Burlington Junior School - History

Year 4

Who were the Romans? How did they progress British civilisation?

Background Information

Roman Britain was a province of the Roman Empire from 43 AD to 409 AD. Before the invasions, the tribes of Britain had already established cultural and economic links with continental Europe; however, the Roman invaders introduced new developments in agriculture, urbanisation, industry and architecture. After the initial rebellions of Caratacus and Boudicca, the Romans controlled the lands south of Hadrian's wall in relative peace and a distinctively Romano British culture developed. From 400 AD Britain suffered repeated attacks from barbarian invasions and in c. 409 AD Roman officials departed. Over the next 150 years, most of the Roman cities fell into ruins; nevertheless, the legacy of Roman rule was felt for many centuries.

In this unit the children will:

-Know about the Roman invading army.
-Know what life was like for the Romans (houses, settlements and religion).
-Know about Julius Caesar and the Ruling system.
-Know how the Romans controlled a vast empire.
-Know about Boudicca's revolt and what happened.
-Know what the Romans did for us (Legacy).

The Roman Empire at its largest



Historical Skills and Concepts:

- Chronology – key events in world history.
- Questioning – develop historical questioning skills.
- Sources – use a range of sources to explore knowledge of the past.
- -Debate – listen and discuss the pros and cons of the Roman empire.



Julius Caesar

Timeline of Key Events:

753 BC - The city of Rome is founded.
509 BC - Rome becomes a republic. The last king is overthrown. Now ruled by elected officials/Senators. There is a constitution
73 BC - Spartacus leads the slaves in an uprising.
45 BC - Julius Caesar becomes the first dictator of Rome.
44 BC - Julius Caesar is assassinated.
27 BC - The Roman Empire begins as Caesar Augustus becomes the first Roman Emperor.
80 AD - The Colosseum is built.
121 AD – Hadrian's Wall is built.
306 AD - Constantine becomes Emperor.
395 AD - Rome splits into two empires.
476 AD - The end of the Western Roman Empire

Key People:

Augustus – The first Emperor of Rome. He ruled 27BC-AD14.
Constantine –1st Christian Roman Emperor- ruled AD 306/37.
Julius Caesar – The emperor who invaded Britain in 55BC.
Romulus and Remus – The founders of Rome
Boudicca – Queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe who led a revolt against the Roman empire, and lost.
Hercules – Legendary hero of great strength-a God after his death.
Juno – The wife of Jupiter the Romans' chief god.
Jupiter – The Romans' chief god, he ruled over all the other gods.

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Key facts:

1) Rome was founded in 753 BC by its first king, Romulus. It grew into a rich and powerful city during the next few hundred years.
2) By 117AD the Roman Empire included the whole of Italy, all the lands around the Mediterranean and much of Europe, including England, Wales and parts of Scotland.
3) Roman legend says that Romulus had a twin brother called Remus. As babies they were abandoned in the area which later became Rome. A she-wolf found and raised them, but when they grew up, Romulus fought and killed Remus and became the first ruler of Rome!
4) The Romans built such a huge empire and conquered new lands, thanks to their strong army. The Roman army could march up to 40km a day!
5) During battle, a Roman soldier or 'legionary' first hurled his spear at the enemy, then he fought him with his sword. To protect himself, he carried a wooden shield and wore a metal helmet and armour.
6) The Romans didn't spend all their time fighting – they were amazing architects and engineers too! They built roads and walls – things we now take for granted.
7) To bring water to their cities, the clever Romans built aqueducts – a system of channels and bridges – to transport water for public baths and toilets!
8) The Romans enjoyed their food, often lying down on a couch while eating with their hands. They occasionally used a spoon, but they would never use a knife and fork. Rich Romans liked to eat exotic food, such as stork, roast parrot and even flamingo!
9) The Romans believed in gods and goddesses who ruled over different areas of life. For example, Neptune was the god of the ocean, and they prayed to him to protect them at sea. Temples were built to honour the gods, and people would visit them with offerings.

Key Vocabulary:

Amphitheatre – A large, open-air arena, usually circular.
Aqueducts – Raised channels carrying fresh water over long distances.
Barbarian – A word used by the Romans to describe the less civilised people who lived outside their empire.
Cavalry – Soldiers who fought on horseback.
Colosseum – A famous Amphitheatre in Rome. It could seat as many as 75000 people.
Consul – The most senior government officer in the Roman Republic. Two were elected each year. They lost powers under the emperor.
Legion – Division of the Roman army.
Emperor – A king like ruler who held supreme powers in the Roman State.

Transferable vocabulary and concepts:

- Invader – A person or group that invades a county, region or other place.
- Rebellion – The act of armed resistance to an established government or leader.
- Soldier –A person who serves in an army.
- Siege – A military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies with the aim of compelling them to surrender.
- Battle –A sustained fight between large organised armed forces.
- Gladiator – A slave specifically trained to fight in the Amphitheatres.