

The Romans



Background information

From the founding of the city of Rome in the 8th century BC, Roman power had grown steadily until by the 1st century AD, Rome ruled over an empire that stretched north, east and south of its Mediterranean centre. After 43AD this included much of Britain. The Romans stayed in Britain for nearly 400 years, until the last troops left to defend Rome in 410AD. The Romans' great strengths were organisational and military. They brought roads, government, taxation, their language – Latin – and later, the Christian religion, to all the lands they conquered.

Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- To understand how and why the Romans invaded Britain
- To investigate how the Roman army was organised
- To explore how the Roman defeated the Celts
- To understand the size and structure of Hadrian's Wall as it was when it was first built
- To understand the legacy of the Romans

Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- Use evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past.
- Suggest suitable sources of evidence for historical enquiries.
- Use more than one source of evidence for historical enquiry in order to gain a more accurate understanding of history.
- Describe different accounts of a historical event, explaining some of the reasons why the accounts may differ.
- Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history.

Key Vocabulary:

Amphitheatre – A place where Romans went to watch animals and people fighting.

Aqueduct – A system of pipes and channels to bring clean water into towns.

Cavalry – Soldiers who fight on horseback.

Chariot – Cart with two wheels pulled by horses.

Cohort – Roman army unit.

Gladiator – A slave trained to fight other gladiators or animals in amphitheatres.

Legion – A military unit recruited from Roman citizens and usually formed of around 5,000 men.

Londinium – The Roman name for London.

Roman governor – The ruler of Roman Britain who worked for the Roman Empire.