

YEAR 4 UNIT 2: Composite: The Roman Empire and its Impact on Britain

Enquiry Question: Was the Roman invasion good or bad for Britain? Topic: Roman Britain

Related units: (Prior Learning, if you can try and link to previous years)

Unit overview (About the unit needs to link with National Curriculum)

In this unit, the children will learn about the Roman invasion of Britain and its impact on the lives of the Celts. They will consider whether the Roman settlement was a positive experience for all involved and explore the long-term legacy of the invasion. They will use a variety of sources of evidence to investigate the topic, including visual sources of artefacts (the Vindolanda Tablets) and archaeological sites (Hadrian's Wall). The children will analyse written sources from writers such as Tacitus and Dio Cassius and consider why they interpreted events as they did. Wherever possible, take opportunities to link to prior learning undertaken in Year 3 Unit 2: The Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

Assessment (Expectations) (This should be on the knowledge organizer – check they match up)

Assessment:

- End of unit knowledge quiz
- Assessment for learning—questioning and activities built in throughout the unit.
- Self and peer assessment opportunities on activities covered in this unit

Subject related vocabulary (these also need to be on the knowledge organizer)

Invade
Conquer
Republic
Empire
Status
Glory
Barbaric
Legacy
Resistance
Evidence
Interpretation
Centurion
Heritage
Transport system
Legion
Legionaries
Client kings
Auxiliaries
Camber
Groma
testudo

Activities and learning outcomes (Add information from unit plans)

The Big Finish:

Apply knowledge of the Romans in a fun and engaging way. Investigate how the Roman army was organised, before role playing a reconstruction of a Roman army drill.

Learning outcomes

- develop a strong understanding of how intelligent, organised and resourceful the Romans must have been to invade and occupy Britain for so long, and change things so radically.
- address historically valid questions about change, cause and significance

Cross-curricular links (this needs to be on the knowledge organiser)

Investigations:

- Make observations and ask questions about the achievements of the Romans in Britain
- Investigate why Romans invaded Britain and what made them leave

Writing opportunities:

- Investigating the origins of words

Cross-curricular links (this needs to be on the knowledge organiser)

Maths opportunities:

- Investigating Roman numerals,
- Investigating the Roman calendar

Teacher knowledge (this is on the unit overview)

The Romans first came to Britain in 55 and 54 BC when Julius Caesar decided to teach the Britons a lesson for supporting the Gauls. However, they did not stay in Britain until Claudius invaded in 43 AD. In a few years, the Romans had control of much of southern England and, in 30 years, much of the west and Wales. However, their dominance was much less in the north, especially in Scotland. Overall, the Romans had control of about three-quarters of Britain. After some temporary success's further north, the border was the 73-mile Hadrian's Wall. Although there were Roman governors and administrators, many local rulers were left in charge as 'client kings'. They were largely left alone, provided they accepted the emperor of Rome and paid their taxes. There were rebellions – the most famous being that of Boudicca in 61 AD – although later troubles were often as much intrigues against the government in Rome. The army was dominant, and much effort was directed to supporting it. Only Roman citizens could serve in the legions, but there were also many auxiliaries – many of them not actually from Rome. Although most people lived in the countryside, towns were established – some of them well laid out with walls, grid patterns and public buildings. These were either new or built on former Iron Age settlements such as Colchester, Silchester and London. Some were built largely for retired soldiers, e.g. Lincoln. Richer Romans lived in villas, but this is not how many people lived at the time. Roman Britain also had a sizeable number of slaves, and the treatment of women was often poor. Roman Britain reached its height in c. 160 AD. By the early 5th century, many Romans had left, and the links with Rome were largely severed by 410 AD.

Resources (Add suggested web resources and concrete resources you will need for the unit; teachers need to check they have the resources for the topic)

- Visit to a local Roman site or museum
- Websites:

English Heritage on Hadrian's Wall: <https://www.englishheritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/roman-england/roman-legionary/#section1>

BBC page on Vindolanda: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/romans/vindolanda_01.shtml

Legacy developments:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-the-romanempire-and-its-effects-on-britain/zrvs382>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z2dr4wx>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Roman-Roads-in-England/>

https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_rome/roman_baths.php

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z8grkqt>

See Research recommendations document on Rising Stars website

