



Why the Romans Invaded and Conquered Britain

KS2 HISTORY

KS3 HISTORY

Ages 9-14 ⌚ 3 min read

Who Were the Romans?

Around **2,000 years ago**, the **Roman Empire** was one of the most powerful civilizations in the world. It had already conquered much of **Europe**, **North Africa**, and the **Middle East**. The **Romans** were expert soldiers, builders, and organizers, and they wanted to expand their empire even further.

Why Did They Want Britain?

Britain was an island that seemed rich with resources. The **Romans** knew it had valuable things like **tin**, **iron**, and **gold** that they could use or sell. They also wanted to control the trade routes that passed through **British** ports.

Think of it like a video game where you want to take over new territories to get more treasure and control the map!

Beyond resources, the **Romans** believed it was their duty to spread their civilization and bring their way of life to other peoples. They saw conquest as a way to show their power and make their empire even greater.

The First Invasion

In **55 BC**, the famous general **Julius Caesar** led the first **Roman** invasion of **Britain**. However, the local **British** tribes fought back fiercely, and **Caesar** didn't manage to conquer the island permanently. He returned to **Rome**.

The Successful Invasion

Nearly **100 years later**, in **43 AD**, the **Roman Emperor Claudius** sent a much larger army to invade **Britain**. This time, the **Romans** had better planning, more soldiers, and superior military technology. They defeated the **British** tribes and took control of much of the island.

Think of it like when you finally beat a difficult video game level because you've learned the strategies and have better equipment!

The **Romans** stayed in **Britain** for around **400 years**, building roads, forts, and cities. They left a lasting impact on **British** culture, language, and way of life.

Why This Matters

Understanding why the **Romans** invaded **Britain** helps us see how ancient civilizations expanded their power and how different peoples met and clashed with each other throughout history.