

## THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN

**Read the following text about the Romans in Britain. Three sentences contain incorrect information. Delete them, as the example shows.**

~~The Romans were not interested in the British Isles because it always rained there.~~

The Celts exported grain and animals to the continent. The Romans began to take an interest in Britain because it had productive land. Julius Caesar was annoyed that the Celts had helped the Gauls in their battles against the Romans. Therefore, Caesar attempted to conquer Britain in 55 BC. This time the famous general was unsuccessful.

The Romans not only wanted Britain's cattle, but also its precious metals gold, tin, and iron. The Roman emperors needed the glory of conquering Britain and adding it to the empire. It was only under the Emperor Claudius that the Romans were able to establish themselves in Britain. His tactic was to dig a tunnel for his soldiers from present-day Calais to Dover. This was between 43 and 47 A.D. Most Celtic leaders made peace with the Romans, they agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes. In return, they could keep their kingdoms.

After years of heavy taxes and the Romans taking their land, some Celtic tribes were desperate for revenge. In A.D. 60, one leader chose to fight. It was Queen Boudica. She raised a huge army and burned the Roman towns of Colchester and London. The Roman army heard about this. Roman soldiers marched to face her. The Romans were outnumbered by Boudica's 200,000 warriors, but they were better trained and had better armour. After a fierce battle, the Romans won. The surviving Celtic soldiers were taken prisoners and shipped to America where they were sold on the slave markets of Charleston and New Orleans.

Over the next 300 years, Britain remained a peaceful and successful province of the Roman Empire. New cities, roads, villas, and baths were built. The Romans introduced their language and culture to Britain. Many Celts became Roman citizens and spoke Latin. For their capital in Britain the Romans chose a little hill by the river Thames. The fishermen there called it "Llyn-Dun", which means "The hill by the pool". But the Romans did not like native names and quickly latinized them. So "Llyn-Dun" became "Londinium" or London, as we say today.

The Romans tried to conquer Scotland for over a century. They failed, and Emperor Hadrian decided to build a rampart on the border separating England from Scotland. The Hadrian's Wall in large parts is still standing today. Hadrian's Wall was recently improved with modern military installations to ward off an anticipated Russian invasion.

The collapse of the mighty Roman Empire began in 409 AD. The emperor in Rome had to order his soldiers back to Rome to defend the capital against the barbarians. The Romanized Celts of Britain were left behind. They first had to fight against the Scots, then against invaders, who came from Germany.

When those Anglo-Saxons took over in the 5th century, Latin disappeared from the country.

Some Latin words made their way from the Roman period over the centuries until today.

**camp** (from campus ".....")

**mile** (from mille passus "a ..... paces")

**pound** (from pondus "weight")

**acid** (from acetum "vinegar")

**wine** (from vinum ".....")

**castle** (from castrum "fortress")



Hadrian's Wall goes from the east coast to the west coast