

History Key Learning—Veni Vidi Vici

Vocabulary / Key Terms

The Roman Army	The Army was made up of legions and there were over 5,000 soldiers in a legion, each with its 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'.

Important People



Gaius Julius Caesar (July 100 BC – 15 March 44 BC) was a military commander, politician and author at the end of the Roman Republic.

Caesar became a member of the First Triumvirate, and when that broke up, he fought a civil war against Pompey the Great. Winning the war, Caesar became Roman dictator for life. He was killed by his enemies in Rome.

Useful websites: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/z9j4kqt>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqtf34j/articles/ztqg4wx>

Important Facts

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 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.

Timeline

