

Roman Britain



Main events



Quick summary

Led by the famous military commander Julius Caesar, the Roman army first tried to invade Britain in 55 and 54 BCE. The attempt in 55 BCE failed because of bad weather. A year later the Romans had limited success, only conquering the southern Celtic tribes. They collected tributes (taxes) but made no major attempts to expand their territories. However, they were back almost one hundred years later in 43 CE under the command of Emperor Claudius. Claudius brought a much larger army and pushed north and west from the south coast. The Romans travelled as far as modern-day Scotland but were unable to keep this area under control, building a wall to keep the northernmost tribes out. Following the successful conquest of much of Britain, the Romans stayed in Britain until 410 CE.



Settlements

The Romans brought significant changes to Britain. They built over 10,000 miles of roads and built houses, forts and temples from stone rather than wood. Before the Romans arrived, most Britons had lived in the countryside. The Romans also brought bathhouses, central heating and sanitation and built one of the most famous set of defences in history: Hadrian's Wall.



Conflict

In 43 CE the Romans landed an army in Kent, on the south coast of England, hoping to extend their vast empire even further. The Roman army was very powerful and despite resistance from many British tribes, came to control most of England and Wales by about 100 CE. One of the most famous rebellions of this time was led by Queen Boudicca, the leader of the Iceni tribe. She led a huge army against the Romans in the cities of Colchester, London and St Albans. Her army was finally defeated by a skilful and well-trained group of 1,200 Roman soldiers who defeated almost 80,000 men.



Location



Artefacts

Emperor Hadrian was visiting Britain in 122 CE. He ordered a great wall, made up of 15 forts, to be built to separate Roman Britain from Scotland. The remains of many of these forts can still be seen today, giving us clues about life in Roman Britain.



territories: lands controlled by a ruler
emperor: man who rules an empire
sanitation: keeping places clean with a sewage system and clean water
supply resistance: fighting back against attackers



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts