

Y4 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE ROMANS CAME?

Key Vocabulary

Culture	The artistic and intellectual creations of a group of people.	Amphitheatre	A theatre without a roof, used for entertainment.
Empire:	Lots of countries that are ruled by one person or country.	Barbarian	Roman word for people who weren't part of their Empire.
Emperor	The person who rules an empire	Rebellion	Fighting back against someone in power.
Latin	Land controlled by a ruler.	Taxes	The money paid to a government

Key Ideas

- ☐ The Roman emperor Claudias led a successful invasion of Britain in 43 AD which brought significant changes to Britain.
- ☐ The Roman army was very powerful and despite resistance from many British tribes, came to control most of England and Wales by about 100 AD. One of the most famous rebellions of this time was led by Queen Boudicca, the leader of the Iceni tribe. Eventually, she was defeated by the Romans.
- ☐ The new Roman rulers established large towns and cities, like Deva, with baths, amphitheatres, market squares and street grids. Over 8,000 roads were built to connect these towns and cities.
- ☐ There was a system of government with local councils created to collect tax and run the towns and surrounding villages.
- ☐ Before the Romans arrived, most Britons had lived in the countryside, but many became Romanised and urbanised: they wore togas, learnt Latin, built townhouses and villas.
- ☐ For others, particularly rural farmers, the pattern of life probably did not change much, apart from having to pay taxes to their Roman rulers.
- ☐ Although the Roman army left Britain in 410 AD, the Romans themselves did not all leave. Examples of those who stayed were retired legionaries and government employees who had settled in Britain.



Deva - The Roman city of Chester.

- Deva was a legionary fortress town built by the Twentieth legion.
- It is built on the site of the modern city of Chester.
- A large settlement grew around the fortress.
- It has the largest known military amphitheatre in Britain which could hold up to 10,000 spectators.
- This shows how large and wealthy the population of Deva was.



How do we know about Roman Britain?

- The Romans have left us a rich variety of written and archaeological sources about their lives in Britain.
- Written sources, from Romans like Julius Caesar, give us a Roman version of events.
- Archaeological sources include roads, coins, jewellery and ruins such as Hadrian's Wall.

Timeline



