

Roman Britain: History Flashcards with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To recall and explain key facts about the Roman Empire and the Romanisation of Britain.

Use these cards to test your knowledge of Roman history. Ellie the Elephant has curated these to help you remember the most important parts of life in Roman Britain.

Who was the Roman Emperor that first led an invasion of Britain in 43 AD?

Emperor Claudius led the invasion, though Julius Caesar had made earlier reconnaissance trips.

What was the name of the elite Roman soldier who served in a legion?

A legionary.

Why did the Romans build Hadrian's Wall?

It was built as a defensive fortification to mark the northern boundary of the Roman Empire and to control trade and immigration.

What was a Roman villa?

A Roman villa was a luxurious country house, often owned by wealthy Romans or wealthy Britons who adopted the Roman lifestyle.

What was the primary purpose of a Roman aqueduct?

To transport fresh water from distant sources into Roman towns and cities for public baths and drinking.

What is a mosaic and how did the Romans use them?

A mosaic is a pattern or picture made by embedding small coloured pieces of stone or glass into mortar; Romans used them to decorate floors and walls.

Explain the role of the Roman public baths.

They were not just for washing; they were social hubs used for exercising, relaxing, discussing business, and meeting friends.

Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a Roman soldier with a typical farmer in Iron Age Britain before the invasion.

Soldiers lived in structured, disciplined camps with advanced weaponry and training; Iron Age farmers lived in small, round wooden houses and relied on seasonal agriculture.

Justify why the Romans built a network of roads across Britain.

Roads were essential for moving the army quickly, transporting goods for trade, and maintaining communication across the empire.

What might happen if the Roman Empire had never invaded Britain?

Britain might have remained a collection of tribal kingdoms, and we would not have the Latin-based vocabulary, straight roads, or urban planning techniques that the Romans introduced.

If you were a Roman Governor in Londinium, what would be your biggest challenge?

Maintaining peace among local tribes, collecting taxes, and ensuring the city had enough food and water supplies.

Explain why the Romans were considered 'engineers' of the ancient world.

They used advanced knowledge of geometry and materials to build bridges, roads, aqueducts, and concrete buildings that have lasted for nearly two thousand years.