

KEY FACTS

Who were the Romans?

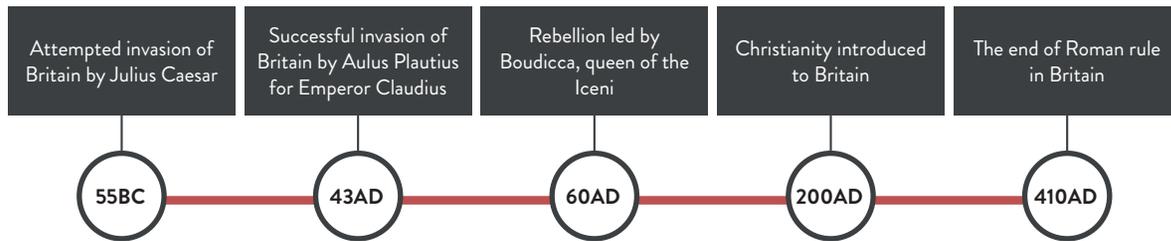
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- Rome was founded in Italy by Romulus in 753 BC following a fight with his twin brother Remus.
- The Roman Empire spread across Europe, Parts of Asia and North Africa
- The Roman army was successful because it was well-equipped, well organised and inspired great loyalty.



The Roman Empire and the invasion of Britain

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- The Romans were keen to invade Britain because of the fertile lands, the valuable natural resources and to increase their power.
- Julius Caesar** led an unsuccessful invasion of Britain in 55BC
- Emperor Claudius** commanded a second invasion led by **Aulus Plautius** in 43AD
- Roman Britain was a province of the Roman Empire from 43 to 410AD
- In 60BC, **Boudicca**, Queen of the Iceni tribe, led a rebellion against Roman rule
- The Romans built **Hadrian's Wall** to keep the Scottish tribes out of England
- Septimus Severus** was a Roman General and Emperor based in York who led the defence against the Scots

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS



WHAT DID THE ROMANS DO FOR US

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- Religion:** Under the Romans, Britain moved away from polytheistic paganism towards Christianity. In around 200AD Emperor Constantine made Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire.
- Engineering:** The Romans introduced the use of bricks and concrete. This enabled them to build Britain's first towns and linked them by a network of roads. They introduced the hypocaust system, sewers, aqueducts and toilets and public baths.
- Language, numbers and laws:** The Romans introduced a written legal system. Many of our words, such as some days of the week and months of the year, come from Latin.
- Culture:** The Romans introduced amphitheatres and public baths
- Black British History:** There was a significant African-Roman settlement in York, under the rule of Emperor Septimus Severus.

How do we know?

We know about life in Roman Britain through archaeological discoveries and writings from Roman historians such as Tacitus

Aa VOCABULARY

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- Empire** – a group of countries ruled by the leader of one of the countries, often an Emperor, King or Queen
- Iceni** – a tribe in East England, led by Boudicca
- Polytheistic** – worshipping many gods
- Paganism** – an old religion, closely linked to nature
- Hypocaust** – the Roman central heating system
- Sewers** – a system of pipes to carry away toilet waste
- Aqueducts** – a bridge or channel to carry water over a long distance
- Amphitheater** – an outdoors theatre built in an oval or round shape
- Archaeology** – the study of human life from the past through digging up artefacts