

# Romans



**Recommended year group:** Year 4

**Theme focus:** History

**Suggested term:** Spring

## Theme introduction

'What did the Romans ever do for us?' This is a theme focussed on the growth of the Roman Empire and the Roman rule over Britain. Learning in this theme is focussed on History, but also includes Geography, Art, PSHE and Computing. In this theme, pupils will learn about the chronology of the Roman Empire and important events such as the Roman invasion of Britain in AD43 and Boudicca's rebellion in AD 61. Through the study of historical sources, pupils will be able to explain why the Roman Empire became so vast and how effective different Roman emperors were. Pupils will gain an understanding of what life was like in a Roman town and how the building of streets and roads are amongst the many innovations of the Romans that are still highly regarded and used today. The theme ends with pupils creating a virtual museum in order to showcase their learning on the Romans, giving them the opportunity to prove what the Romans have done for us today.

### Driving Question

What did the Romans ever do for us?

### Suggested Switched on Science unit

Power it up

### Suggested Switched on Computing unit

We are presenters

### Linked reading texts

*Roman Quest* by Caroline Lawrence

*Brave* by Stacey McAnulty

### Writing outcomes:

**Newspaper report:** Why did the Romans invade Britain?

**Persuasive writing:** Pupils respond to the statement 'The Romans were nothing but trouble!'

### Curriculum Coverage

**History:** Chronology; cause and consequence; historical vocabulary; similarities, differences and connections; historical enquiry and sources

**Geography:** The wider world; environment

**Computing:** Digital research: finding information

**Art:** Other techniques

**PSHE:** Health and wellbeing

**Maths:** Measure

## Excite

Take a class trip to a Roman historical site or exhibition.

## Explore

Explore 1: Chronology

Explore 2: Who were the Romans?

Explore 3: Roman mosaics

Explore 4: The growth of the Roman Empire

Explore 5: What makes a good Roman emperor?

Explore 6: The Roman army

Explore 7: The Romans vs the Celts

Explore 8: The Romans invade Britain

Explore 9: Boudicca

Explore 10: Wellbeing.

Explore 11: Where in Britain did the Romans settle?

Explore 12: How did the Romans change Britain?

Explore 13: Roman museum

## Theme essential vocabulary:

battle, Boudicca, Celt, chronology, emperor, empire, invade, mosaic, Roman, Roman army, settle, tribe

## Essential knowledge/concepts

1. The Roman period brought about an end to the Iron Age.
2. Key dates include: the period of the Roman Empire is 27 BC to AD 395. The Roman Empire was divided from AD 365 and fell in AD 476.
3. Rome is in Italy and was the centre of the Roman Empire.
4. The main countries that were part of the Roman Empire include Italia (Italy), Britannia (Britain), Germania (Germany) and Graecia (Greece).
5. The key Roman emperors included Augustus Caesar, Nero, Claudius, Hadrian and Constantine.
6. There were two types of Roman soldier: auxiliary and legionary. Each legion of soldiers was broken into ten cohorts, further broken into six centuries (led by a centurion).
7. The three battle formations that the Roman soldiers used were the testudo, the wedge and the orb formations.
8. Before the Romans, Britain was broken up into tribes, such as the Atrebates, Belgae, Brigantes and Cantii.
9. The Romans successfully invaded Britain in AD 43, under Emperor Claudius.
10. Boudicca was the leader of the Iceni tribe and fought the Romans in AD 60/61.
11. The Romans invaded Britain for lots of reasons, including gaining power, popularity, valuable goods, resources and land.
12. The Romans left Britain gradually, ending in AD 410.
13. The Roman impact on Britain can still be felt today in aspects such as towns, roads, language etc.

## Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

- Explore 1: Creating a timeline of the Roman period
- Explore 4: Explaining the growth of the Roman Empire
- Explore 7: Comparing the Romans and the Celts
- Explore 8: Explaining the Roman invasion of Britain
- Explore 12: Explaining the Roman's impact

## Exhibit

Pupils to create a virtual museum to exhibit their learning and share the impact of the Romans on Britain.

## Possible wider experiences:

Invite a Roman into school as part of a workshop.

## Flipped learning opportunities

1. Research Romulus and Remus and how Rome came to be.
2. Research the Roman Empire and find out about Roman life, emperors and the Roman army.

## Family learning suggestion

- Use: Rocking Romans! Learn the songs - BBC Teach to either learn songs about the Romans or write your own.
- Make a sculpture of a Roman emperor using playdough, clay or cardboard.
- Research the Roman army in order to recreate aspects of their armour. This could include a replica Roman shield, body armour and even a centurion's helmet.

## Cultural awareness

### Key piece of music

Nessun dorma by Luciana Pavarotti

### Key piece of art

Trajan's Column

### Key poem

I am a Roman soldier by Josiah Wedgewood