

# Our History • The Romans in Britain

**Key Learning Question:** Was the Roman invasion a good or bad thing for Britain?



## Crucial Knowledge

- The Romans first invaded Britain in BC 55 and finally conquered it in 61 AD - this became the end of the Iron Age. The Romans were in Britain for about 400 years. They already had a huge empire before they arrived here.
- The Romans created the city of Londinium. They built roads, stronger buildings and a wall around the city. They were the first to build a bridge across the River Thames
- Primary sources from Roman Britain include artefacts like the human and animal bones, pottery and leather shoes found at Liverpool Street station. Secondary sources include websites and books.
- Boudicca was the queen of the Iceni tribe (of Celts). She led a rebellion against the Romans who invaded Britain. Depending on who tells the story, Boudicca can be seen as either a hero or a villain.
- The Roman Empire spread throughout Europe and North Africa. People migrated from other countries in the Empire to Britain, creating a diverse society.
- Many aspects of Roman life are still evident in modern Britain today - (ruins of) forts, cities, roads, Christianity. The English language is also based on the Roman language of Latin. The lasting effect of these things shows they made an important positive impact on Britain.



## Key Vocabulary

- invade: To enter a country or region in order to occupy or take it over
- conquer: Take control of a place or people by force
- archaeology: History using buried artefacts and other remains
- empire: An extensive group of states or countries with a single ruler
- native: Person born in a particular place
- Londinium: The name the Romans gave the city which turned into London
- tribe: Families or communities living together in a group with a common culture.
- Latin: The formal language of the Roman Empire

- Big Ideas:** Chronology • Society • Beliefs  
• Technology & Evolution • Conflict • Change Makers



## Important People & Places



### Emperor Claudius

The Roman Emperor who mounted a successful invasion of Britain in 43 AD (Julius Caesar had tried in 55 BC but the Romans had not been able to stay and take over).



### Queen Boudicca

Queen of the Iceni Tribe – the Iron Age Celts who occupied part of Britain during the early Roman period. She led a rebellion in 60 AD, during which Londinium was reduced to ashes.



### Ivory Bangle Woman

Her name is unknown, but this wealthy Roman woman who travelled to Britain from North Africa demonstrates that Britain was multi-racial even in Roman times.



## We Are Building Our Knowledge From

- Stone Age to Iron Age (Y3)

## This will help when we learn about

- Vikings and Anglo Saxons (Y5)



## Timeline

509 BC	125 BC	55 BC	43 AD	60 AD	122 AD	400 AD
Roman Republic created	Romans take over southern France	Romans invade Britain for first time	Romans successfully conquer Britain	Queen Boudicca leads a Celt rebellion	Romans build Hadrian's Wall	Roman rule in Britain ends (as the Roman Empire collapses)