



Who were the Romans?

Origin	Rome was built in 753 BC by its founder, Romulus. It started off by just ruling and farming the land around the city but by the 3 rd century BC they controlled much of Italy. By 130 AD, they had conquered most of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.
Republic	At first, Rome was ruled by Kings (monarchy). However, around 500 BC, it was ruled as a republic, This meant that it was ruled by a group of elected people with no one person having too much power. After a few arguments, and as her size grew, Rome became an empire ruled by one Emperor at around 10 BC. The empire fell apart around 450 AD.

Key People in invasion of Britain

Caesar	Came from a powerful Roman family. Wasn't always popular back home in Rome, but was a very clever general. He conquered all of Gaul (now France) in 58 BC, before trying to invade and conquer Britain (thought to be rich in gold and tin) . Tried invading in 55 BC and then again in 54 BC, but wasn't successful. Helped Cleopatra become Queen of Egypt but was murdered when he became too powerful.
Claudius	Emperor from 41 AD to 54 AD. Started successful conquest of Britain. Poisoned by his wife.
Boudicca	Queen of Iceni tribe (Celts). Fought back against Roman rule in 60AD after her husband was killed and she was whipped. Burnt down roman colony at Colchester and London before being defeated.

Who were the Celts?	Why did the Roman invade Britain?
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The people that lived in Britain before the Romans invaded. Also lived in modern day France, Belgium, Switzerland.	The Celts of Britain had helped Celts of Gaul (modern France) fight against Romans, which made them angry.
Romans thought they were barbarians, but their jewelry and advanced farming techniques and shipbuilding shows otherwise.	The two Romans who invaded Britain, Caesar and Claudius, both wanted to use the invasion to show they were successful leaders.

Religion

As the Roman empire expanded, the Romans worshipped lots of gods they found. For example, after defeating the Greeks they started worshipping their gods, giving them different names. Zeus became Jupiter. Similarly, a temple to a Persian God, Mithras, was found on Hadrian's wall.	They believe success in life was only possible with support of the gods, which was achieved through sacrifice and offerings. This type of belief in more than one god is called 'polytheism' ('poly' – many, theism – worship)
However, they didn't like all aspects of other religions. 'Druids' (Celtic priests who had lots of power and influence) were destroyed.	When the Roman empire became Christian in the 4th century AD, this was taken to Britain. However, Britain was still largely pagan.