# **Emperors and Empires**

## **Founding of Rome**

There are two explanations for the founding of the city of Rome in Italy.

### Mythical version

Romans believed that the city was built by Romulus, the son of the god Mars, on 21st April 753 BC.

### **Historical version**

Historians believe that the city started as a collection of small settlements that were built on hills near the River Tiber. Over time, they grew and joined together to form a city.

## **Ruling Rome**

Ancient Rome was ruled in three different ways. At first, Rome was a kingdom (753–509 BC) lead by a king. Next it was a republic (509–27 BC) lead by two consuls and a group of 600 men called a senate. Finally, it was an empire (27 BC–AD 476) ruled by an emperor.



Roman senate

## **Emperors**

An emperor is the male ruler of an empire. Roman emperors had absolute power. Some emperors, like Trajan (AD 53–117), used this power wisely. Other emperors, like Commodus (AD 161–192), were foolish and selfish.



Commodus

## Growth of an empire

The Roman army conquered countries all around the Mediterranean Sea and so the Roman Empire grew to include many neighbouring lands. It was at its largest between AD 117 and AD 200.



Roman Empire, AD 117-200

## **Ancient Rome**

Ancient Rome was a bustling city of over one million people. At the centre of the city was a meeting place called the forum, and a basilica where court cases and official business took place. The people of Rome lived in houses and apartments around the city. They visited the shops and markets, bathed at the public baths and visited the Colosseum to watch gladiator fights for entertainment.



## **Social hierarchy**

Ancient Rome had a were born into a group and during their lifetime. Almost every group had Roman citizenship, which meant they had rights and could vote. However, slaves were not

## **Roman army**

The Roman army was well structured and had a clear hierarchy, which made it the most effective fighting force in the ancient world. The army was lead by high ranking officers and ordinary soldiers were expected to follow commands and keep an oath to the emperor. All soldiers had similar equipment, armour, shields for protection and javelins and swords for fighting. Soldiers were well trained and fit. After an invasion, they also used their skills as engineers and builders to create forts, towns, roads and bridges in the countries they conquered.







Roman citizens so they had no rights and were owned by individuals or the government.



## **Romans in Britain**



## Invasion

Julius Caesar invaded Britain in 55 and 54 BC, but both invasions were unsuccessful. The Roman emperor, Claudius, successfully conquered Britain in AD 43.

### Britannia

Boudicca

The Roman army spent many years, conquering Britain. After 30 years, England and Wales became part of the Roman Empire, called Britannia. Caledonia (Scotland) and Hibernia (Ireland) were never conquered by the Romans.

Boudicca was the queen of

revolted against Roman rule in AD 60–61. She and her army

of tribal warriors destroyed the

Roman cities of Camulodunum

the Celtic Iceni tribe who

(Colchester), Londinium

(London) and Verulamium



### Hadrian's Wall

(St Albans).

The emperor, Hadrian, ordered that a wall should be built along the frontier of Caledonia and Britannia in AD 122. Parts of Hadrian's Wall can still be seen in Northumberland today.



First and second	Claudius inv
nvasion of Britain by	and conqu
Julius Caesar	Britain

## **Timeline of Roman Britain** 55–54 BC



/ades lers

Boudicca rebels against Roman rule

Hadrian's Londinium Wall is built

### becomes the capital of Roman Britain

AD 211

## **Romanisation of Britain**

### Towns

The Romans built towns in Britain that were similar to towns across the Roman Empire. Britons living in towns adopted a Roman lifestyle.

## Inventions

The Romans brought roads, aqueducts, hypocausts, public baths, toilets, money and the Latin language to Britain.

### Londinium

I ondinium was founded near the River Thames cAD 50. It grew and became the capital of Roman Britain.

### Christianity

Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in AD 313. Some people in Britannia became Christians.

# Glossary

### absolute pow

aqueduct

consul

empire

hierarchy

hypocaust

### Roman citizer

Romanise

Romano-Briti culture



	AD 313 CAD 400 AD 410	
	Christianity Roman army Roman rule becomes legal gradually ends	
	in the Roman leaves	
	Empire Britannia	
/		
ver	Complete authority to make decisions.	
	A channel for carrying water,	
	normally in the form of a bridge across a valley or other gap.	
	One of two men who held the	
	highest position in the senate of the Roman Republic.	
	A group of countries ruled by a single	
	person, government or country.	
	A system where people or things are	
	arranged in order of importance.	
	A system of underfloor besting	
	A system of underfloor heating invented by the ancient Romans.	
	·	
n	A person who had privileges and	
	protection from the Roman state.	
	To become Roman.	
ish	The culture that was created in	
	Britannia after the Roman invasion.	

