

# Year 4: Romans

## Historical Context:



## Key Facts:

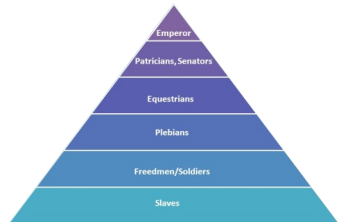
The Roman Empire was founded in 753BC and fell in 410 CE. It was founded during the late period of Ancient Egypt.

Around 98-117 CE the Roman Empire was at its greatest prosperity under the Reign of Emperor Trajan.

At its height the Roman Empire included England, Wales, France, Spain Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Turkey, Greece, Albania, Syria, former Yugoslavia, Israel, Lebanon, Tunisia and parts of Germany, the former Soviet Union Morocco, Algeria, Syria and Egypt.

## Organisation:

The Romans had a class system for its people.



Rome had a government and a very organised army. In Rome there were lots of grand buildings and lots of entertainment.

## Romans in Britain:

Since the end of the Iron Age, life had changed in Britain. Some of the settlements had become more like towns with houses in lines along streets called 'oppid' and many people traded with people around the world. Metal coins had begun to be made.

Roman glass was imported into Britain - glass was rare and precious. Also British people liked Roman food (olive oil and wine).

The Romans invaded Britain for its natural resources such as: precious metals, slaves and farmland.

In 55BCE, a general called Julius Caesar invaded Britain. Because he was born in the Mediterranean, Caesar wasn't prepared for the stormy weather.

He also had to anchor his ships in deep water so the soldiers jumped into cold water in their armour.

Although they won some battles, when the weather got worse in autumn, he returned to Gaul and planned to return to Britain the next year.

The following summer he returned and fought against the Celts.

In 41CE, Claudius became Emperor and decided to try and invade Britain again.

He had a huge army, so when he landed in Essex, he quickly captured the town of Colchester. Eleven tribes in England surrendered.

After being conquered, Rome took a lots of people's land and earnings, so life was difficult for the Celts.

In order to conquer England, the Romans built straight roads so they could take the shortest route. They covered them with stone. Some are still used today.

When the Romans conquered towns they made them more like Rome. They built them around forums and created amphitheatres for entertainment.

The Romans built a city called Londinium in 50CE which grew into what is now London. However, Colchester was the capital city at the time.

Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write. The Romans used a language called Latin to record information and history. Many of the words we use today come from the language of Latin.

People in Britain worshipped many gods. The Romans also worshipped many gods. When they invaded, they matched their gods to the ones of the tribes. Eventually, they converted to Christianity but pagan beliefs were still popular.

There were many revolts during the Roman period. The most famous was led by Boudicca. Hadrian's wall was also built to keep the Scottish rebels out.

## Key Vocabulary:



**AMPHITHEATRE:** a large open area surrounded by rows of seats sloping upwards



**EMPIRE:** a group of states or countries ruled by a single monarch



**GLADIATOR:** a man trained to fight with weapons against other men or wild animals



**OLIVE OIL:** an oil obtained from olives used in cooking and salad dressings.



**REIGN:** the period of rule by a monarch



**CITIZENS:** an inhabitant of a particular town or city



**FELL:** no longer had power



**GOVERNMENT:** the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state



**OPPIDA:** towns with houses built in lines along streets



**RESISTANCE:** the refusal to accept or comply with something



**CLASS SYSTEM:** a system which social status is largely determined by the family



**FORUM:** an open courtyard used as a meeting place for and for markets



**LATIN:** the language of ancient Rome and its empire.



**PATRICIANS:** noblemen who owned vast houses, which were worked in by slaves



**SENATE:** an assembly of nobles with senior government posts



**CONQUER:** overcome and take control of a place by military force.



**FOUNDED:** established or began



**MARKET:** a regular gathering of people for buying and selling goods



**PROSPERITY:** being wealthy and successful



**SURRENDERED:** stop resisting to an enemy and submit to their authority



**EMPEROR:** a ruler of an empire



**GENERAL:** a commander of an army



**NOBLES:** a man who belongs by rank, title or birth to the aristocracy



**PUBLIC BATH:** a place where people worked out, relaxed and met with other people



**TEMPLE:** a building devoted to the worship of a god or gods.