

# Roman Empire

### The Roman Invasion of Britain

**AD 43**  
Almost 100 years after Julius Caesar leaves Britain, the new emperor, Claudius, invades with an army of about 40,000 troops - and wins some elephants! After a battle (thought to be on the River Medway Kent), the Romans establish a capital at Colchester. The fighting continues in Midlands, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset and Gloucester.

**AD 60-61**  
The Iceni tribe of Norfolk are rebelling under the leadership of Queen Boudicca. Her army of Iceni tribesmen and women capture and burn the areas of Colchester, London, and St Albans. An estimated 80,000 Romans and Britons are killed. Eventually, the rebellion is squashed in the Battle of Watling Street in the Midlands. Boudicca is believed to have poisoned herself to evade capture.

**AD 79**  
Agricola, whitist governor of Roman Britain, attempts to conquer all of Scotland for Rome, but is unsuccessful.

**AD 82**  
Agricola considers conquering Ireland. However, historians do not agree on whether he succeeded or not. Roman artefacts have been found on sites in Ireland. However, it is unclear whether this is evidence of trade, diplomacy or military activity.

**AD 92**  
After Hadrian's death in AD 138, the new emperor, Antoninus Pius, abandons Hadrian's Wall. Around AD 142, he builds a new wall, called the Antonine Wall, which is in Scotland. This is around 100 miles north of Hadrian's Wall and significantly more forts.

**AD 122**  
Under the rule of Emperor Hadrian, work on Hadrian's Wall begins. This 73-mile-long structure marks the northern border of Roman territory in Britain. In addition to being a military device, it also serves as a way to control trade across the border. Thousands of troops from across the Roman Empire lived in forts along the wall.

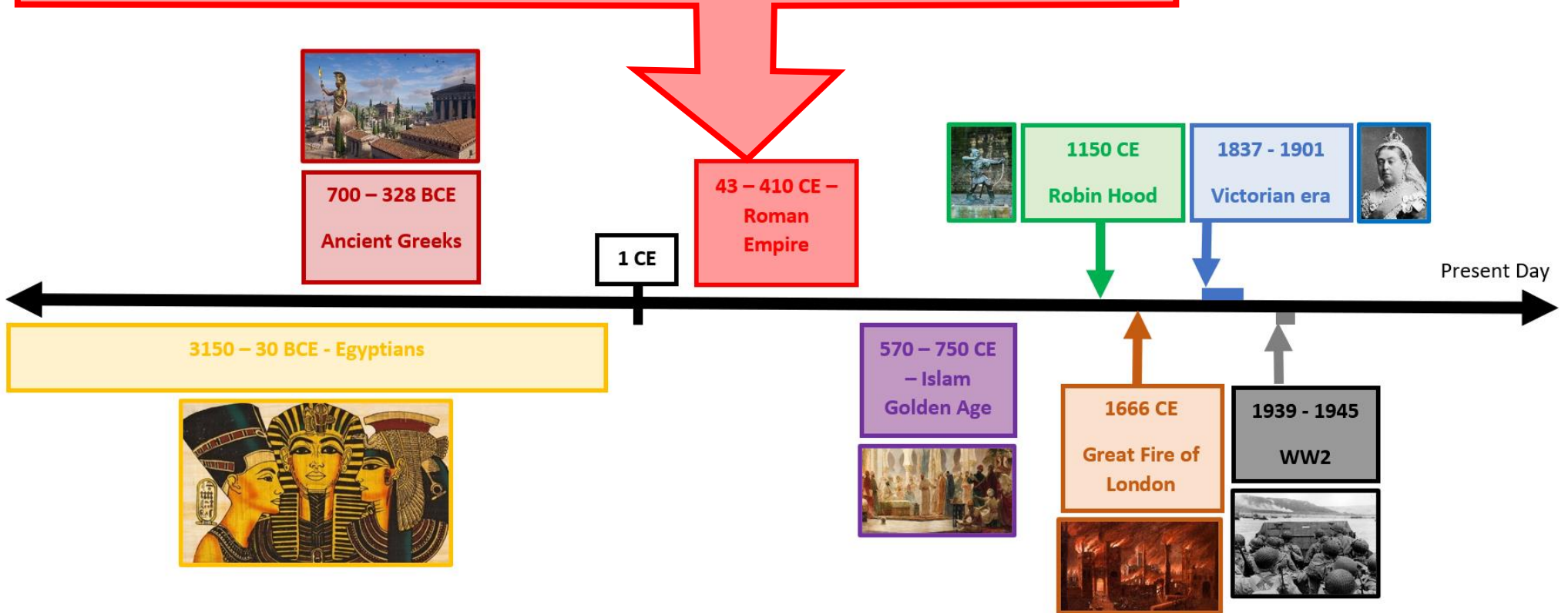
**AD 160s**  
Emperor Antoninus Pius is unable to conquer the northern tribes and so when Marcus Aurelius becomes emperor, he abandons the Antonine Wall and reoccupies Hadrian's Wall. Hadrian's Wall remains in the power of the Romans for the remainder of the Roman occupation.

**After AD 195**  
In order to better control Britain, the Romans divide the country in two. The south became known as *Britannia Superior* and the north as *Britannia Inferior*.

**AD 208**  
Septimius Severus (a Roman emperor from North Africa) and his family arrive in Britain. Accompanied by his sons, Caracalla and Geta, he leads several campaigns in Scotland. After Severus's death in York in AD 211, the campaigns are abandoned along with most of the Roman forts in Scotland.

**AD 306**  
Constantine 'the Great' is declared emperor in York. Later, having fought in a battle near Rome to gain control of the empire, he believes his victory was aided by God and in thanks, he becomes a Christian. The religion spreads across the Roman Empire including in Britain.

**AD 410**  
The last of the Romans leave Britain as Roman troops are sent back to the continent to defend other areas of the empire against Barbarian invasions. Roman rule ends in Britain and the Anglo-Saxon period begins.



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<u>Word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<b>Aquila</b>	The symbol of an eagle that was used as a figurehead in the Roman Empire
<b>Amphitheatre</b>	A semi-circular seating gallery in a theatre.
<b>Aqueduct</b>	An artificial channel for conveying water, typically in the form of a bridge across a valley or other gap.
<b>Basilica</b>	A large oblong hall or building with double frontage and a semi-circular roof, used in ancient Rome as a law court or for public assemblies.
<b>Centurion</b>	The commander of a century in the ancient Roman army.
<b>Colosseum</b>	A large theatre, cinema, or stadium.
<b>Chaise</b>	A horse-drawn carriage for one or two people, typically one with an open top and two wheels.
<b>Senate</b>	An assembly or council usually possessing high deliberative and legislative functions
<b>Tunic</b>	A loose garment, typically sleeveless and reaching to the knees, as worn in ancient Greece and Rome.
<b>Gladiator</b>	An armed fighter who entertained audiences in Rome in violent battles with other gladiators, wild animals, and condemned criminals.
<b>Mosaic</b>	A picture or pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone, tile, glass, etc.

<u>Learning Sequence</u>	
<b>Roman artefacts</b>	What can we learn from the Roman artefacts we have looked at?
<b>The Roman Empire</b>	Who were the ancient Romans?
<b>The Roman Army</b>	Why did people join the Roman Army?
<b>Invasion of Britain</b>	The Romans invaded Britain; why did they do this?
<b>Hadrian's Wall</b>	Why was Hadrian's wall built?
<b>The story of Boudicca</b>	Who was Boudicca and why did she disappear?
<b>Portrait of Boudicca</b>	What did Boudicca look like?
<b>The Iron Age</b>	How different was life in the Iron Age to that of a Roman?
<b>Cultural changes made by the Romans</b>	What cultural changes did the Romans make?
<b>Religious changes made by the Romans and Roman Gods</b>	What religious changes did the Romans make?
<b>Essay Lesson</b>	The Romans invaded native Britain many years ago and this had a great influence over the culture of Britain. Explain in your own words how and why this happened.