



Key Vocabulary		
tribe	trade	empire
archaeologist	Boudicca	elts
rebellion	conquer	legion
artefact	invasion	resistance

### Why did the Romans invade Britain?

In the year 55 BC, Julius Caesar wanted to expand the growth of the Roman Empire. He had already conquered France and set his sights on Britain. He believed that Britain had precious minerals such as **iron, silver and gold** and thought this would increase the wealth of his empire and add to his glory back home. He attempted to invade twice, but both times he was forced back home. In 43 AD, the Romans invaded Britain again, this time under the leadership of **Emperor Claudius**.



### Roman cities



The Romans were not happy just conquering the settlements of Britain – they wanted to turn them into Roman cities too. Roman towns in Britain were full of brick buildings and temples. The Romans liked everything to be organised, so the streets were built in **straight lines**. In the middle of the settlement, there would be a large square called a **forum**. It was used as a marketplace and for meetings. Many Roman cities were built alongside **rivers**. Londinium (London), Eboracum (York) and Deva (Chester) were built by rivers because this provided a quicker way to **transport goods and move people** around within the empire.

### Queen Boudicca and her revolt!



**Boudicca was a Celtic queen** who fought against the Romans when they came to take her land. Her army destroyed the Roman cities of Colchester, St Albans and London by burning them to the ground one by one. On her mission across England, she eventually met a Roman legion somewhere in the middle of the country, where she was sadly defeated and Roman reports claim 80,000 of her fighters were killed in battle. Today, she is **remembered for her bravery and fight for freedom**.

### What have the Romans done for us?



The Romans introduced many things to Britain. Some are **very important** to our lives such as: **roads, coins, the calendar, our language, glass, clean water and laws!** We have a lot to thank the Romans for. Our lives today would be very different without them.

## The role of woman in Roman Britain



Throughout the history of Ancient Rome, **women were considered second to men**. They had little official role in public life. Despite this, **women played an important part in the culture and history of Ancient Rome**.

Women **ran the household**, being responsible for the cooking, cleaning and looking after the children. If you were rich, you would have had a slave to help you with these jobs.

Roman women **introduced new foods and new clothing trends to Britain**. We know this from looking at statues, mosaics and paintings. Some stone statues that have been discovered reveal the hairstyles some women had.

## The fall of the Roman Empire

Civil wars and chaos erupted across the Roman Empire during the 3rd century. **Forces outside the empire were beginning to make things difficult for the Romans**. With all this strain, the Roman empire started to fall apart, and a man **named Constantine fought his way to become the single emperor of Rome again** – uniting all Roman lands under him. He even moved the capital from Rome to a city he named after himself – Constantinople. **After Constantine's death**, chaos and struggle continued and eventually, **the empire would split in half forevermore**.



## Key Historical Skills we will use and develop in this unit:

- **Chronology**
- **Similarity & Difference**
- **Change & Continuity**
- **Evidence and Interpretation**
- **Historical Significance**
- **Cause & Consequence**

## How do we find out about the past?

We can find out about the past by:

- looking at and reading non-fiction books
- searching the internet
- watching video clips or TV shows about the time in history we want to find out about
- looking at photographs
- visiting museums
- looking at objects from the past

