

Knowledge Organiser

Year: 4 Subject: History Unit: When was the Roman Empire and what impact did it have on Britain?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will look at the Roman invasion, learn about Boudicca and why she resisted Roman rule and examine a case study of a Roman fort. Pupils will also explore the changes made by the Romans and how this changed life in Britain.

What should I already know?

- Life changed from the early Stone Age when hunter gatherers roamed the land to the Iron Age.
- The people living at the time of the Iron Age were known as the Celts and many of them lived in tribes.
- How to sequence events chronologically on a timeline.
- Evidence found by archaeologists has been vital in allowing us to find out what life was like in the past.
- The way people lived in the past has affected our lives.

Historical Skills:

- Look at more than two versions of the same event and identify differences.
- Use a range of sources to find out about the past.
- Gather more detail from sources such as maps.

What will I know by the end of the unit?



- The Celts lived in Britain before the Roman Invasion.
- Julius Caesar first attempted to invade Britain in 55BC but failed. He invaded because he wanted to protect Rome.
- He invaded again in 54BC and this time was better prepared with a larger army. This time Caesar was successful but returned to Rome with hostages rather than staying in Britain.
- The Romans eventually invaded and conquered Britain nearly 100 years later in 43AD. This time Emperor Claudius was in charge. Emperor Claudius had an image problem and stumbled when he walked, meaning he wanted to prove himself.

Vocabulary:

Celts	A group of people living in tribes before the Roman invasion.
Emperor	The main ruler of an empire.
Empire	A group of nations or people under one ruler or government.
Ruled	To control or be in charge of something e.g. a country.
Invasion	To enter as an army or force to try and conquer an area.
Battle	A fight between two people or forces during a war.
Conquer	To overcome using force.
Villa	A large house in the country. Some were like palaces.
Mosaic	A pattern made up using lots of small pieces of pottery.
Legion	The main battle unit of the Roman army.
Aqueduct	A system of pipes and channels used to bring water into towns.



- Britain also had lots of silver, gold, crops, cattle and slaves that Claudius wanted.
- The Romans were very well prepared and well trained. They also had armour to protect them and weapons such as swords and javelins. The Celts on the other hand were bare chested but looked fearsome. Both men and women fought and they used blue markings on their bodies to make them look fierce. They did have a large sword and a shield but no armour.
- Boudicca was the Queen of the Iceni tribe (based in Norfolk). When the Romans invaded she was allowed to keep this land with her husband. However, when her husband later died the Romans demanded that she gave up the land. Boudicca refused so the Romans tied her up and attacked her daughters. Boudicca was so furious that she raised an army and marched to Colchester to try and kill the Romans. To start with Boudicca and her army were doing well but eventually they were defeated. Knowing that she was going to die, Boudicca and her daughters killed themselves before the Romans could.
- The Romans were very successful and powerful and therefore occupied Britain for nearly 400 years. During this time, they built many roads which meant they were able to travel to battle quicker as well as in formation as the roads were wider.
- They also built Hadrian's Wall which is still standing today. This was built as a barrier to separate Roman Britain from Scotland which wasn't controlled by the Romans.
- The remains of Roman Villas have been discovered which tell us what life was like in Roman times. Only a small number of wealthy Romans lived in these villas which had mosaic floors and Roman baths.
- The Romans changed life in Britain in many ways including: straight roads, central heating and aqueducts. They also developed the language we use today and introduced the idea of laws and the legal system.



Map showing the location of Hadrian's Wall



Drawing of what a Roman Villa was thought to look like

