

Teacher Notes

The Romans in Britain

Synopsis

Julia describes the story of the Romans in Britain, from their first landings, their conquests and Celtic rebellions, to their exit.

Resources:

Comprehension:

Seven questions testing a variety of skills (retrieval, summarising, etc.) to check and reinforce learning from the animation.

Roman Britain Timeline:

Children place events from the Roman period of British history on a timeline.

Mapping Roman Britain:

Children mark locations and features on a map of the British Isles to show where important events occurred during the Romans' time in Britain.

Key questions to consider:

How much of Britain did the Romans conquer?

How did different Celtic tribes respond to the Roman invasion?

What changes did the Romans' arrival in Britain bring about?

What led to the Romans sending an invasion force to Britain?

History curriculum objectives:

- Continue to develop chronologically secure knowledge of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within the periods they study.
- Note connections over time.
- NI: Movement of people in the past, for example, *Romans*.
- NI The impact of raiders and settlers in Ireland and elsewhere.
- NI How the world has changed over time.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I have an understanding that the past can be divided into periods of time.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can describe how some different characteristics of communities and societies have changed, within and across periods of time, in Wales, as well as the wider world.
- SOC 2-02a: I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology..
- SOC 2-06a: I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- Geography: Name and locate cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers).
- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe.

Comprehension

Richborough Roman fort marks the spot where what happened?

Who lived in Britain before the Romans invaded?

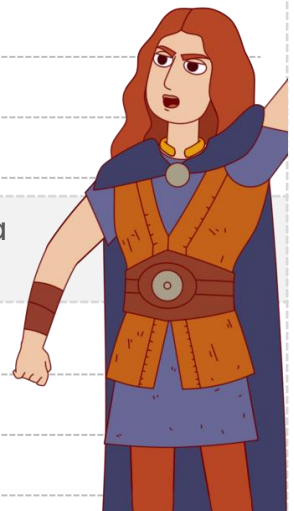
Describe one thing the animation explained about Celtic life before the Roman invasion.

How did different tribes respond to the Roman invasion?

Why did Boudica choose to fight the Romans?

Summarise Boudica's revolt.

Who could the Romans not defeat in Britain? What did they do as a result?



Comprehension

Richborough Roman fort marks the spot where what happened?

Who lived in Britain before the Romans invaded?

The Romans landed when they invaded Britain.

Celts / Celtic tribes

Describe one thing the animation explained about Celtic life before the Roman invasion.

Various answers, for example: They traded lead, copper, tin, iron and wheat with people across Europe, including Celts in Gaul and the Romans.

How did different tribes respond to the Roman invasion?

Some surrendered to Roman rule, but others fought back. Eventually most chieftains agreed to live peacefully under the Romans, paying taxes and sometimes adopting Roman habits.

Why did Boudica choose to fight the Romans?

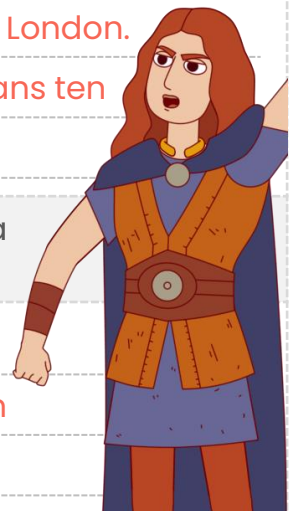
When her husband died she was supposed to get half of his land but instead the Romans took all of it and treated her and her daughters badly, so she fought back.

Summarise Boudica's revolt.

She gathered 120,000 warriors, destroyed Colchester and burned London. They destroyed a Roman legion. Despite outnumbering the Romans ten to one at the Battle of Watling Street, the Celts were defeated.

Who could the Romans not defeat in Britain? What did they do as a result?

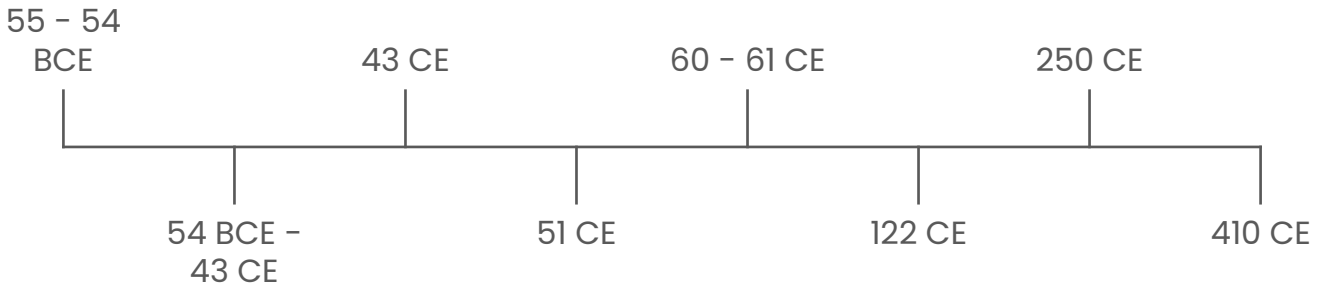
The Picts in Scotland. Emperor Hadrian built a 120km-long wall across the north of England to keep them out. It was 3m thick, 4m high and had 80 towers to defend it.



Roman Britain Timeline



"The story of the Romans in Britain spans about 450 years of our history! During that time, lots of things happened. Draw the timeline below in your books, then cut out the events and stick each one next to the date when it took place."



<p>Caratacus is captured</p>	<p>'Barbarian' invasions</p>
<p>Caratacus, the main opponent of the Roman invasion, is defeated again, betrayed and sent to Rome as a captive.</p>	<p>Tribes called the Picts, Angles, Saxons and Jutes begin to attack Roman Britain from Scotland, Germany and Scandinavia.</p>
<p>First Roman arrivals</p>	<p>The end of Roman rule</p>
<p>Julius Caesar leads two trips to Britain. The Romans fight local tribes, take resources and give power to Celts who will pay them, but they do not stay.</p>	<p>Roman soldiers have been leaving Britain to fight elsewhere in the Empire. Now, Rome tells Britain it will have no more Roman help against its invaders.</p>
<p>Hadrian's Wall</p>	<p>Trade</p>
<p>Emperor Hadrian orders the building of a fortified wall right across the northern border of Roman Britain, to protect it from the tribes in Scotland.</p>	<p>The Celts in Britain had often traded with other Celts in Gaul (France), but now also have links with the Romans and trade with them too.</p>
<p>Boudica's revolt</p>	<p>Emperor Claudius invades</p>
<p>Wanting revenge for being mistreated, Boudica, Queen of the Iceni, raises an army. She destroys Roman towns but is defeated at the Battle of Watling Street.</p>	<p>Emperor Claudius sends about 40,000 soldiers to Britain. They beat a Celtic king, Caratacus, in battle and begin to take over the country.</p>

Mapping Roman Britain – The Tasks



“The Romans conquered a lot of land in Britain, but not all of it. It was not always easy for them, either. Below is a list of tasks. Use your geography research skills to complete them on the map of the British Isles on the next page.”

1	Mark the location of Pegwell Bay in Kent. This is probably the place where Julius Caesar landed with a large army in 54 BCE. After some small battles, he forced local kings to pay money to Rome, then his army left Britain.
2	In blue, draw the River Medway in Kent, running past Rochester to Aylesford. In 43 CE, Emperor Claudius’s army defeated an army of Britons here, led by Togodumnus and Caratacus. This time the Romans were here to stay.
3	Colour Wales in red. Caratacus fled to Wales after the battle at the River Medway. He led tribes called the Silures and Ordovices against the Romans but was beaten again and fled to the lands of the Brigantes.
4	Mark the locations of Aldborough and York , the most important cities of the Brigantes tribe. In 51 CE, their queen, Cartimandua, betrayed Caratacus and gave him to the Romans.
5	Mark the location of London . The city was founded shortly after Claudius’s invasion and would go on to become the Roman capital of Britain.
6	Mark the locations of Colchester and St. Albans . Draw a line in red from Colchester to London and then to St. Albans. This marks the path of destruction of Boudica’s revolt in 61 CE, when she burned all three towns.
7	Outline Anglesey in green. In 78 CE the Ordovices revolted. The new governor of Britain crushed the rebellion. He crossed over to Anglesey and destroyed the last major centre of the Celtic religion (Druidism) in Britain.
8	Mark the Drumanagh headland, just north of Dublin. Roman artefacts have been found here. It may have been the site of a Roman landing, or a trading post. The Romans called the whole island Hibernia, but never conquered it.
9	In black, draw the line of Hadrian’s Wall, from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway . Work on the wall started in 122 CE. Built to protect Roman Britain from the Scots and Picts, it was the northern border of the Empire for many years.
10	In black, draw the line of the Antonine Wall from the River Clyde to the Firth of Forth . This second wall was built to push the Roman border further into Scotland. It was abandoned around 165 CE, a few years after it was finished.
11	Colour Scotland in blue. The Romans tried several times to conquer the land we now call Scotland, but each time they pulled back. They never had full or lasting control of the area.

Mapping Roman Britain - The Map

