



Year 4—History—Who were the Romans?

The first Romans lived in Italy nearly 3000 years ago. They founded the city of Rome in 753 BC and, over the centuries, conquered many lands to create a huge empire.



The Roman General Julius Caesar made two attempts to conquer Britain. He wanted to add the rich land to the Roman Empire and punish the Celts for helping his enemies. His legions weren't able to overcome the Celts in 55 BC or 54 BC, but some leaders did pay tributes (a tax) so the Romans would leave. This meant the Celts could continue to live as they were.



In AD 43, Emperor Claudius launched a third attack on Britain. He sent a powerful and well-organised army of around 40,000 men (that landed in southern England) to conquer the Celtic tribes. This time, much of Britain (or Britannia as the Romans called it) did become another province of Rome.

The Romans seized the land and wealth of the Iceni tribe after King Prasutagus died. Queen Boudicca objected and she led a rebellion against the Romans. At first, her army was very successful but in the Battle of Watling Street, the Roman army finally defeated Boudicca and the Celts. Many people were killed in the rebellion.



Celts People living in Britain in tribes, including the Iceni, Brigantes and Catuvellauni.



citizen A person with all the rights and protections of a nation or land. In the Roman Empire, only citizens were able to vote.



conquest Taking control of a place by force, often with an army.



emperor The ruler of an empire. **empire** A group of countries controlled by one ruler (emperor or empress) or government.



Legion A large section of the Roman army, made up of around 5000 soldiers.

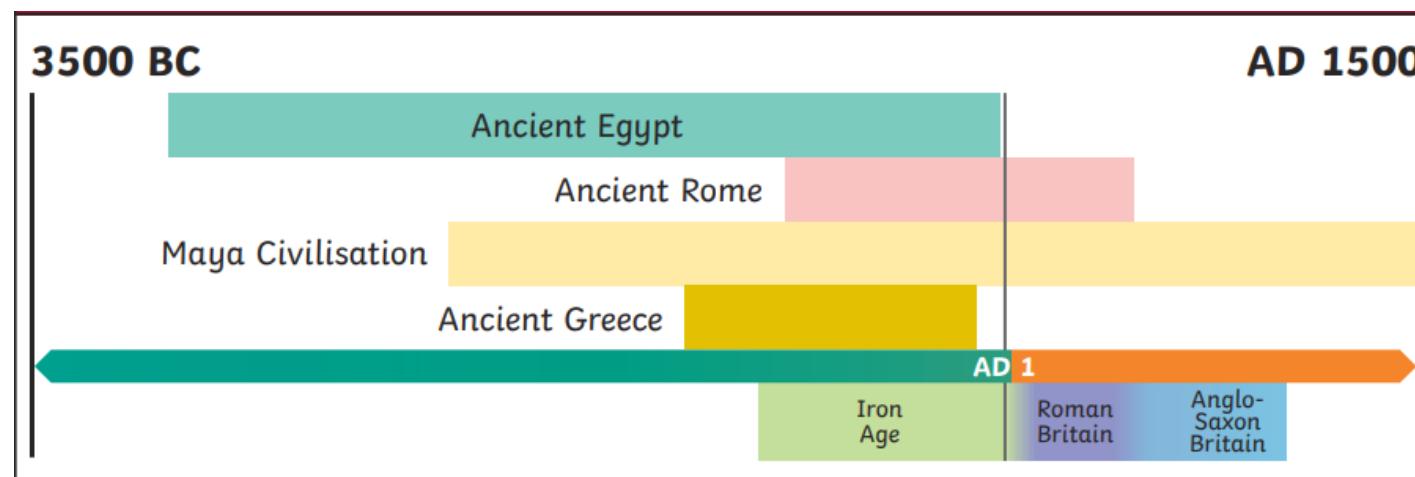


rebellion An uprising or revolt by people who want to challenge what they believe is unfair treatment by rulers.



Roman Empire The name used for the land that was controlled by the Romans, including large parts of Europe plus parts of North Africa and West Asia.

tribe A group of people who share the



The Roman army are famous for building long, straight roads. Special engineers planned these roads and they criss-crossed the whole Roman Empire. They boosted trade, communication with the Emperor and helped the legions to keep control of all the different provinces.



The Romans built new towns all over Britain. Each one had a marketplace, town hall, shops, temples and homes; larger towns had an amphitheatre. Bath houses were elaborately designed and were popular places to relax and meet friends.



Romans worshipped their own gods when they came to Britain and later introduced Christianity.



Wealthy Romans and some Celts built large homes in the countryside called villas. The land attached to these homes was used for farming as agriculture was an important business for the Romans. Countryside villa complexes included a main house, bath house, workshops and gardens.

