

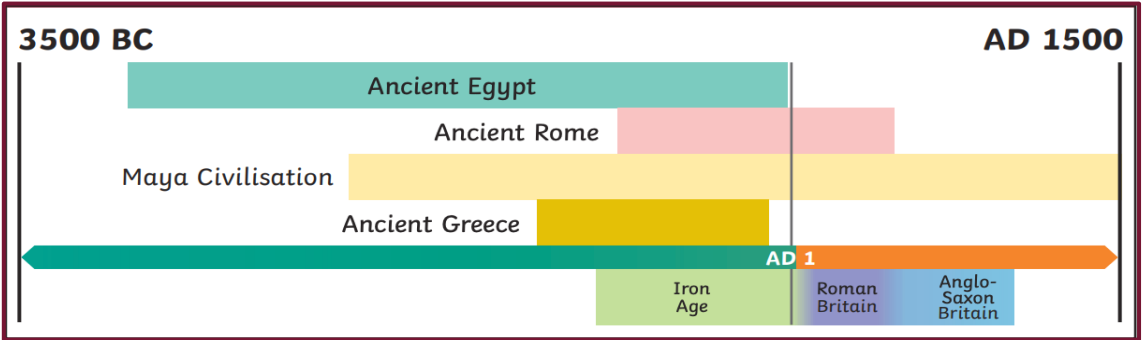
Y4: What impact did the Roman Empire have on Britain?

Prior Learning

- I understand that civilizations have certain characteristics, including: large population centres; monumental architecture; the division of people into social and economic classes; and a shared writing system.
- I can describe the way people lived in ancient Greece and the impact that their culture had on later periods in history.
- I understand that people invade and settle in other parts of the world.

Building an Empire

The Roman civilisation began in modern-day Italy, nearly 3000 years ago. They city of Rome was founded in 753 BC, and was heavily influenced by the Greek civilisation – many of its citizen had settled peacefully in southern Italy and its islands. But by 200BC, the Romans had taken over all of Italy, and began turning their attention to the rest of Europe, North Africa and western Asia.



The Romans Invade Britain



The Roman General Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54BC, whilst fighting the Gauls in what is now France. Some Celtic tribes from Britain had helped Gaul, so Caesar wanted to teach them a lesson. His army attacked Britain, and tribes were forced to pay tributes (tax) so the Romans would leave. Valuable trading routes were set up, and southern England started to adopt many aspects of Roman culture. However, the Romans had seen Britain's riches – gold, tin, iron, cattle – and they wanted it for the Empire.



In AD43, Emperor Claudius launched a third attack on Britain. He sent a powerful and well-organised army of around 40,000 men that landed in southern England. This time, the Romans stayed. If the Celts agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes, they could keep their kingdoms – though they had to give up land for new Roman settlements. Much of Britain became part of the Empire, and was now under the control of a local Roman governor.

Celtic Rebellion



King Prasutagus was the leader of the Iceni tribe. He kept peace with the Romans, and after he died in AD60, he left half his land to his wife and daughters, and half to the Roman Emperor Nero. However, the Romans wanted all of the land, and took the people as slaves. This led to a huge rebellion, led by Boudicca (Queen of the Iceni) and her daughters. She convinced other tribes to join her, and while most of the Roman army were busy fighting in Wales, Boudicca and her daughters led 200,000 Celtic warriors in destroying the Roman towns of Colchester, St. Albans and London. The Roman army hurried back from Wales, and trapped Boudicca's forces in a narrow valley at the Battle of Watling Street. Boudicca was defeated. Over the next 300 years, Britain became a peaceful and successful part of the Roman Empire.

How did the Romans change Britain?

Roman Towns

The Romans built new towns all over Britain. As well as places to live, each had a town hall, marketplace, religious temples, shops and public toilets. Larger towns had an amphitheatre and a bath house for entertainment and relaxation. A strong town wall would be built for protection, with guards at the gates. Aqueducts brought clean water into the town, and they built underground drains to take away dirty water and sewage. The Romans liked to keep clean and comfortable – the bath houses had an under-floor heating system to heat the water and keep the floors warm.



When the Romans settled in Britain, they brought influences from across the Empire - plants, animals (including rabbits!), a new religion and a language with its own system of writing and counting. The Romans were great builders – they used cement to hold stone and bricks together, so their structures were strong. Soon, Britain began to look like Rome, with its towns, public baths, roads, villas, aqueducts.

Villas

Wealthy Romans built villas - large farms with a grand country house for the owners. They had many rooms, some with beautifully painted walls, and mosaic floors. They had lots of servants and farm workers to help run the villa. Most Roman villas found by archaeologists are in the south of England – some of these beautiful mosaics have survived for almost 2000 years.



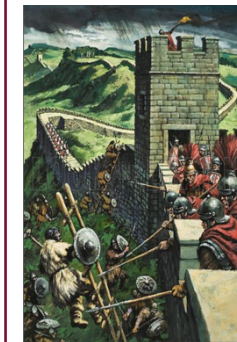
Roads and Walls

The Romans are famous for building long, straight roads. Special engineers planned them, and they covered the whole Empire.



They were vital for trade, communication and control - legions could march directly anywhere in the Empire. The Romans built 10,000 miles of road across Britain. Many of these are used today as modern roads, such as Fosse Way, which went from the Lincoln to Exeter.

In AD 122, Emperor Hadrian gave an order to build a wall in the north of the country. Roman legions had tried to conquer Caledonia (Scotland), but the Picts would not give up their



lands and they also raided land that the Romans controlled. Hadrian's Wall took around six years to build and it was 73 miles long. About 15,000 troops lived at Hadrian's Wall, so that they could defend this northern border of the Roman Empire.

Key Vocabulary

civilisation, concurrent, Empire, cause, consequence, primary and secondary source, evidence, Rome, Europe, Emperor, Julius Caesar, tributes, Emperor Augustus, military, conquer, invader, soldier, legion, settlement, Celtic tribes, governor, client kingdom, Cartimandua, Prasutagus, Boudicca, rebellion, Picts, Hadrian's Wall, society, culture, concrete, language, Latin, aqueduct, viaduct, trade, sanitation, sewers, public baths, central heating, villa, legacy, achievements, Septimius Severus

193AD - Septimius Severus became the first and only emperor of Rome to come from Africa

