

Emperor Claudius invades

By Michael Coleman

- NARRATOR:** The Romans had decided that their empire needed an Emperor to be in charge of everything and, in 43 AD, Emperor Claudius had just been elected. He was looking for a good way of making his mark...
- FLUNKY:** You called, Emperor?
- CLAUDIUS:** Yes. I've been looking at this old map of Julius Caesar's. Britannia – is it coloured red yet, or not?
- FLUNKY:** No, Emperor. It's still green and full of turbulent tribes.
- CLAUDIUS:** Perfect. This'll show everybody I'm in charge. I want Britannia invaded again. And this time we're going, we're seeing, we're conquering – and we're jolly well staying!
- NARRATOR:** Claudius gave a general named Aulus Plautius the job of leading the invasion. An army of 40,000 men landed to be met by hordes of Britons. The fighting was fierce and bloody. After a famous victory, General Plautius sent word to Emperor Claudius in Rome...
- FLUNKY:** Word from General Plautius, Emperor!
- CLAUDIUS:** Aha! Let's see how he's been getting on. 'Blah, blah...invasion successful! Heading for Camulodenon, the most important place in south-east Britannia. Suggest you come over yourself and lead us in the final victory.' What a good idea! Glory for Claudy!
- FLUNKY:** Shall I get your horse ready, Emperor?
- CLAUDIUS:** Horse? No, I'm going to ride in on something those Britons have never seen before...



History Clips: The Romans

- NARRATOR:** When Emperor Claudius arrived, bringing with him even more soldiers, the defending Britons realised they couldn't win and surrendered. Claudius rode in in triumph...
- SOLDIER:** Stand back! Make way for the Emperor Claudius!
- GIRL BRITON:** Cor! What's that creature he's riding, Mr Roman Soldier?
- SOLDIER:** That, you ignorant Briton, is...a elephant!
- GIRL BRITON:** Wow! Look at those thick legs! And those big, flappy ears! And – that nose. It's huge!
- SOLDIER:** Oh yes, that's elephants for yer.
- GIRL BRITON:** Elephant? I was talking about the Emperor!
- SOLDIER:** What? Come 'ere, you 'orrible little Briton!
- NARRATOR:** Emperor Claudius must have been pleased with his conquest, though, because he named one of his sons Britannicus in celebration. After all, he'd achieved what he'd set out to do. The Romans had successfully invaded Britain – and this time they intended to stay, whether the Britons liked it or not.

