

HISTORY · Y3-Y5

# The Romans

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 History

## Key vocabulary

1

**Roman Empire**

The vast lands ruled by Rome at its height — stretching from Britain to North Africa to the Middle East.

2

**Emperor**

The ruler of the Roman Empire, like a king with absolute power.

3

**Senate**

Group of important Roman politicians who advised the emperor and made laws.

4

**Legion**

A unit of about 5,000 Roman soldiers.

5

**Centurion**

Officer in the Roman army in charge of about 80 soldiers.

6

**Gladiator**

A trained fighter who battled others or wild animals in arenas, mostly for entertainment.

7

**Aqueduct**

Bridge-like structure used to carry water across long distances.

8

**Mosaic**

Picture made by arranging small coloured tiles or stones.



9

**Latin**

The language of the Romans. Many English words come from Latin.

10

**Forum**

Roman town's main public square, used for markets, meetings and announcements.

## Roman timeline

Key dates

- 753 BC — Legendary founding of Rome by Romulus
- 509 BC — Rome becomes a republic (ruled by elected senators)
- 55 BC — Julius Caesar's first invasion of Britain (unsuccessful)
- 27 BC — Augustus becomes the first Roman emperor
- 43 AD — Emperor Claudius successfully invades Britain — Roman Britain begins
- 60 AD — Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, rebels against Roman rule
- 122 AD — Emperor Hadrian builds Hadrian's Wall in northern Britain
- 410 AD — Romans leave Britain — end of Roman Britain
- 476 AD — Fall of the Western Roman Empire

## Romans in Britain

What changed when the Roman

- Roman roads — straight, paved, connecting towns. Many modern UK roads follow Roman routes.
- Towns and cities — Romans founded London (Londinium), York (Eboracum), Bath (Aquae Sulis), Chester (Deva).
- Public baths — places to wash, exercise and meet friends.
- Underfloor heating (hypocaust) — warm air flowed under floors of wealthy homes.
- Latin language and writing — Romans introduced reading and writing more widely.



- Roman calendar — basis for the modern calendar.
- Coins — Romans used coins as money, replacing barter.
- Different gods — Romans worshipped many gods. Later, Christianity spread through the Empire.
- Hadrian's Wall — 73-mile wall to keep out the tribes of Scotland.

## Life in Roman Britain

How people lived

- **WEALTHY ROMANS:** lived in villas with mosaics, slaves, multiple rooms, wine.
- **POOR ROMANS:** lived in small flats called insulae, ate bread and porridge.
- **CHILDREN:** rich children went to school and learned reading, writing, and Latin. Poor children worked.
- **FOOD:** bread, olives, fish sauce (garum), grapes, lamb. Romans introduced new foods to Britain — apples, peas, cabbages, onions.
- **CLOTHING:** men wore tunics, important men wore togas. Women wore long stolas.
- **ENTERTAINMENT:** gladiator fights, chariot races, theatre, public baths.
- **RELIGION:** many gods (Mars, Jupiter, Mercury, Venus). Later, Christianity.
- **WORK:** soldiers, farmers, craftsmen, traders, slaves (often captured in wars).

## Why the Romans matter

Their legacy in Britain today

- Many UK towns and cities were founded by Romans.
- Roman roads (the A1, the Watling Street) still shape our routes.
- Latin words appear everywhere in English: 'aqua' (water), 'video' (I see), 'circus,' 'campus.'
- Calendar months named after Roman emperors (July = Julius Caesar, August = Augustus).



- Roman numerals (I, V, X, L, C, D, M) still used on clocks and book chapters.
- Public baths, central heating, plumbing — first introduced to Britain by Romans.
- The legal system has Roman roots (the word 'judge' comes from Latin).
- Christianity spread through Britain partly because of the Roman Empire.

