

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 3: Roman Empire and the impact on Britain

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Romanisation	To adopt Roman custom and practices
Hadrian's Wall	A large wall built that signalled the end of Roman land in Britain
Enquiry	Asking for information.
Invasion	An unwelcome attack on land.
Period	Intervals in history

Lucius Septimius Severus (AD 145–211) was born in Libya and became the 20th Roman Emperor in AD 193. He was a great military leader, increasing the annual pay of legionary soldiers and during his time in power he conducted a large programme of building works in Northern Britain including Hadrian's Wall. Although his campaigns to the north of Hadrian's Wall were cut short by his death, their effects on the frontier are visible to this day.



Ivory Bangle Lady

In 1901 the ancient grave of a woman was discovered in York. Tests revealed her to be of North African origin and established her as the earliest proven evidence of a Black woman in the British Isles. The contents of her grave indicated she was a woman of means and high social status. Her skeleton was found with bracelets, pendants, earrings and beads as well as a glass jug and a mirror.



Who were the Romans?

- The Roman Empire was made up of people from Italy, Greece, Spain, North Africa, the Middle East, France and Britain. Large cities in the UK during this time period were multicultural especially in London.
- Ancient Rome was a powerful and important civilization that ruled much of Europe for nearly 1000 years. The achievements of the Romans influenced the languages, literature, laws, methods of government, roads and buildings of Western Europe.
- The Romans wanted to invade Britain for power and to get resources. The Romans tried to invade Britain three times, but only succeeded on the third attempt. The Celts were living in Britain when the Romans invaded.

Romans in Britain Timeline

753 BC Rome was founded by Romulus.
 55 BC Julius Caesar attempts to invade Britain.
 27 BC Augustus becomes the first Roman Emperor.
 43 AD Roman invasion of Britain.
 50 BC London was founded.
 60 AD Boudicca.
 80 AD Colosseum built in Rome.
 122 AD Hadrian's Wall was built.
 312 AD Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
 410 AD Last Romans left Britain.

What was the Romans impact on Britain?

- The Romans built 10,000 miles of road across Britain. Many of these are used today as modern roads.
- Before the Romans came, very few Britons could read or write. Instead, information was passed by word of mouth.
- The Romans wrote down their history, their literature and their laws. They spoke Latin, and it wasn't long before some Britons started to use it too. Latin was also the language of Christianity and remained the universal language of learning, law and literature for 1000 years after the end of the Roman Empire.
- British coins are based on a Roman design. The Romans made using coins to buy things popular throughout the whole of Roman Britain, rather than just swapping one thing for another.
- The Romans built big brick and stone buildings with central heating as well as sewage systems. The Romans brought animals, like rabbits, to Britain.

What is Hadrian's Wall?

- Hadrian was the Emperor of Rome from AD 117 until AD 138. He spent his reign travelling across his Empire and improving it, particularly its borders.
- He built Hadrian's Wall to secure the Empire's border in the province of Britannia. Boudicca led a rebellion against Roman rule which eventually failed. Romans left Britain to defend Rome from invaders.
- After they left, many of the Roman towns in Britain crumbled away as people went back to living in the countryside. But even after they were gone, the Romans left their mark. They brought new towns, plants, animals, a new religion and new ways of reading and counting. Even the word 'Britain' comes from the Romans.