



Pearson



Primary History

Roman Britain

Name:

Class:

Knowledge organiser

Timeline of events	
753 BCE	Rome is founded.
264 BCE–146 BCE	Rome fights in three Punic Wars against Carthage, and becomes the most powerful empire in the western world.
55 BCE	Julius Caesar leads a failed invasion of Britain.
43 CE	Emperor Claudius orders a successful invasion of Britain.
60 CE	Celtic Queen Boudicca leads a rebellion against the Romans.
87 CE	The Roman conquest of England and Wales is complete.
312 CE	Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity, which becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire, including Britain.
476 CE	The city of Rome is conquered by Germanic barbarians. The last emperor of Rome gives up power. The Roman Empire has fallen.

Important people	
Julius Caesar	Roman general who became Rome's sole ruler, ending the Republic
Augustus Caesar	First official emperor of the Roman Empire
Aulus Plautius	Roman politician who became the first governor of Britain
Claudius	Roman emperor in charge when Britain was conquered
Boudicca	Celtic queen and leader of the Iceni tribe, who led a rebellion against the Romans
Gaius Suetonius Paulinus	Roman general who defeated Boudicca's rebellion

Vocabulary	
Amphitheatre	A type of theatre without a roof, used for entertainment
Aqueducts	Bridges of a special kind, used to transport water
Barbarian	The Roman word for people who weren't part of their empire
Citizens	Only male members of the Roman Empire
Client kings	Tribal kings allowed to continue being king, as long as they were loyal to Rome
Culture	Arts and ideas
Emperor	Man who is in sole charge of a whole empire
Empire	Group of countries all ruled by one person or state
Latin	The language used by the Romans
Rebellion	Fighting against someone who is in power

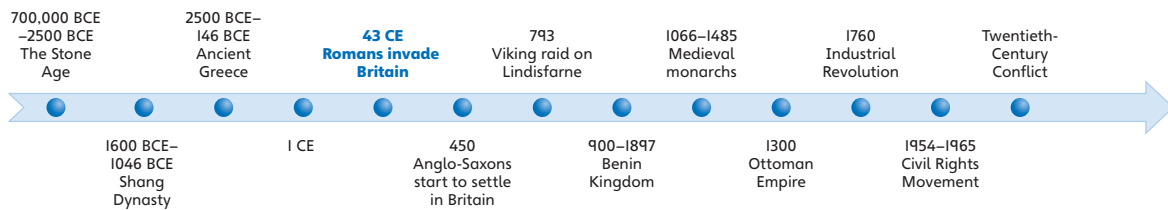
Romanisation of Britain	
Towns and cities	Large towns and cities were built in a grid pattern with baths, amphitheatres and market squares.
Villas	Large brick houses were built for the richest people.
Roads	Over 8,000 roads were built to connect towns and cities, many hundreds of miles long.
Rule	Local councils were created to collect tax and run the towns and surrounding villages.
Language	The language of Rome was Latin, which was used in towns. More people learnt to read and write.
Money	Romans introduced their own currency (coins), which could be used anywhere.
Food	The Romans introduced new animals, crops, foods and drinks.
Plumbing	Romans built aqueducts to bring fresh water into towns and cities, and drains to take dirty water out.

Learning review

Lesson	Lesson question	You will learn . . .	Learning review
1	How did the Roman Empire become so successful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the extent of the Roman Empire was at its peak. • How Rome was governed as a republic. • When Rome became a republic and an empire. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2	How did the Romans invade Britain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the battle tactics of the Celts and Romans compared. • What weapons and armour the Celts and Romans used. • Why tribal leaders agreed to become client kings and pay taxes to the Romans. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3	How did Britain change under the Romans?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Romans changed the British landscape. • How the Romans changed British culture. • How the Romans changed British beliefs. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4	Can you plan your own Roman town?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Romans organised their towns. • What new types of buildings the Romans brought to Britain. • What the amphitheatre was. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5	Which factors were most important in the fall of the Roman Empire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different factors that caused the fall of the Roman Empire. • Which factor was most responsible for causing the fall. • The key dates and events of the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6	Assessment: How far do you agree with the following statement? 'Life for most Britons didn't change much when the Romans came to Britain.'		<hr/> <hr/>

Lesson 1

How did the Roman Empire become so successful?



The greatest empire

An **empire** is a group of countries ruled by a single person or state.

The Roman Empire was the greatest empire of the ancient world. It successfully conquered lands all over Europe, as well as parts of Africa and western Asia. It became so big that it had to be split in two: the Western European Empire and the Eastern Empire (known as Byzantium).

The Romans spread their **culture** across the empire and made sure that all of their people were well-ruled.



You can still see Roman ruins across the world today. This is the Colosseum in Rome. There are also Roman ruins in Britain.

The history of the Roman Empire

When Rome was first founded, it had a king. There were seven kings before Rome became a republic: this means that it was ruled by officials chosen by the people. Rome was a republic for nearly 500 years before it became an empire ruled by one **emperor**.

The Roman Empire began in 27 BCE under the first emperor, Augustus Caesar. It flourished for the next 400 years, until it became too big and tribes from across Europe, Africa and Asia attacked.

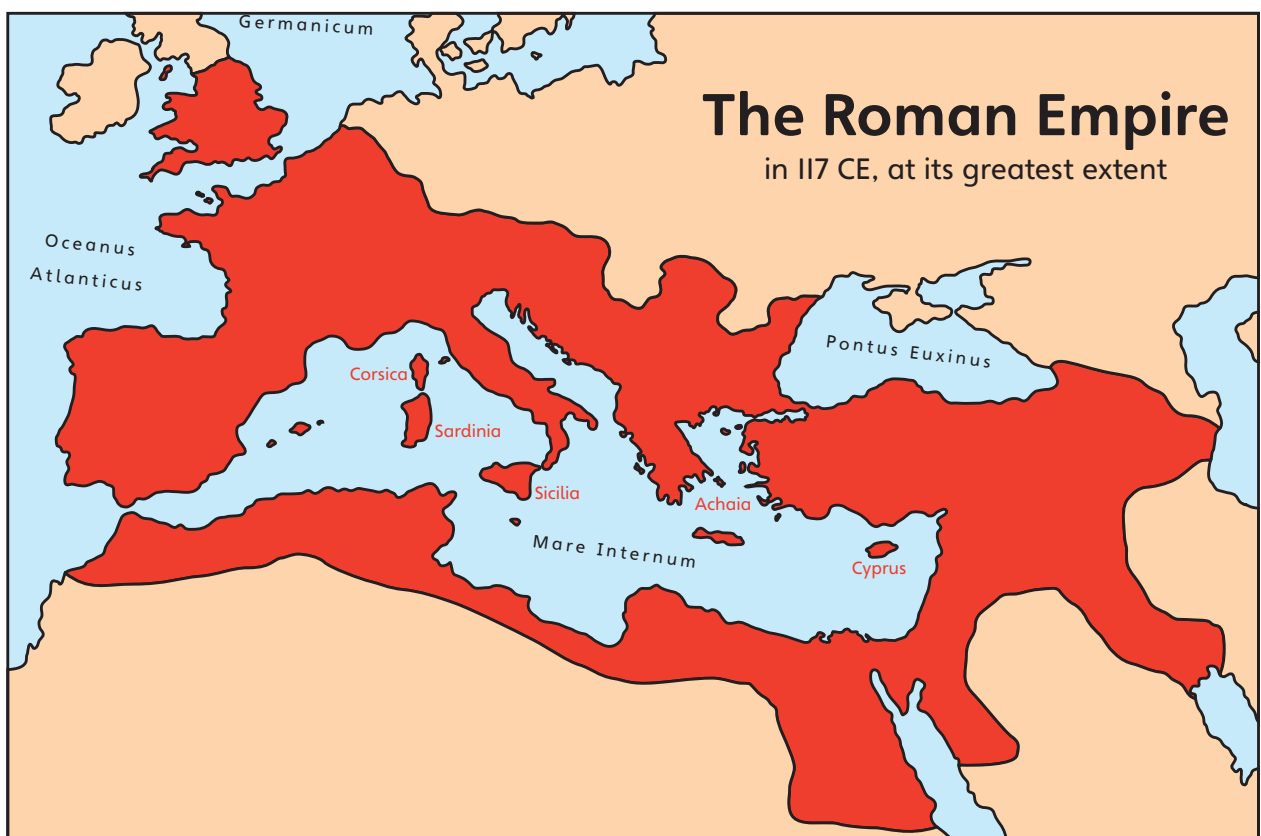
In 476 CE, the last Roman emperor gave up power and the Roman Empire in the west was over.



1. Look at the map below. It shows the Roman Empire in 117 CE. Mark the city of Rome.



2. Label where you live.



Roman society

Roman society was not equal. Some people had more power than others.

The richest and most powerful families were the patricians. People from these families were often part of the Senate, which was a group of people voted in to govern Rome and its lands. People in the Senate were called senators, and the Senate was led by two consuls. When Rome was a republic, the consuls had the most power. When Rome became an empire, the emperor had the most power, but the consuls were still quite powerful.

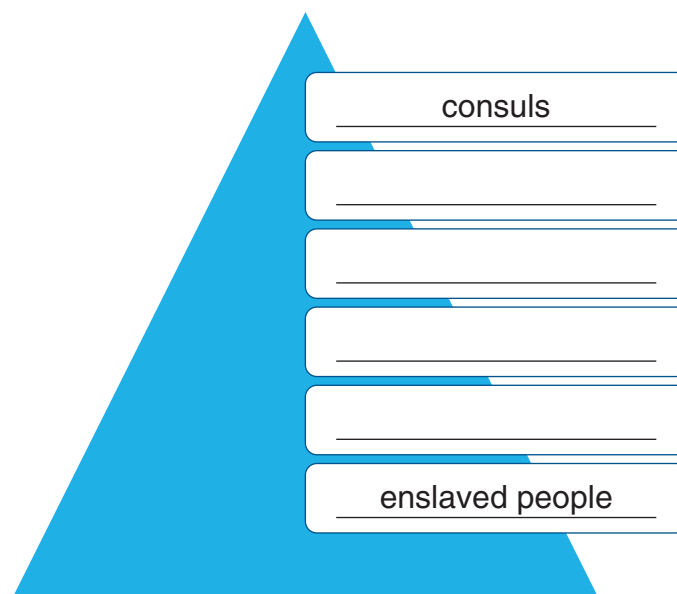
Beneath the patricians were the plebeians. Most Roman **citizens** were plebeians. They had less power and money than the patricians. Beneath the plebeians were the freemen, who had bought their freedom from slavery. At the very bottom of Roman society were enslaved people. They had often been taken from other countries through trading or war.



3. Complete the labels on the pyramid to show how much power each group of people had in Republican Rome. The most powerful (top) and least powerful (bottom) have been done for you. Write your answer.

plebeians patricians freemen senators

Groups of people



The Punic Wars

Rome expanded, growing larger and more powerful under the new republic. Its army was well trained and well organised. The Roman leaders made deals with nearby tribes and states. They let people become citizens of Rome after their countries had been taken over. This gave Rome more soldiers and more taxes (money paid to those in charge).

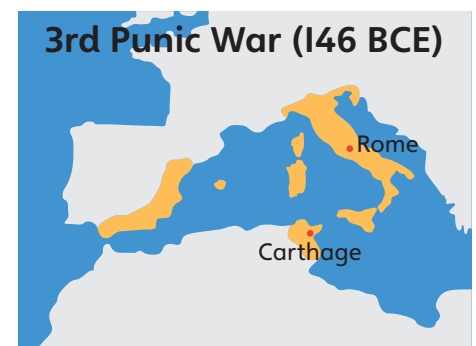
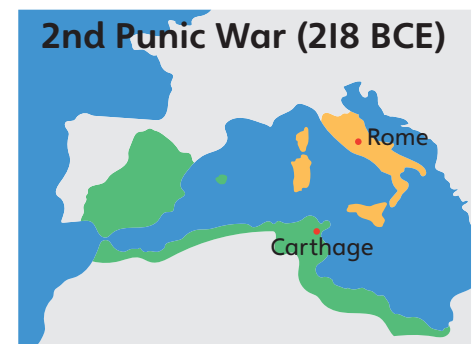
However, Rome wasn't the only big power at the time. A city called Carthage was very powerful and controlled parts of Europe and north Africa. Rome fought three big wars against Carthage. They were in 264, 218 and 146 BCE, and are known as the Punic Wars because 'Punicus' was the **Latin** name for Carthage.

One of the most famous army generals from Carthage was Hannibal, who fought the Romans in the second Punic War. He used war elephants during battles!

By the third Punic War, in 146 BCE, the Romans had become very powerful. They defeated all of their enemies' armies, and then completely destroyed the city of Carthage.

Rome was now no longer a republic. It was the most powerful empire in the western world.

■ Roman Empire
 ■ Carthage Empire



4. Name two ways in which the Romans successfully expanded their empire. Write your answer.

1

Romans

Quiz

- 8

The invasions of Britain

Britain was difficult to invade and take over because it is an island. The Roman leader, Julius Caesar, tried twice to take control of Britain, in 55 and 54 BCE. He was not successful, as the tribes who lived in Britain fought back.

There were lots of different tribes in Britain at that time. We now call them the Celts. They sometimes fought with each other to gain more land. Sometimes they traded with each other, and with people from Europe, including the Romans. Each tribe had its own king. There was no single leader for all.



I. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

- a. The Romans travelled to Britain in 55 BCE. True ☐ False ☐
- b. In 55 BCE, Britain had one king. True ☐ False ☐
- c. Julius Caesar successfully conquered Britain in 55 BCE. True ☐ False ☐
- d. People in Britain lived in tribes in 55 BCE and were called Celts. True ☐ False ☐

Almost 100 years later, Emperor Claudius ruled in Rome. Claudius wanted to make the Roman Empire much bigger. In 43 CE, he decided to send his armies to try and conquer Britain.



A bust of Claudius

The Roman army

Claudius sent one of his best generals, Aulus Plautius, to lead the invasion of Britain. The Roman army was well trained, well equipped and well organised. They fought together as a team and used special tactics, like putting their shields together to make one huge shield. This was called the tortoise formation. They also used short swords to stab quickly at their enemies.



The tortoise formation



2. Why do you think it was called the tortoise formation? Write your answer.



3. How would the tortoise formation have helped the Romans in battle? Write your answer.



4. Label the things that would help the soldier in battle.



short sword javelin helmet shield armour

Battle for Britain

The Celtic tribes in Britain were not equipped in the same way as the Romans. They often ran into battle naked and painted blue. Their fighting style was less organised, and they did not work together like the Romans. The Celts used chariots (wooden carts) pulled by ponies to ride into battle. The Romans, on the other hand, were organised and disciplined. They also brought a war elephant, like Hannibal had used in the Punic Wars. The Romans defeated many tribes easily, and the rest quickly surrendered.



A re-enactment of a Celtic battle



5. Complete the sentence below. Write your answer.

The Romans beat the Celtic tribes because _____

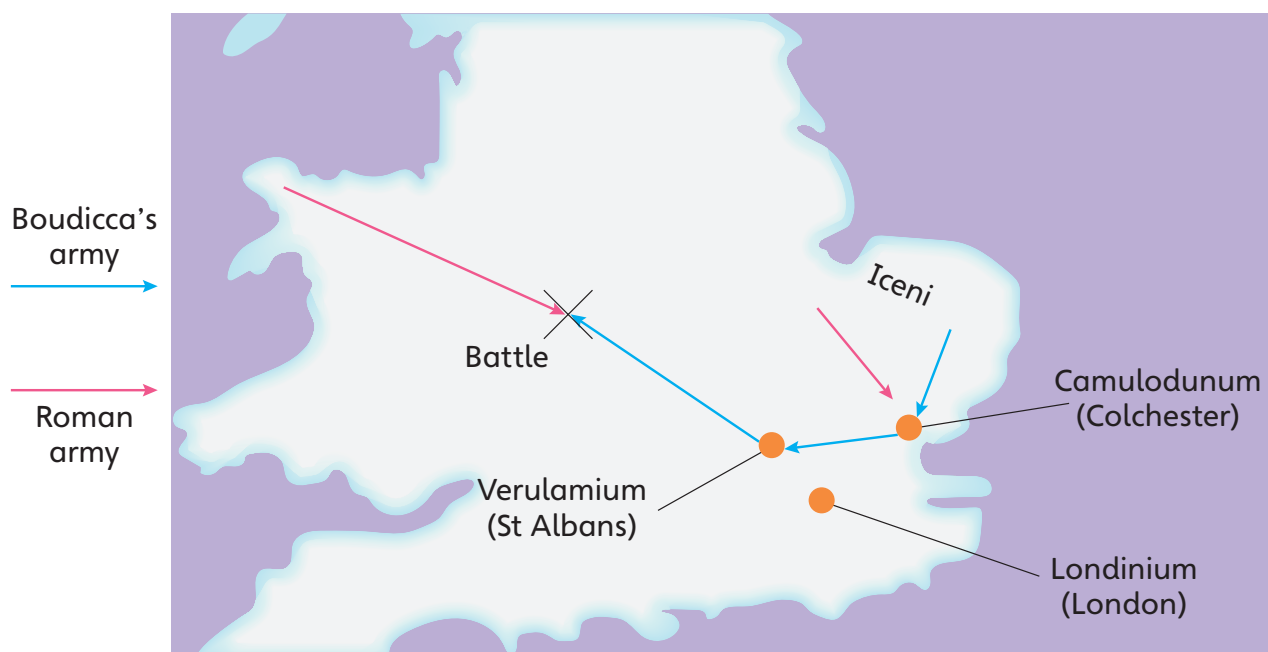
Client kings

Aulus Plautius became the first Roman governor of Britain. This meant that he was in charge of all the land the Roman army had conquered in Britain, on behalf of the Roman emperor. The kings of the tribes that had surrendered were allowed to stay in power, but they had to pay taxes and promise that, after they died, their land would belong to the Romans. This meant that they weren't powerful kings anymore: they were **client kings**.

Extend and stretch: Boudicca

King Prasutagus of the Iceni tribe became a client king. He asked the Romans to agree to having just half his kingdom when he died, so the rest would pass to his daughters. When Prasutagus died in about 60 CE, the Romans did not keep their word. His wife, Queen Boudicca, united the nearby tribes in **rebellion** against Rome. The tribes burnt the cities of Camulodunum (Colchester), Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans), killing 70,000 Romans and their allies.

Roman forces led by General Gaius Suetonius Paulinus were in Wales at the time. They marched out to meet Boudicca's army at Watling Road in the West Midlands. The Romans were heavily outnumbered, but they won because of their battle tactics. About 80,000 Celts were killed, and Boudicca was defeated. It is believed she poisoned herself to escape capture.



Lesson 3

How did Britain change under the Romans?



Quiz

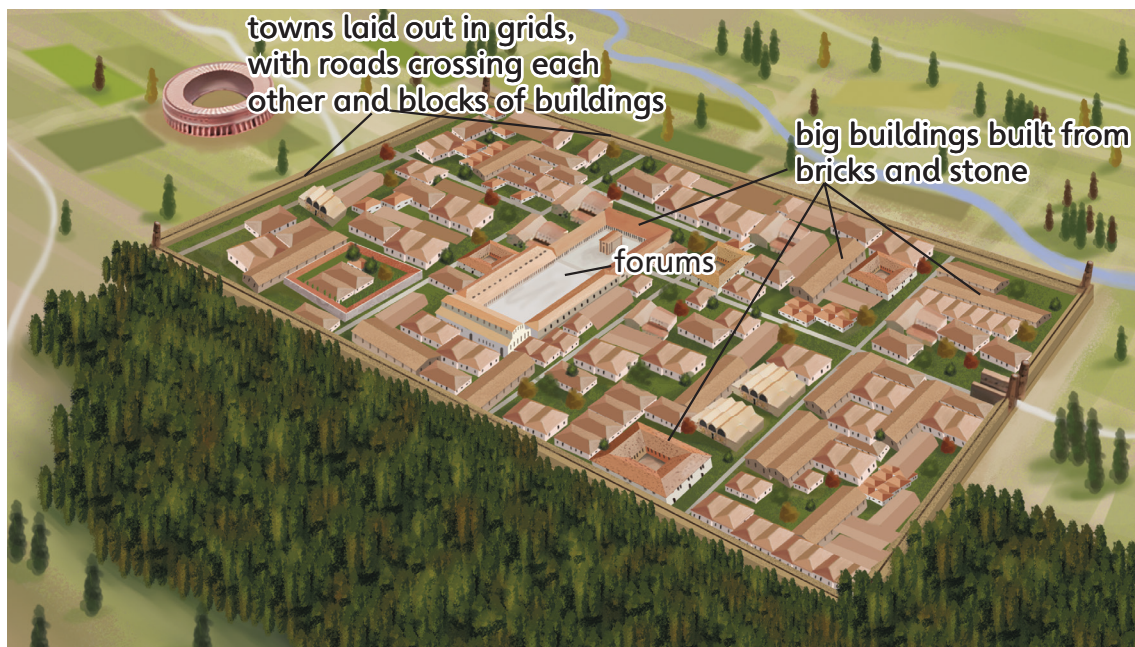
1. What was the name of the first Roman governor of Britain? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. Aulus Plautius ☐
 - b. Julius Caesar ☐
 - c. Claudius ☐
2. Read the statement below. Tick 'True' or 'False'.

The Roman army used a technique called the tortoise formation. True ☐ False ☐
3. What do we now call the people living in Britain at the time the Romans invaded? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. Plebeians ☐
 - b. Saxons ☐
 - c. Freeman ☐
 - d. Celts ☐
4. What was a client king? Tick the correct answer.
 - a. a tribal leader allowed to remain a king, but who had to pay taxes to the Roman emperor ☐
 - b. the leader of the Roman Empire ☐
5. Name one item a Roman soldier would take into battle. Write your answer.

Romanisation

Romanisation was a way of keeping the Roman Empire strong and powerful. Romanisation meant bringing Roman culture and civilisation to the people conquered by the Romans. The idea was that, if everyone lived in a similar way and shared a language, life would be more peaceful.

In Britain, the Celts mostly lived in small villages and worked on farms. Once the Romans were in charge of most of Britain, they began to change things, just as they had done in other places. Over the next 300 years, Britain was 'Romanised'.



A Roman town



1. List the ways in which Romans changed Britain. Write your answer.

Can you think of any benefits of the way Romans built towns? Write them down.

Roman language and writing

We have lots of information about what life was like in Roman Britain. This is because the Romans wrote a lot down. They used a language called Latin, which no country uses any more. However, lots of our words today come from Latin. The languages of other countries that the Romans conquered, such as Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, also have Latin roots.



2. Look at these Latin words. Match them with their meanings and related English words. Write the words on the lines below.

schola flamma mea aqua pictura

Latin word	English meaning	Related English words
<i>schola</i> _____	school	scholar, scholastic, school
_____	my	me
_____	water	aquatic, aquarium, aqueduct
_____	flame	flame, flammable, flamboyant
_____	picture	picture, picturesque, pictorial

The Roman landscape

As well as written information, the Romans left behind evidence such as everyday items and buildings. Many of these have been discovered by archaeologists, who study the past by looking at ancient items.

The Romans also built very straight roads, which meant that they could travel more quickly. We still use many Roman roads as we have built our new motorways over them.



Roman religion

The Romans believed in gods and spread these beliefs throughout the Empire. They also combined the beliefs of new lands they conquered with their own.

In 285 CE, the Roman Empire was split into two: the Western and Eastern (Byzantium) Empires.

In 312 CE, Emperor Constantine of Byzantium was preparing for a battle with Maxentius, the emperor in the West. The night before, he dreamed an angel told him to draw the Christian cross on the shields of his soldiers.

Constantine followed the angel's command, won the battle and became the emperor of the whole Roman Empire.

Constantine believed that Christianity had helped him to win. He rebuilt churches that had been burnt down, and encouraged his citizens to become Christians. Christianity eventually became the official religion of Rome.



3. What do you think was the most important part of the Romanisation of Britain? Write it down and explain why you think this.

Unit progress check in

1. What group of people governed the Roman Republic? Write your answer.
-

2. Write the numbers 1–3 next to the terms to show the power structure in Roman society. Use 1 to show the most powerful and 3 to show the least powerful.

- a. plebeians _____
b. enslaved people _____
c. patricians _____

3. Which Roman leader tried and failed to conquer Britain? Write your answer.
-

4. Read the statement below. Tick 'True' or 'False'.

Julius Caesar was the first Roman governor of Britain.

True ☐ False ☐

5. Which language did the Romans use? Tick the correct answer.

- a. English ☐ c. Arabic ☐
b. Latin ☐ d. Greek ☐

6. What made up the the tortoise formation's protective shell? Tick the correct answer.

- a. swords ☐ c. helmets ☐
b. shields ☐ d. body armour ☐

7. What was a client king? Write your answer.
-

8. What did a Roman soldier take into battle? Tick the three correct answers.

- shield ☐ gun ☐ short sword ☐
helmet ☐ tank ☐

Lesson 4

Can you plan your own Roman town?



Quiz

1. What does 'Romanised' mean? Write your answer.

2. Name three ways in which the Romans changed Britain. Write your answer.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3. Why were Roman roads so effective? Tick the correct answer.

- a. They had many bends. ☐
- b. They were very straight. ☐
- c. They were smooth. ☐

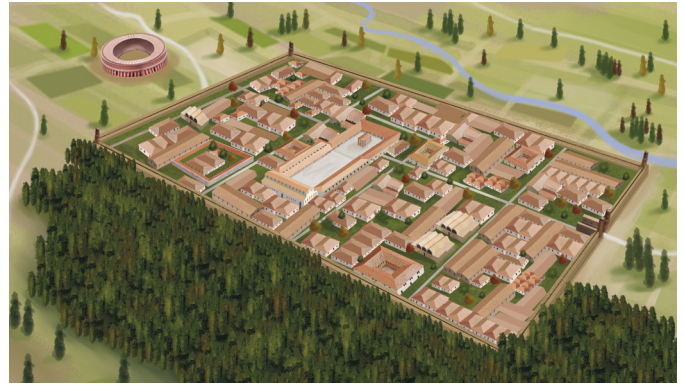
4. What did Emperor Constantine tell his soldiers to paint on their shields? Tick the correct answer.

- a. Jesus ☐
- b. a dove ☐
- c. a cross ☐
- d. Jupiter ☐

5. In what year did Constantine become emperor of the whole Roman Empire? Write your answer.

Roman towns

Roman roads connected Roman towns. Romans lived in big houses called villas, which were made out of stone and brick. Each town was well organised, with streets laid out in a grid pattern. In the middle there was a big, open square called a forum (Latin for 'meeting place'). Here, people would meet and trade goods.



Other buildings included shops, temples and baths. Water was brought into the city in **aqueducts**, which were bridges made for water. Dirty water was carried away in underground sewers. Larger, more important towns might have an **amphitheatre**, where people could watch plays, sporting events and gladiator battles. Gladiators were enslaved people forced to fight to the death to entertain Roman citizens.

A large wall surrounded the town to keep it safe.



- I. Using the information above, plan your own Roman town. Draw your plan below and label the features.

Forum

Checklist

amphitheatre
aqueducts
baths
city walls
forum
gates
shops
temples
villas

Roman ruins

You can still see many Roman ruins today. In the city of Bath, there are the remains of the public baths that wealthy people would have used. The water was heated by lighting a furnace and allowing the hot air from the furnace to heat a special room below the bath, which in turn heated the water.



The ruins of Roman amphitheatres can be found all across what was the Roman Empire. The large entrances for crowds to enter were called 'vomitoria' from the Latin 'to spew forth'.



Lesson 5

Which factors were most important in the fall of the Roman Empire?



Quiz

1. Name three buildings you would find in a Roman town. Write your answer.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. What did the Romans use to get clean water in and dirty water out of their towns? Write your answer.

Clean water: A_____

Dirty water: S_____

3. How was the water in Roman baths heated? Write your answer.

4. What does the Latin word 'forum' mean in English? Write your answer.

5. Name one feature of a Roman town other than buildings, and explain what it was for. Write your answer.

The fall of the Roman Empire

Rome was founded in 753 BCE. It got rid of its kings and became a republic in 509 BCE. The Roman Republic lasted for 500 years.

In 27 BCE, Rome became an empire and Augustus Caesar became the first emperor. The Roman Empire grew over hundreds of years, gradually conquering most of Europe, North Africa and western parts of Asia. The Roman Empire split into two parts in 285 CE. Then, in about 407 CE, the empire began to collapse.

The Western Empire collapsed in 476 CE when Rome was captured by invaders and the emperor was removed from power. However, Byzantium, the Eastern Empire, continued for many more centuries.



- I. Match the events to the dates to show the rise and fall of the Roman Empire. Draw lines between them.

753 BCE
509 BCE
264 BCE–146 BCE
27 BCE
43 CE
312 CE
476 CE

Rome becomes Christian.
Rome is conquered. The Roman Empire falls.
Claudius invades Britain.
Rome becomes a republic.
Rome wins the Punic Wars.
Rome is founded.
Rome becomes an empire.

Why did the Roman Empire fall?

Historians think that there were many reasons why Rome lost its power. Here are some of them.

The empire ran out of enslaved people.

After Rome conquered a land, they enslaved many of the people and enslaved the men to work for them. However, as they ran out of new lands to take over, they ran out of people to enslave.

Rome kept getting attacked by tribes on the edges of its empire.

The Romans called foreign tribes **barbarians**. Battles with barbarian tribes became frequent in eastern Europe.

The Huns arrived.

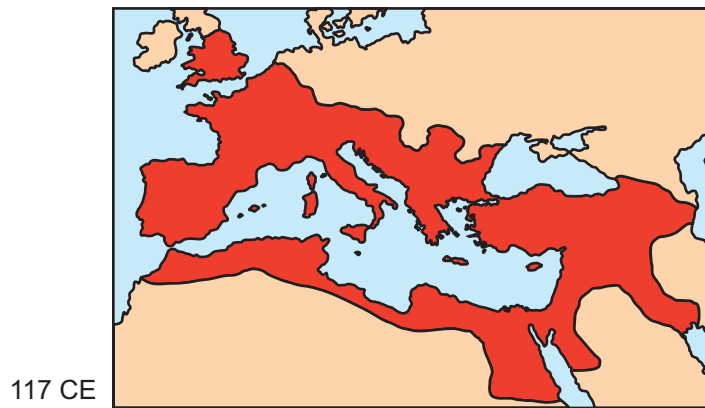
In the fourth century CE, a huge army of tribes called the Huns travelled from Asia towards Rome's empire. The Huns forced other tribes into the Roman Empire, where they were treated very badly. The tribes then rebelled against the Romans.

Christianity was made the official religion.

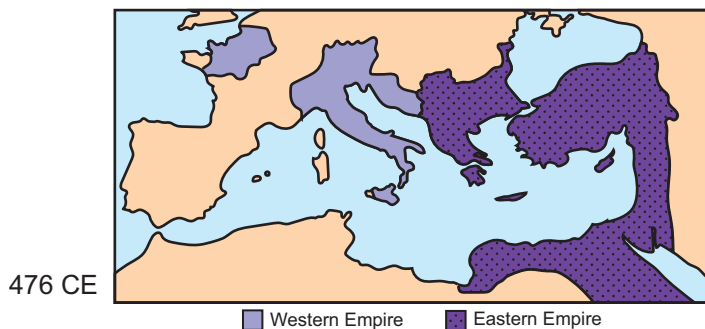
Before Constantine made Christianity the religion of Rome, people had worshipped the emperor like a god. However, now they worshipped the Christian god, the emperor became less important.

The empire became too big.

With so many different places to rule over, the emperor struggled to manage them. There was not enough money to make sure all the people got the things that they needed.



The Roman Empire at its height



The Roman Empire just before
Rome was captured



2. What do you think was the most important reason for the fall of the Roman Empire? Write your answer.



3. Prepare to debate your opinions. Fill in the blanks to complete these sentences.

Although _____
_____ was an important
factor in Rome's collapse, it was not as important as _____
_____.

The factor that was most damaging to Rome was _____
_____ because _____
_____.

Lesson 6

Unit check out



How far do you agree with the following statement?
'Life for most Britons didn't change much when the Romans came to Britain.'

Key words		
amphitheatre	Latin	taxes
aqueduct	road	towns
culture	Romanisation	villas
forum		

Title: How far do you agree with the following statement? 'Life for most Britons didn't change much when the Romans came to Britain.'	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When was this period?• How long had the Roman Empire been expanding, and how had it evolved?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Paragraph 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the Romans fight?• How did the Celts resist?• Why did tribal leaders agree to become client kings?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Paragraph 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the Romans change the British landscape?• How did the Romans change British culture?• How did the Romans change British beliefs?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Paragraph 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the Romans organise their towns?• What new buildings did the Romans bring to Britain?• Which of these features are common today?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Extension <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happened to the Roman Empire in the end?	<hr/> <hr/>
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the biggest changes under the Romans?• Did they change the world forever? How?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Roman Britain

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Published by Pearson Education Limited, 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL.

www.pearsonschools.co.uk

Text and Illustration © Pearson Education Limited 2021

Produced by Oriel Square Limited

Typeset and illustrated by Jouve India

Written by Reach Academy Trust

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First published 2021

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Roman Britain

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