# Year 3 Knowledge Organiser

<u> Roman Britain AD43 – AD410</u>

## How did the Romans impact Britain?

### Key Vocabulary

**Conquer:** to defeat someone or something, usually with force, like army troops that conquer enemy territory. **Invade:** when an army or country uses force to enter and take control of another country Boudicca: Boudicca was a Celtic queen who is famous for rising up against the Roman occupation in AD60 or 61. Caledonians: a tribe of indigenous people who lived in what is now known as Scotland. They were enemies of the Roman empire. Empire: A group of countries under one ruler or government. Londinium: also known as Roman London, was the capital of Roman Britain during most of the period of Roman rule. **Emperor:** the leader of the Empire.

Legions: The Roman army was made up of legions of around 5000 soldiers. Wroxeter: Viroconium, now named Wroxeter Roman City is an archaeological site located in the village of Wroxeter in Shropshire, England.



#### What was the Roman Empire?

The Ancient Romans were based in Rome in Italy, but they ruled over land that stretched far beyond the borders of Rome. This was called the Roman Empire, and it covered large parts of land all around the Mediterranean Sea – and even part of Great Britain. The Roman Empire was the largest empire of the ancient world.

### Key Questions and Facts

### What does the chronology of Roman Britain look like?

Britain was part of the Roman Empire from AD43 to 410 so it functioned as part of the Roman empire for 367 years. The Roman Empire made its mark on Britain, and even today, the ruins of Roman buildings, forts, roads, and baths can be found all over Britain.

#### How did Roman Britain end?

By AD410 the city of Rome was under attack and the empire was falling apart. Therefore, the Romans had to leave Britain to help back home. The Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote: "fight bravely and defend your lives...you are on your own now". After they left many of the Roman towns in Britain crumbled away as people went back to living in the countryside.

What are the most significant Roman achievements?

The Romans had much more advanced technology than many other civilisations at the time. They developed many things that had been used before and made them better, such as sewers, aqueducts and roads, but they also invented lots of new things, many of which we still use today: concrete, newspapers, books, calendar and even central heating.

### What is the legacy of Roman Britain?

From military structures such as forts and walls (including Hadrian's Wall) to engineering innovations like baths and aqueducts, the most obvious impact of the Romans that can still be seen today is their buildings. Most buildings in Iron Age Britain were made of timber and were often round in form. The Romans built in stone, in straight lines and on a grand scale.



### <u>Julius Caesar</u>

Julius Caesar first attempted to invade Britain in 55BC. He was a famous Roman leader. He won many battles for Rome and helped the Roman Empire grow.



Significant Individuals and Places

## Emperor Claudius

Emperor Claudius invaded Britain in 43 AD and was best known for his successful expansion of Rome, into Britain and parts of Africa and the Middle East.



### Boudicca

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. Today, she is remembered for her bravery and fight for freedom.



### <u>Roman Britain</u>

The Romans came to Britain looking for land and people to enslave. But what they really wanted to find was iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold to increase the wealth of the empire. It took the Romans three attempts to conquer Britain. Julius Caesar first invaded in 55 BC, but the army he brought wasn't large enough, and they had to retreat from battles with Celtic tribes. They tried again a year later with a larger army, but still didn't succeed. In 43AD, nearly 100 years later, Emperor Claudius invaded for a third time with four legions of men and another 20,000 auxiliaries. With such a big army, the Romans finally managed to gain control and conquer Britain. Britain remained part of the Roman Empire for almost 4 centuries, until 410AD.

### <u>Roman Roads and Towns:</u>

The Roman army are famous for building long, straight roads. Special engineers planned these roads. They boosted trade, communication with the Emperor and helped the legions to keep control of all the different provinces.



The Romans built new towns all over Britain. Each one had a marketplace, town hall, shops, temples and homes; larger towns had an amphitheatre. Bath houses were elaborately designed and were popular places to relax and meet friends.

#### Roman Villas:

Wealthy Romans and some Celts built large homes in the countryside called villas. The land attached to these homes was used for farming as agriculture was an important business for the Romans. Countryside villa complexes included a main house, bath house, workshops, and gardens. Visit the following website to find out about a local Roman city: https://www.englishheritage.org.uk/visit/places/wroxeter-roman-city/



#### Hadrian's Wall:



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. Around 15,000 troops lived at Hadrian's Wall so they could defend this northern border of the Roman Empire.

### Useful Websites:

BBC Bitesize: Roman Empire - <u>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwmpfg8</u>

Super Brainy Beans – Romans – Super Brainy History. <u>https://superbrainybeans.com/history/romans/</u>

Twinkl History Homework Help - How was life in Roman Britain? <u>https://www.twinkl.co.uk/teaching-wiki/life-in-roman-britain</u>

Horrible Histories Rotten Romans - Available on YouTube