



# Why the Romans Abandoned Britain in AD 410

KS2 HISTORY

ANCIENT ROME

BRITAIN

Ages 10-14 ⌚ 3 min read

## When Did the Romans Leave Britain?

The **Roman Empire** controlled **Britain** for nearly **400 years**, starting in **AD 43**. But in **AD 410**, the Romans packed up and left. This wasn't a quick decision—it happened because the empire faced huge problems back home.

## The Roman Empire Was Falling Apart

By **AD 410**, the **Roman Empire** was in serious trouble. Enemies were attacking from all directions, especially from the north and east. The empire was so big and stretched so thin that it couldn't defend everywhere at once. **Rome itself** had even been attacked by invaders in **AD 410**—the very year the Romans left Britain.

Think of it like having too many jobs at once: if you're trying to look after the house, the garden, and the pets all alone, something has to give.

## Soldiers Were Needed at Home

The **Roman army** was spread impossibly thin. The empire needed soldiers desperately to defend **Italy** and other crucial parts of the empire. The soldiers protecting **Britain** were like spare hands that were needed urgently elsewhere. By **AD 410**, the **Roman Emperor Honorius** basically told the people of **Britain** that they were on their own and would need to defend themselves.

## Britain Wasn't as Important Anymore

Compared to other parts of the empire, **Britain** wasn't the most valuable place. It was cold, distant, and took months to reach by ship. The empire had to choose which parts to protect, and **Britain** came lower on the list. With enemies closing in everywhere, **Rome** had to focus on keeping the heart of the empire safe.

Think of it like a school choosing which sports teams to fund: if money is tight, you might keep the popular teams going but let the club that costs lots to run fade away.

## What Happened After?

Once the Romans left, **Britain** was unprotected. Slowly, **Anglo-Saxon** peoples from what is now **Germany** and **Denmark** began to settle and take over. The ordered, organized world the Romans had built gradually disappeared. **Britain** entered what's sometimes called the **Dark Ages**, when life became harder and less connected to the wider world.