, celery and cabbages.

Useful websites:

Use the following links to learn all about the Romans and how they changed Britain.

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/z9j4kqt>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/ztqg4wx>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/z2dr4wx>
- <https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/roman-empire>

Vocabulary

The Roman Army	The Army was made up of legions and there were over 5,000 soldiers in a legion, each with it's own name, badge and fortress.
Centurions	A Centurion commanded 80 men divided up into 10 sections of 8. 6 centuries of 80 men formed a cohort, and 10 cohorts made a legion.
Roman Weapons	Gladius (sword) - light and short to stab quickly; pilum (spear) - these bent on impact so enemies couldn't take them and throw them back.
Gladiators	As the name suggests, gladiators were 'swordsmen'. The Romans found watching people fight to the death highly entertaining, and if good, gladiators could enjoy celebrity status. Most gladiators were slaves, prisoners of war or criminals. They had no choice, though some were freemen who volunteered to earn money and status. They trained to be expert fighters in gladiator schools called 'ludi'.
Amphitheatres	This was the centre of Roman entertainment and was the place where Romans went to watch gladiators or wild animals fight. They were circular buildings, and the largest one in the empire was the Colosseum in Rome. It could hold around 50,000 people.
Roman Baths	The Romans loved bathing, and built magnificent public bath houses across the empire. Romans not only went there to get clean, but for healing, to play games and to meet friends and socialise.
Roman Roads	The Romans were responsible for inventing concrete, and built the first roads in Britain. Some are still here today! They built roads straight in order to travel quickly and safely with less fear of robbers.
Roman Clothes	Men wore a 'chilton' (a knee-length tunic), while women wore a longer tunic with a 'stola' over it. Important Roman citizens wore a long robe called a 'toga', which were worn to show their status.
Roman slaves	Most slaves were prisoners captured in battle. They could be men, women, boys or girls. They had no rights, and would only be freed after 30 years unless they could earn or buy their freedom before.
Roman Mosaics	Many Roman floors were decorated with tiny coloured stones (tesserae), made into a pattern to form a mosaic that depicted every day life or historical events. They were a symbol of wealth.
Roman gods	The Romans worshipped many gods and believed they were part of a family, they told stories and myths about them. The most important ones to them were the 12 Greek gods of Olympus, who they gave Roman names to and used as their own gods.

Roman gods word mat



Prehistory Timeline

