

# Knowledge Organiser - History

## The Roman Army

As the Empire grew bigger the army had to fight further away from home. Being a soldier became a full-time job - they were no longer sent home when a battle ended.

These full-time soldiers were well-trained and disciplined. They had to be tough and confident in the use of a number of weapons. They would march over 20 miles a day with heavy things to carry and they were also skilled engineers and craftsmen because they had to build roads, bridges and forts.



Recruits had to be at least 20 years old and they joined for 25 years after which they were given money and land to farm in their retirement.

A centurion commanded 80 men divided into ten sections of eight. Six centuries of eighty men formed a cohort, and ten cohorts made up a legion (about 5,000).

## Spread of the Roman Empire

Rome reached its peak of power in the 2nd century around the year 117 AD under the rule of the great Roman emperor Trajan. Virtually all of the coastline along the Mediterranean Sea was part of the Roman Empire. This included Spain, Italy, France, southern Britain, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and northern Africa.



Rome ruled much of Europe around the Mediterranean for over 1000 years. However, the inner workings of the Roman Empire began to decline starting around 200 AD. By 400 AD Rome was struggling under the weight of its giant empire. The city of Rome finally fell in 476 AD.

## Key Vocabulary

AD	used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.
BC	BC is a way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the further back in history it was.
aqueduct	a man made channel for delivering water to Roman towns.
emperor	the leader of the empire.
barbarian	a term used by Romans to refer to people who live outside the Roman Empire.
toga	garment woven from white wool.
amphitheater	where gladiator fights, animal hunts, sea battles and theatre shows happened.
mosaics	a pattern produced by arranging together small pieces of stone.
conquered	to overcome and take control of a place by military force.
legion	a large selection of Roman army, made up of 5000 soldiers.

## Daily life of Romans

### Clothing



Men wore a knee-length tunic and important men would wear a toga. Women wore a longer tunic than men and would wear a dress called a stola over their tunics. Boys wore a knee-length tunic and a bulla (locket around their necks) to protect them from evil spirits. For girls this piece of jewellery was called a lunula. Romans wore leather sandals on their feet.

### School



Roman children started school at the age of seven. Wealthy children could be taught by a tutor, whilst others went to public school. Poor children could not go to school and were often sent out to work young.

### Food



The Romans ate a wide variety of foods, sourced from across the empire. The diets of the rich and poor were very different. They generally ate 3 meals a day and dinner was usually the biggest.

### Housing



Poor Romans lived in small, cramped houses called insulae. These could house up to 30 Romans. Rich Romans lived in villas domus and they had slaves to run the household.

### Jobs



Roman citizens could work as farmers, merchants, soldiers, craftsmen, entertainers, lawyers, teachers and in the Roman government.

### Leisure



The Romans would visit bath houses as a social activity. For the wealthy, dinner parties would feature music, dancing, and poetry readings. Going to watch the games was very popular and in Rome the famous colosseum could seat about 50,000 spectators who came to watch events including gladiatorial combats and wild animal hunts.

## What the Roman's did for us?

When the Romans came to Britain, the soldiers built 10,000 miles of roads. They built the roads straight so that the army could travel quickly from place. Many of the roads we use today are built on top of old Roman roads.

The Romans built many towns in Britain, such as York, Bath, St Albans, and London.

The Romans liked to make sure towns had clean, fresh water. They dug wells and built aqueducts to bring clean water to the towns from the hills.

Roman houses were the first in Britain to be built using concrete and glass, and they were the first to have central heating.

The Romans gave us our calendar, with seven days in a week, 365 in a year, and 366 in a leap year. Many of the months are names after Roman gods and emperors.

**55—54BC** Julius Caesar leads two Roman military expeditions to Britain but are driven back by the Celts.

**43AD** Romans invade Britain. It becomes part of the Roman Empire.

**49AD** Romans make Colchester the capital of Roman Britain.

**100AD** More than 8,000 miles of Roman roads in Britain are completed. Troops and goods travel easily across the country.

**122—128AD** Emperor Hadrian builds a wall on the Scottish border.

**250AD** The Picts (Scotland) and the Angles, Saxons and Jutes (from Germany and Scandinavia) start threatening Roman lands.

**401—410AD** Romans withdraw from Britain. Anglo Saxons migrants begin to settle.

