

Emperors and Empires

Founding of Rome

There are two explanations for the founding of the city of Rome in Italy.

Mythical version

Romans believed that the city was built by Romulus, the son of the god Mars, on 21st April 753 BC.

Historical version

Historians believe that the city started as a collection of small settlements that were built on hills near the River Tiber. Over time, they grew and joined together to form a city.

Ruling Rome

Ancient Rome was ruled in three different ways. At first, Rome was a kingdom (753–509 BC) led by a king. Next it was a republic (509–27 BC) led by two consuls and a group of 600 men called a senate. Finally, it was an empire (27 BC–AD 476) ruled by an emperor.



Roman senate

Emperors

An emperor is the male ruler of an empire. Roman emperors had absolute power. Some emperors, like Trajan (AD 53–117), used this power wisely. Other emperors, like Commodus (AD 161–192), were foolish and selfish.



Commodus

Growth of an empire

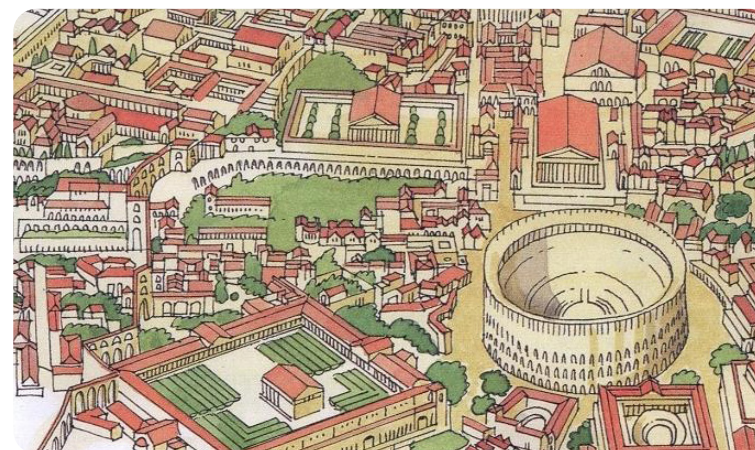
The Roman army conquered countries all around the Mediterranean Sea and so the Roman Empire grew to include many neighbouring lands. It was at its largest between AD 117 and AD 200.



Roman Empire, AD 117–200

Ancient Rome

Ancient Rome was a bustling city of over one million people. At the centre of the city was a meeting place called the forum, and a basilica where court cases and official business took place. The people of Rome lived in houses and apartments around the city. They visited the shops and markets, bathed at the public baths and visited the Colosseum to watch gladiator fights for entertainment.



Social hierarchy

Ancient Rome had a well-structured hierarchy. People

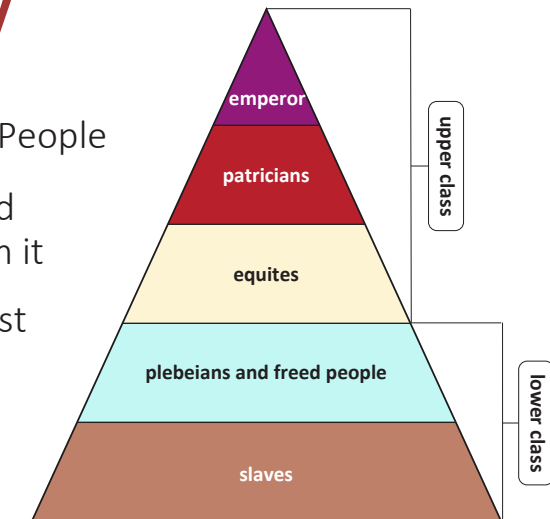
were born into a group and couldn't usually move from it

during their lifetime. Almost every group had Roman

citizenship, which meant they had rights and

could vote. However, slaves were not

Roman citizens so they had no rights and were owned by individuals or the government.



Roman army

The Roman army was well structured and had a clear hierarchy, which made it the most effective fighting force in the ancient world. The army was led by high ranking officers and ordinary soldiers were expected to follow commands and keep an oath to the emperor. All soldiers had similar equipment, armour, shields for protection and javelins and swords for fighting. Soldiers were well trained and fit. After an invasion, they also used their skills as engineers and builders to create forts, towns, roads and bridges in the countries they conquered.

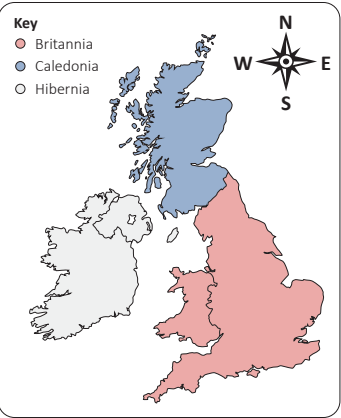


Romans in Britain



Invasion

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BC, but both invasions were unsuccessful. The Roman emperor, Claudius, successfully conquered Britain in AD 43.



Britannia

The Roman army spent many years, conquering Britain. After 30 years, England and Wales became part of the Roman Empire, called Britannia. Caledonia (Scotland) and Hibernia (Ireland) were never conquered by the Romans.



Boudicca

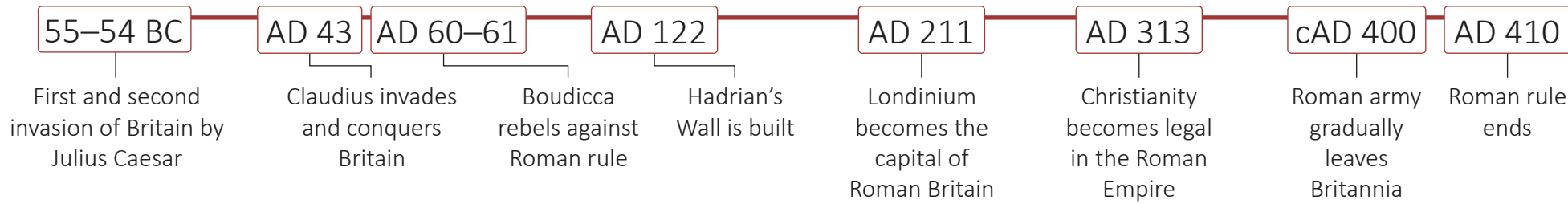
Boudicca was the queen of the Celtic Iceni tribe who revolted against Roman rule in AD 60–61. She and her army of tribal warriors destroyed the Roman cities of Camulodunum (Colchester), Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans).



Hadrian's Wall

The emperor, Hadrian, ordered that a wall should be built along the frontier of Caledonia and Britannia in AD 122. Parts of Hadrian's Wall can still be seen in Northumberland today.

Timeline of Roman Britain



Romanisation of Britain



Towns

The Romans built towns in Britain that were similar to towns across the Roman Empire. Britons living in towns adopted a Roman lifestyle.



Inventions

The Romans brought roads, aqueducts, hypocausts, public baths, toilets, money and the Latin language to Britain.



Londinium

Londinium was founded near the River Thames cAD 50. It grew and became the capital of Roman Britain.



Christianity

Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in AD 313. Some people in Britannia became Christians.

Glossary

absolute power	Complete authority to make decisions.
aqueduct	A channel for carrying water, normally in the form of a bridge across a valley or other gap.
consul	One of two men who held the highest position in the senate of the Roman Republic.
empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country.
hierarchy	A system where people or things are arranged in order of importance.
hypocaust	A system of underfloor heating invented by the ancient Romans.
Roman citizen	A person who had privileges and protection from the Roman state.
Romanise	To become Roman.
Romano-British culture	The culture that was created in Britannia after the Roman invasion.



Through the Ages

Prehistory in Britain started c750,000 BC, when several species of humans arrived from Europe. Prehistory is divided into three main periods, the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Each period is named after the main material used to make tools at that time.

Stone Age			Bronze Age	Iron Age
Palaeolithic c750,000–c10,000 BC Duration: 740,000 years	Mesolithic c10,000–c4000 BC Duration: 6000 years	Neolithic c4000–c2500 BC Duration: 1500 years	c2500–c800 BC Duration: 1700 years	c800 BC–AD 43 Duration: 843 years

Stone Age

Tools and weapons – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

Everyday life – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

Settlements – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



Bronze Age

Tools and weapons – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

Everyday life – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

Settlements – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



Iron Age

Tools and weapons – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

Everyday life – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

Settlements – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



Beliefs – People built monuments, including stone circles, henges and earthworks. Historians believe that they used these monuments for gatherings and worship.

Beliefs – People were buried with objects, including Bell Beaker pottery, to use in the afterlife. They threw weapons and objects into rivers as offerings to the gods.

Beliefs – Priests called druids led worship. Humans were sacrificed as offerings to the gods. People threw votive offerings into rivers and lakes.

End of the Stone Age – The Beaker folk arrived from Europe and brought their knowledge of metalworking to Britain.

End of the Bronze Age – People stopped using metal during a time called the Bronze Age collapse.

End of the Iron Age – The Romans invaded and conquered Britain in AD 43. They created written records, so this event ended prehistory in Britain.



Definitions of time

There are many words that are used to describe time.

BC and AD	The birth of Jesus Christ separates time into two eras, BC, before Christ, and AD, after Christ was born.
BCE and CE	Sometimes, BC and AD are replaced by BCE and CE. BCE stands for 'before common era 'and CE stands for 'common era'. Therefore, 1 BC is the same as 1 BCE and AD 1 is the same as 1 CE.
era	An era is a period of history that begins with a significant event. The birth of Jesus Christ was a significant event that started a new era.
century	A century is 100 years. The first century AD was AD 1–AD 100. The first century BC was 100 BC–1 BC.
millennium	A millennium is 1000 years. The first millennium AD was AD 1–AD 1000. The first millennium BC was 1000 BC–1 BC.
prehistory	Prehistory is the time before written records were created. In Britain, prehistory ended in AD 43, when the Romans invaded.
prehistoric	The word prehistoric relates to any object, animal, person or place that existed before written records began.

Archaeological evidence

Archaeologists find out about prehistoric life by studying the artefacts and settlements left behind by prehistoric people.

Skara Brae is a Neolithic settlement in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. It has well preserved, interconnected houses made of stone.



Stonehenge is a stone circle in Wiltshire, England. It is made of stones from the local area and Wales. The stones line up with the Sun during midsummer and midwinter.



The **Amesbury Archer** was buried near Stonehenge with his tools, including arrowheads, a metalworking stone and some Bell Beaker pottery.



The **Mold cape** was made from one piece of gold the size of a golf ball. It is finely made and archaeologists believe that it was worn by a wealthy tribe leader.



The **Snettisham Great torc** was made during the Iron Age. It was worn around the neck and is crafted from twisted gold stands.



The **Battersea shield** was found in the river Thames. Archaeologists believe that it was put in the river as a votive offering to the gods in the Iron Age.



Glossary

archaeologist	Someone who studies artefacts from the past.
artefact	An object made by a person that is of historical interest.
Beaker folk	A group of people who travelled from Europe at the beginning of the Bronze Age and brought metalworking and pottery making skills to Britain.
bronze	A metal alloy made by mixing copper and tin.
Bronze Age collapse	A period at the end of the Bronze Age, when society collapsed in Britain and Europe.
Celts	A group of people who travelled from Europe and brought their ironworking skills to Britain.
circa	Abbreviated to 'c' and used before a date to show that the date is approximate. For example c2500 BC.
hillfort	A settlement built on a hill that is protected by ditches and fences.
stone circle	A circular arrangement of standing stones.
sacrifice	An animal or person that has been killed and offered to a god or gods.
torc	A rigid neck ring made from metal.
votive offering	An object placed in water or the ground as a gift to a god or gods.