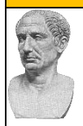
THE ROMANS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Diagram – Map of the Roman Empire

Map of the Roman Empire (117AD)

This map shows the Roman Empire at its largest, during the rule of Trajan in 117AD. Much of what is now Europe and North Africa was dominated by the empire, as was virtually all of the Mediterranean coastline. However, with the increasing size, the Romans' ability to run the empire effectively was decreased, meaning that there was a gradual loss of territory from this point onwards, particularly in the 3rd Century.

Roman Leaders and Emperors

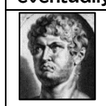


Julius Caesar (100BC-44BC)

Julius Caesar was best known for the being the first dictator of Rome – putting to an end the Roman Republic. A powerful army general, Caesar gathered enormous support amongst Romans. In opposition to the rules of the Senate, he marched his army to Rome and took control. As leader, he built many famous buildings and changed the calendar to the type we use today. He was eventually murdered by members of the Senate.

Augustus (63BC-14AD)

Augustus is best known for being the first Emperor of Rome and for establishing the Roman Empire. Formerly known as Octavian, Augustus gained his title when he became the ruler. After many years of civil war, he brought peace to the land, and began to rebuild the empire, including roads and buildings. He also expanded the empire around the Mediterranean, and brought peace and prosperity to Rome.



Nero (37AD-68AD)

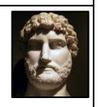
Nero has a reputation for being one of the worst Emperors of Rome. It is rumoured that he executed anyone who did not agree with him (including his own mother!) and that he played the fiddle whilst Rome burned in a great fire (this is debated). Despite starting out with good intentions, Nero became a tyrant, killing people in horrible ways, often with little proof of their guilt. In 68AD, fearing that he would be executed, Nero committed suicide.

Marcus Aurelius (121AD-180AD)

Marcus Aurelius was considered the last of Rome's 'Five Good Emperors.' He was well-liked - the word 'Aurelius' itself means golden. He skillfully guided the Roman Empire through wars on several fronts, whilst also receiving loyalty from those in positions of power around him. Aurelius made sure that his son (Commodus) succeeded him after his death - a bad choice as Commodus proved to be self-centred and inexperienced.

Claudius (10BC–54AD)

Claudius was the fourth Roman Emperor. He had some kind of disability, in both speech and walking, which meant he was kept from power until he was the last remaining male in the family, aged 38. Claudius, however, proved himself to be a good leader, expanding the Empire and doing a great deal for the public. Unfortunately his adopted son, Nero, later undid much of his good work.



Hadrian (76AD–138AD)

Hadrian was the Roman Emperor who is now best-known for building Hadrian's Wall, which marked the northern limit of Roman territory in Britain. He also built the Pantheon in Rome, amongst many other famous buildings. Hadrian was a kind Emperor who was considered the third of the 'Five Good Emperors.' Throughout his reign, he travelled to almost every province.

Important Places and Daily Life in the Roman Empire

The Colosseum		The Colosseum was built between around 80 AD by the Emperor Vespasian. It could seat about 50,000 spectators who came to watch events including gladiatorial combats, wild animal hunts and sporting games.	**Where?** Rome, Italy	**Key Fact:** The Colosseum is 189m long and 156m wide!
The Pantheon		The Pantheon was originally built as a temple to the gods of Ancient Rome, however was rebuilt in its current form in 126AD. It is the best preserved of the Roman buildings in Rome. Since it was built, it has always been used.	**Where?** Rome, Italy	**Key Fact:** Pantheon translates as 'temple of all gods.'
Hadrian's Wall		Hadrian's Wall, begun in 122AD, was a fortification designed to stop tribes in Scotland attacking England (part of the Roman Empire). It took over ten years to build. It was the most heavily fortified wall in the Empire.	**Where?** 73 miles along northern England	**Key Fact:** Lots of the wall still exists, and can be followed by path.
Diocletian's Palace		Diocletian's Palace was built as a retirement residence for the Roman Emperor Diocletian around 305AD. He lived in the palace until his death in 316AD. Although called a palace, it was also space for a whole army garrison!	**Where?** Split, Croatia	**Key Fact:** It is so huge that it makes up about half of the old town of Split!
Aqueduct of Segovia		The Aqueduct of Segovia is a well-maintained Aqueduct in Spain. It is predicted to have been built around 112AD. It once transported water from the Rio Frio river to Segovia.	**Where?** Segovia, Spain	**Key Fact:** At its tallest, the aqueduct reaches a height of 28.5m!
Family Life		Family was an important part of Roman life – laws were written to protect the family structure. The family that you belonged to had a lot to do with your place in Roman society.	**How?** Slaves and servants were counted as a part of the 'familia.'	**Key Fact:** The 'familia' of Roman Emperors could extend into thousands!
Slaves and Peasants		Slaves performed much of the hard work and construction in the Roman Empire. Most slaves were people captured in times of war, but some children were born as slaves.	**How?** Most slaves worked in building or on farms.	**Key Fact:** Some people sold themselves into slavery to pay debts!
Life in the City		In Ancient Rome, the city was the hub of life. It was the place where goods could be traded, people could be entertained, and important decisions took place.	**How?** The Romans used city grids to plan their new cities	**Key Fact:** Although Rome was the biggest, there were many important cities across the Empire
Life in the Country		Most of the Roman population lived in the countryside – many were farmers. Life was hard, with most people working from dawn right up until dusk.	**How?** Crops were grown in the country to be shipped to cities like Rome	**Key Fact:** The city of Rome had to import 6 million sacks of grain a year!
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.	**How?** Children learnt reading, writing and maths.	**Key Fact:** Many girls were not allowed to school.
Food		A wide variety of foods were available, depending upon a person's wealth and where they lived. The Romans ate 3 meals a day, with the largest meal eaten in the afternoon.	**How?** Foods were imported all around the empire.	**Key Fact:** The poor largely ate a porridge called 'puls.'
Clothes		Most men and women wore tunics, with a belt. However the women's tunic was normally slightly longer. Women wore white until they were married. Most Romans wore sandals (made of leather) on their feet.	**How?** Most clothes were made from wool.	**Key Fact:** The rich could afford linen and silk clothes.

Roman Timeline

753 BC – The city of Rome is founded.

509 BC – Rome becomes a republic. Rome is run by elected senators.

73 BC – Spartacus the gladiator leads the slaves in an uprising.

45 BC– Julius Caesar becomes the first dictator of Rome, signaling the end of the Roman republic.

27 BC – The Roman Empire begins, with Augustus as the first Roman emperor.

80 AD – The Colosseum is built.

121 AD – Hadrian's Wall is built.

306 AD – Constantine converts to Christianity, making Rome a Christian

476 AD – Romulus is overthrown and the Roman Empire is no more.

Diagram – Roman Gods and Goddesses (linked to Ancient Greeks)

Gods and Goddesses

This diagram shows who the ancient Romans worshipped. There are strong links to those the ancient Greeks worshiped. Roman religion involved cult worship. Approval from the gods did not depend on a person's behavior, but on accurate observance of religious rituals. Each god needed an image – usually a statue or relief in stone or bronze – and an altar or temple at which to offer prayers and sacrifices. Romans thought themselves very religious and attributed their success to how religious they were.

Other Significant People, Events and Facts

Who was here before the Romans?

Before the Romans arrived in Britain, the land was inhabited by Iron Age people. These people lived in small tribes, travelled little and lived in wooden roundhouses. The Romans would have seemed very strange to Iron Age Britons and their arrival and influence can still be felt today. We know these people as Celts but the Romans called them Britons.

How did the Celts react to the Romans?

When the Romans invaded, the Celtic tribes had to decide whether to fight back. If they made peace, they agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes. In return, they could keep their kingdoms. However, some Celtic leaders chose to fight. One of these was a woman called Boudicca.

Boudicca (30AD-61AD)

Boudicca is known for being a warrior queen of the Iceni people, who lived in what is now East Anglia, England. In 60–61 CE she led the Iceni and other peoples in a revolt against Roman rule. Although her forces massacred some 70,000 Romans and their supporters, they were ultimately defeated.

Why did the Romans come to Britain?

Why the Romans came to Britain is not quite certain. Two reasons have been suggested:

★ The Romans were cross with Britain for helping the Gauls (now called the French) fight against the Roman general Julius Caesar.

★ They came to Britain looking for riches - land, slaves, and most of all, iron, lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold.

What changes did the Romans bring to Britain?

★ Roads
★ Towns
★ Plumbing
★ Architecture
★ Mosaics - we will make some paper mosaics this term!

Why did the Romans leave Britain?

The Roman Empire was being attacked in other countries so soldiers were called to fight elsewhere.

Important Places and Daily Life in the Roman Empire

AD	Anno Domini- the time after the birth of Christ.
Amphitheatre	An open circular or open building.
Aqueduct	An artificial channel that transports water.
Auxiliary	A soldier not of Roman citizenship.
Britannia	The Roman name for Britain.
CE / BCE	Christian Era / Before Christian Era
Celts	People living in Britain and in some parts of Europe after the Iron Age.
Centurion	A Roman officer typically in charge of 100 men.
Colosseum	A large theatre or stadium.
Empire	A group of countries that are ruled by one ruler.
Emperor	A leader/ruler or king of an Empire.
Forum	A Roman town square.
Hierarchy	The organisation of people at different ranks within a community.
Invasion	An instance of invading or region with an armed force.
Gladiator	A person who fought people or animals for entertainment.
Legionary	The elite soldiers of the Roman Empire
Mosaic	One picture made up of thousands of small tiles.
Senate	The Roman government.
Settlement	A place where people live.

Verulamium was a town in Roman Britain. It was sited southwest of the modern city of St Albans in Hertfordshire, England. A large portion of the Roman city remains unexcavated, being now park and agricultural land, though much has been built upon. The ancient Watling Street passed through the city. Much of the site and its environs is now classed as a scheduled monument.