

The Romans :

Why did the Romans choose to settle in Britain?

History

Knowledge Organiser

Teaching focus: The Romans—a study of The Romans, why they settled in Britain, how they lived and what legacies they left behind.

Learning Lens: Artefacts

Class: Year 4

Previous Knowledge

How did Stone Age people live?

The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

To **ORGANISE, EVALUATE AND COMMUNICATE**– use dates and subject specific words to improve the accuracy of their findings.

Project Hook or ‘Wow’ memory

Creation of Roman Shields to use in a class re-enactment of a Roman Battle. Mosaic design and making.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING — describe how some of the past events affect lives today. Show knowledge and understanding by describing features of past societies and periods.

To develop understanding of **CHRONOLOGY** by using words, phrases and topic related vocabulary which denotes the period. Place events on a timeline covering AD and BCE dates.

Learning Steps

Key Knowledge (answers)

Why was Rome so powerful?

The Roman army was the **largest and meanest** fighting force in the ancient world. One of the main reasons Rome became so powerful was because of the strength of its army. It conquered a vast empire that stretched from Britain all the way to the Middle East. The army was **very advanced** for its time. The soldiers were the best trained, they had the best weapons and the best armour. Being a soldier was a serious business.

Why and when did the Romans want to invade Britain?

Why the Romans came to Britain is not quite certain. Two reasons have been suggested: 1. The Romans were **cross with Britain** for helping the **Gauls** (now called the French) fight against the Roman general **Julius Caesar**. 2. They came to Britain **looking for riches** - land, slaves, and most of all, iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold. They made more than one attempt to invade Britain, beginning in 55BC and ending by about 410AD.

What buildings and events did the Romans introduce to Britain?

The Romans introduced the idea of rectangular buildings called villas as opposed to the traditional thatched roundhouses. This meant that more buildings could fit into streets in planned cities. Roman cities were built around a grid. They introduced amphitheatres, some which still stand today. They built Roman baths and Hadrian's Wall. Many events took place during the time that the Romans invaded Britain such as battles, wars and revolts.

How did the Romans live?

Rich and poor Romans lived very differently. Rich families had a luxurious lifestyle. There is much to learn about the Romans and what their homes looked like, what food they ate, what jobs they had and what they might have done for leisure and entertainment such as gladiator fights, visiting Roman baths, chariot racing and going to the theatre.

Why did the Roman empire fall?

The Fall of Rome didn't happen in a day, it happened over a long period of time. There are a number of reasons why the empire began to fail, including: the politicians and rulers of Rome became more and more corrupt, there were civil wars and fighting within the empire, there were attacks, from tribes such as the Barbarians, it became too difficult to govern.

What legacies did the Romans leave behind for Britain?

There were many things that the Romans changed, introduced and left behind for us. For example, language– latin, the official Roman language, forms the roots of many of our words. Buildings– public baths, amphitheatres, and temples can still be seen all around Britain. Names– we use Roman names for our months as they introduced the calendar. We also use Roman numerals and they introduced the idea of roads.

Key vocabulary

empire

A group of territories or peoples under one ruler / a country whose ruler is called an emperor.

invasion

One country attacking another to take it over.

BC AD

The terms **anno Domini (AD)** and **before Christ (BC)**

legion

One unit of the Roman army.

Emperor

The leader of an empire, similar to a King or Queen.

amphitheatre

Where the Romans would go to be entertained.

Final Written Outcome

A chronological report about the Roman's invasion of Britain.

Alternative Outcome:

Design and creation of a mosaic, depicting a significant aspect of Roman Britain.

