

The Roman Invasion of Britain!



THIS IS THE BEST BOOK EVER!!!!!!!



By Sky Class

CONTENTS

- I What was Britain like before the Romans?
- II Who were the Romans and who founded Rome?
- III When did the Romans invade Britain?
- IV Why did the Romans invade Britain?
- V Why was the Roman Empire important?
- VI Why did Hadrian build his wall?
- VII Who was in the Roman Army?
- VIII How did Roman Britain defend itself?
- IX What did the Romans build in Britain?
- X How did the Romans entertain themselves?
- XI What was life like for a Roman family?
- XII What did the Romans believe in?
- XIII What happened to Roman Britain?

WHAT WAS BRITAIN LIKE BEFORE THE ROMANS?

Around 12BC to 750BC the Celts were the most powerful people in Northern Europe.

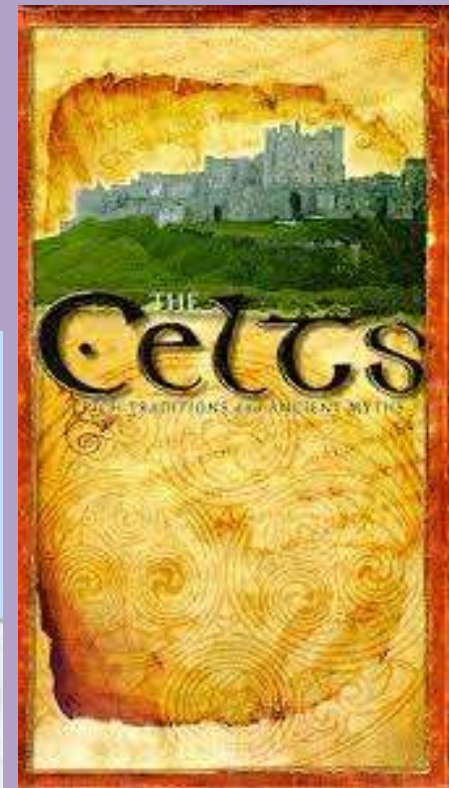


Celts lived in Britain during the Iron Age.

Celts found the very first iron, tools and weapons

Over 7 years, in wave after wave, they spread outwards, taking over France and Belgium, and crossing to Britain.

In fact the Romans called these people Britons, not Celts.



Northwest Europe was dominated by three main tribes:

- The Gaels
- The Gauls
- The Britons

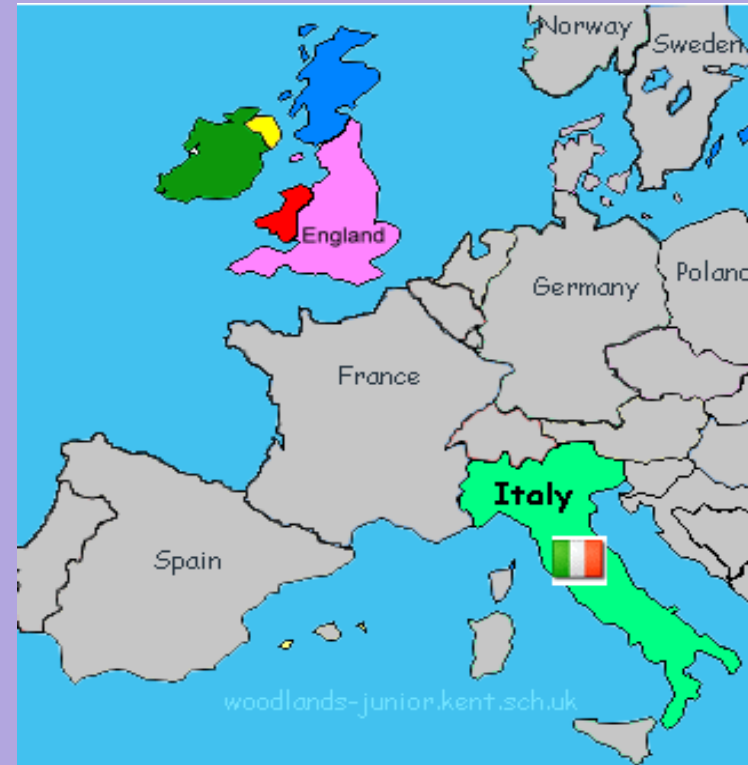


WHO WERE THE ROMANS?

The Romans lived in Rome and were so rich.

The person who founded Rome was Romulus. He killed his twin brother Remus. He founded Rome in 753 BC. Romulus was 17 years of age when he founded Rome.

When Jesus was born, 43 years later the Romans returned to Britain and conquered them as well.



WHEN DID THE ROMANS INVADE BRITAIN?

The first invasion was in August 55 BC
(55 years before Jesus was born).

The following summer (in 54 BC) Caesar came to Britain again, landing near Kent! This time he brought with him five legions (30,000 foot soldiers).

Nearly 100 years later in 43 AD (43 years after Jesus was born), the Emperor Claudius organised the final and successful Roman invasion of Britain. He brought 4 legions (25,000 men).



© Mandy Barrow

WHY DID THE ROMANS INVADE BRITAIN?

The Romans ruled France, in 55 B.C. Julius Caesar led his army from France to Britain because he wanted to make Britain part of the Roman empire. The British Celts defended Britain and the Romans went back to France.

Next year the romans came back. This time they had 30,000 soldiers, Julius Caesar didn't think Britain was worth a long war, so they went back to France. A hundred years later Emperor Claudius invaded Britain, this time they conquered half of Britain.



WHY WAS THE ROMAN EMPIRE IMPORTANT?

The Roman Empire was important because they made lots of stuff for us.

Romans gave us

Straight roads,
Central heating,
Bridges for water,
Concrete,
Law,
The Census and
The Legal System

The Romans wrote and spoke in Latin.
This is how you say hello in Latin: Salvete!
The calendar we use today is 2,000 years old.



WHY DID HADRIAN BUILD HIS WALL?

Hadrian's Wall marks the northerly border of the Roman empire.

It stretches for 120 kilometres across northern England almost from coast to coast.

It was built as a defence barrier between AD 122 and 128 at the command of the emperor Hadrian.



15,000 roman soldiers guarded the wall which was 120 kilometres long and about 4 meters high.

Every 8 kilometres there was a large fort which could hold up to 1000 roman soldiers.

About every 15000 metres there was a small fort called a mile castle.

Between the mile castles were 2 turrets which could shelter the sentries.

Sentries guarded the wall all the time. If the tribes attacked, the sentries ran for help or signalled with flags or fires.

THE WALL IS STILL THERE TODAY!

WHO WAS IN THE ROMAN ARMY?

Only men could be in the Roman Army and every Roman soldier was a Roman citizen.



There were Roman soldiers from Africa, France, Germany, the Balkans, Spain and the Middle East. Most soldiers in the Roman Empire came from countries outside Italy.

The Romans also had to defend Hadrian's Wall, against attacks by Picts and other tribes. Soldiers sent to defend the wall lived in forts and camps. Soldiers kept watch at the forts, and fought any enemies who tried to land in Britain.

Britain was on the edge of the Roman Empire. People living outside the empire sometimes tried to attack Roman Britain.

The soldiers were divided into 28 legions of 5,500 men.



HOW DID ROMAN BRITAIN DEFEND ITSELF?



They built roads so that soldiers could deal with trouble.

They also built three very large army forts for the soldiers to live in.

The forts were made of wood and stone.

The forts were homes for soldiers to live in called Saxon Shore forts because many of the people attacking Britain were Saxons.

The Saxons were people from northern Germany.

In 84AD the Romans won a big battle against the Picts who lived in Scotland.

They also built forts on the coast.

The Romans had to defend Hadrian's Wall.

Britain was on the edge of the Roman Empire.

People living outside the Empire sometimes tried to attack Roman Britain.



WHAT DID THE ROMANS BUILD IN BRITAIN?



Roman Rule was something that changed the landscape, culture, language, religion and laws of Britain forever, but while we know about castles and road building, famous battles, and Julius Caesar, What else can we learn about the Romans? Here are some interesting facts based on life in Rome, and Roman Britain.

The Romans built the worlds first high-rise apartments, rich Romans had more than one house.

The Romans built many amazing things, such as temples, ships and aqueducts.

After the Romans invaded southern Britain, they had to defend it. They built roads so that solders could march in quickly to deal with trouble.

Then the Romans used brick, stone, iron and bronze. The homes of wealthy families were spacious and comfortable.

Roman towns

HOW DID THE ROMANS ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES?

The crowd was bloodthirsty to watch Gladiators fight wild animals or each other. At the end, if a gladiator was still alive, the emperor decided if they lived or died; thumbs up to live, thumbs down to die.

Baths

Some times they went to the baths. They took off their outside clothes. After having a swim in the huge bath then they would go somewhere hot to get off the dirt. Some people got private rooms and the slaves did massages.

Theatre

There were only boy actors, they had masks on to show the feelings and people liked watching the plays. Some plays might be scary or some might be lovely. The boys might be girls in the plays.

Chariot Races

Chariot races were very dangerous, the horses could die in the race. Sometimes they put on as many 24 races a day. Circus Maximus had room for 250,000 spectators. Chariot racing was another top spectator sport.



WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR A ROMAN FAMILY?



EATING

Poor Romans ate bread, vegetable soup, and porridge. Meat was a luxury, unless they lived in the countryside and could go hunting or fishing.

WRITING

For short messages and at school, Romans wrote on soft wax tablets using a pointed metal stylus.

SCHOOL

Most children in Roman times did not go to school. Not many girls went to school, but some were taught at home by tutors. Boys from rich families learned history, maths, and literature at school, to prepare them for jobs in the army or government.

AT HOME

Life for women in Roman times was often hard. Mother was less important than father in the family. Father had the power of life or death over everyone. Women were expected to run the home, cook meals, and raise children. If they were wealthy, women were lucky; they had slaves to do the work.

TOYS

Roman children had some toys very like ones we play with today - such as toy soldiers, rattles, balls, doll's houses, carts and pull-along animals on wheels. Even poor children had board games, using pebbles for counters, and wooden dolls. Some dolls had moveable arms and legs.



WHAT WAS THE ROMAN RELIGION?

Most Romans had shrines so they can offer food to the Gods.

The Romans also believed in a bit of Christianity.

Every day the Romans said their prayers. Jupiter was the king of the Gods, he held a giant thunder bolt.

Neptune was the god of the sea and storms. Mercury was the messenger of the gods and thieves.



WHAT HAPPENED TO ROMAN BRITAIN?



At the end of the empire the Romans left behind things such as huge baths, temples, palaces and dead bodies.

Measurements and Christianity were both discovered by the Romans. The other things that they invented were straight roads, new plants and new animals.

The Romans were very good writers and many of their writing genres have survived so we can read them today.

Some of the names that we use now for planets and months come from names of famous people from the Roman times.



Extra Facts

Many people lost their lives at Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted.



Step back into the past with this book!

As we take you through the times that Romans invaded Britain!

This book is all about when and who invaded Britain. Also you will find a load of facts.



This book has a five star review!

