

Roman Britain (55BC to c450AD)

(c Age 7-8)

1. Ancient Britain
2. Roman conquest
3. Settlement
4. Expansion and rebellion
5. The Decline of Roman Britain

Start by making a time-line of Roman Britain showing 55BC to 450 AD. Mark on important dates as you come to them.

1. Ancient Britain

Celtic tribes

Draw a map of Britain at the time of the Celts.

What did they look like?

What were their houses like?

How did they fight?

What were the tribal names?

Where were the different tribes based? Identify these on your map.

When did **Julius Caesar** come to Britain? Did he actually conquer it?

2. Conquest

Why did the **Emperor Claudius** send troops to Britain in **43AD**? How many men did he send, and who was in charge of them?

When the Emperor Claudius himself came to Britain, what **unusual 'weapons'** did he bring? Where did Claudius build his main fort? What is that city called today?

Who betrayed **Caractacus** to the Romans? What eventually happened to him?

Which tribe did **Boudicca** lead? When she rebelled against Rome in **60AD**, which three major cities did her army destroy? Read the tragic story of her final defeat.

3. Settlement

Draw a map of Britain during Roman times. Add to it some important forts, towns and roads.

What was the **Pax Romanum**?

Investigate **Roman forts**: What does the word **'castrum'** mean? Can you find some English place names which still use this word, written as 'chester' or 'cester'?

How did the Romans build their **roads**? Why were good roads so important to them? Can you find out the names of some Roman roads which we still use today?

Find out about one place in Britain with remains of a Roman **villa** – perhaps there is one close to your town.

4. Expansion into Scotland

What did the Romans call Scotland? What were the **Picts** like?

What happened at **Mons Grappius** in 84AD?

What famous landmark did **Emperor Hadrian** leave behind when he visited Britain in AD122. What was it for? It was the largest structure in Roman Empire - 75 miles long with 16 forts! **Mark it on your map.**

What happened when the Scots rebelled again in 180 AD?

The **Emperor Septimius Severus** divided Britain into two parts in 211AD. What were the two parts called and what were their capital cities?

Where did the **Emperor Constantius** die in 306AD? Who became emperor after him? Why is this emperor so important in the history of the Church?

5. The Decline of Roman Britain c 300-450AD

Which group of people from **Germany** were attacking the coast of Britain at this time?

Why did the Romans build the **Saxon shore forts** from about 280AD? Find out about one of these forts (such as Portchester). Add some of these forts to your map.

When, **in 410**, Britain asked for Roman troops to remain, why did the **Emperor Honorius** pull the troops out instead? What did he say to the Romans living in Britain? (think about your Roman project - what was happening in Rome at this time?)