

What happened when the Romans came to Britain?



Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School

Key Questions:

- Why did the Romans invade Britain?
- How easy was it for the Romans to take over Britain?
- Was life hard for a Roman soldier on Hadrian's wall?
- Were the Roman roads a positive development for everyone?
- What did the Romans leave behind that is still of significance today?
- What happened when the Romans came to Britain?

What should I already know?

- Vikings settled in Britain after the Roman empire broke down.
- Before the Romans arrived, Britain was divided into many tribal kingdoms.
- Julius Caesar had attempted to invade Britain twice before, in 55BC and 54BC.
- Caesar wrote about Britons (Celts) at the end of the Iron Age.
- Romans were aware of how the Celts lived and travelled, which helped in their invasion and defeat of the Celts.

Key Facts

Lesson 1	Today we looked at reasons for/against invading Britain. As an island there are advantages: sea, resources, population.*
Lesson 2	Advantages as a Roman soldier - Battle strategies, good armour, fitness gave advantage over Celts. Romans invaded twice with J. Caesar in 54 BC.*
Lesson 3	Hadrian's wall - We discussed the distance it covers (84 miles!) and how it helped the Romans. Walls provided protection from Picts. Forts nearby allowed soldiers to live 'on site'.
Lesson 4	Roman roads - we looked at how Romans could build roads, the engineering and materials. He discussed advantages + disadvantages for Romans, farmers + celt.
Lesson 5	Roman legacies - what can we still see today. Roads, aqueducts, money, law, language, bricks and cement. We discussed the impact today. Money - do we cash like before?
Lesson 6	Roman shield design and make. -see photos.
Lesson 7	Reenactment and discussion of Roman battle formation. Testudo - related to a tortoise. Shields allow protection - vulnerable/wounded can take refuge in centre.

* However, you need to travel, there is a coast. Britain can have bad weather.

* Invaded again AD, successfully.