

Revolting Romans!

Y4 Key Questions

Why on earth did the Romans leave sunny Italy to invade this cold island on the edge of the empire?

Why did Boudicca stand up to the Romans and what image do we have of her today?

How were the Romans able to keep control over such a vast empire?

How did the Roman way of life contrast with the Celtic lifestyle they found when they arrived and how do we know?

How can we solve the mystery of why this great empire came to an end?

How much of our lives today can possibly be influenced by the Romans who lived here 2,000 years ago?



Queen Boudicca's Rebellion

- Leader of the Iceni tribe.
- Romans stole her land and attacked her family
- She persuaded Celts to join her.
- Defeated Romans in Colchester.
- Eventually her forces were defeated.
- Proved tribes could stand up to Romans.

The End of an Empire

- The Roman Empire lasted for nearly 400 years in Britain.
- Back in Rome, Barbarians were invading Rome and other towns and cities.
- Romans loved wasting money on entertainment so the funds for the army soon ran out.
- The emperor tried to raise taxes to pay for their defence but the people couldn't pay.
- People kept fighting for power and killing the emperors.
- The army became less powerful
- Christianity became a Roman religion which was a religion of peace, not war.
- The army left Britain in 410CE as they had to defend other parts of the Empire.

Roman Emperors



Julius Caesar
Popular Roman ruler.
Invaded Britain twice but failed.



Claudius
Invaded Britain 97 years later and succeeded.

The Roman Army



- They used clever tactics
- They had great weapons
- They wore effective armour.
- There was good morale.
- Soldiers were well trained
- Soldiers were very experienced.
- They built good road networks.



A Roman Town

- A town was laid out in a square or rectangle.
- There were 2 main axes: North to South and East to West.
- 4 main gates protected each entrance.
- Houses were made out of stone or brick.
- Thick town walls were built for protection.
- Aqueducts brought water into the town.
- The Basilica was in the centre and was where the town was run from.
- Amphitheatres were for entertainment.
- Temples were where they worshipped their gods and Emperors.
- Baths were close to the town centre.
- Shops ran along the side of houses.
- A Circus Track ran outside the town for chariot racing.
- Roman villas were for the wealthy and had central heating.



Key Vocabulary

Empire	A group of territories under one rule
Emperor	A man who rules an Empire
Invasion	To enter as an enemy, by force, to take control
Conquest	A military invasion
legionary	A soldier in a Roman legion
legion	A division of 3,000 – 6,000 men and cavalry in a Roman army
Auxiliary soldier	A 'helper' recruited from a non-Roman tribe
Revolt	To rise up and fight against a government
Rebellion	A fight against the ruler
Celts	The people of the Iron Age who occupied Britain
Archaeology	The study of history by looking for things people in the past have left behind.
Evidence	A sign to show something existed or is true
Excavation	To dig out and remove.
Taxes	The way government collects money to pay for things
Barbarian	A person from a different land believed to be inferior

Historical sources

These can be interpreted in different ways depending on where they came from. (E.g. Romans or Celts)

Statues	Stories	Information books
Buildings	Artefacts	Paintings

Chronology

