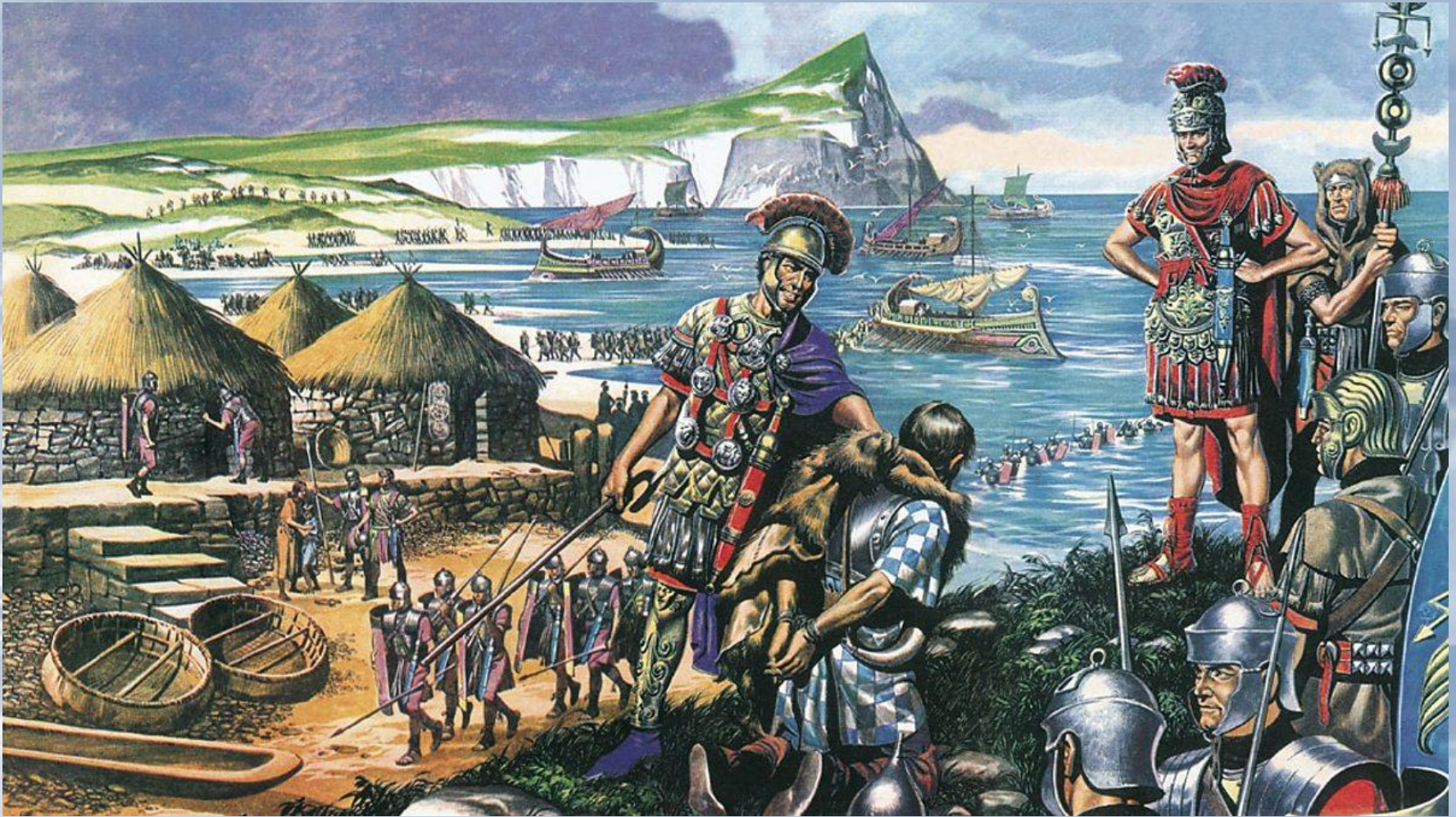


Roman Britain



WHEN



- In **AD 43**, the Roman emperor Claudius **launched** an invasion of Britain .
- Over the next 45 years the Roman army gradually extended its control over much of present-day England and Wales and **ventured** into territory now in Scotland (Hadrian's wall).
- Eventually they established a new Roman province, Britannia, which formed part of the empire until the early 5th century AD.





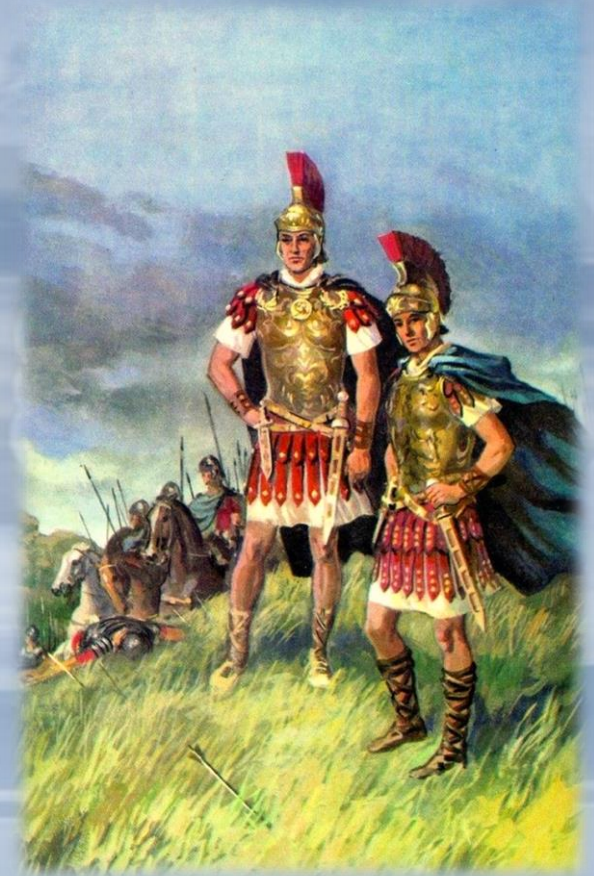
WHY

1. **Power** (expand the empire)
2. **Revenge.** The Celtic Britons had helped the Gauls battle against Julius Caesar
3. **Natural resources** (corn in particular)
4. **Raw materias** (gold, silver, tin)
5. **Slavery**
6. **Ambition of the Emperors** (Claudius)



The importance of the Roman invasion

- The Romans left their **mark** all over the country.
- They gave Britain:
 1. new towns,
 2. plants, animals,
 3. a new religion
 4. ways of reading and counting.
- Even the word 'Britain' came from the Romans.



What were houses like?

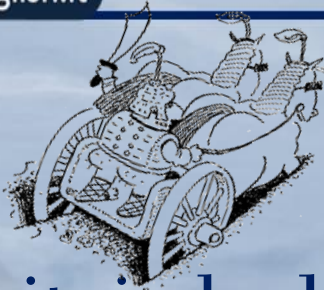
- People lived in small villages of wooden houses with **thatched** roofs.
- Wealthy Romans lived in villas and palaces.
- Villas were large farms with a big house for the owners.
- Most of the Roman villas were in the South of England.
- The governor of Britain had a palace in London.



Roman technology

- The Romans were good at building roads and bridges.
- They had **enslaved** people to do the heavy work and nasty jobs.
- Although they didn't invent the **arch**, the Romans were the first people to build arches into big buildings and **aqueducts**.
- Romans used aqueducts **to supply** towns with water from **springs**, rivers or lakes.
- Towns and forts had underground **drains** to take away dirty water and **sewage**.
- **Sewers** were important. Without them, people risked catching diseases.





Roman roads

- Britain had no proper roads before the Romans.
- Romans built all across the landscape over 16,000km (10,000 miles) of roads.
- They built their roads on foundations of **clay**, **chalk** and **gravel**.
- They laid bigger flat stones on top.
- Roman roads **bulged** in the middle and had **ditches** either side, to help the rainwater **drain off**.



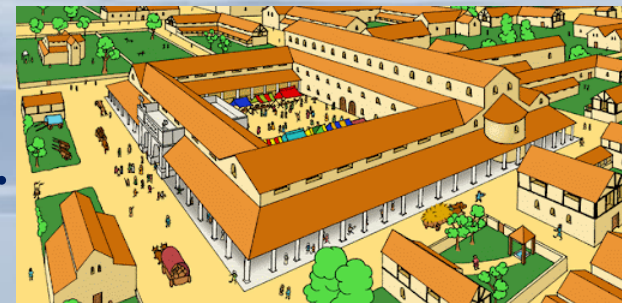
How did the Romans change religion?

- The native Britons were **pagans**.
- The Romans let the Britons **worship** their own gods, as long as they were respectful of the Roman ones too.
- Christianity arrived in Britain during the second century.
- In AD 313 the Emperor Constantine declared that Christians were free to worship their god.
- By 391, Christianity was the official Roman religion,



How did the Romans change towns?

- The Romans introduced the idea of living in big towns and cities.
- With the coming of the Anglo-Saxons many of the Roman towns were abandoned but they continued to exist and still exist today.
- If a place-name has 'chester', 'caster' or 'cester' in it, it's almost certainly Roman (for example, Gloucester, Doncaster and Manchester).
- The word 'chester' comes from the Latin word 'castrum' which means 'a fort'.
- London was a Roman city too, although they called it "Londinium".



Language, writing and numbers

- Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write in Britain.
- The Romans wrote down their history, their literature and their laws in Latin.
- We've still got lots of words and phrases today that come from Latin. Words like 'exit', which means 'he or she goes out', and 'pedestrian', which means 'going on foot'.
- British coins are based on a Roman design and some of the lettering is in Latin. Written around the **edge** of some £1 coins is the phrase 'decus et tutamen' which means 'glory and protection'.



Goodbyes

- In AD410, the Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote, “*fight bravely and defend your lives...you are on your own now*”. The city of Rome was under attack and the empire was **falling apart**, so the Romans had to leave to take care of matters back home.
- After they left, the country fell into chaos.
- Native tribes and foreign invaders battled each other for power.
- But even after they were gone, the Romans left their mark all over the country. Forever.



▶ Next Episode



The Anglo- Saxons

