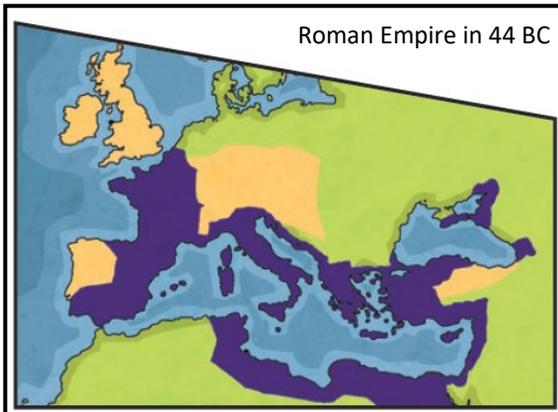
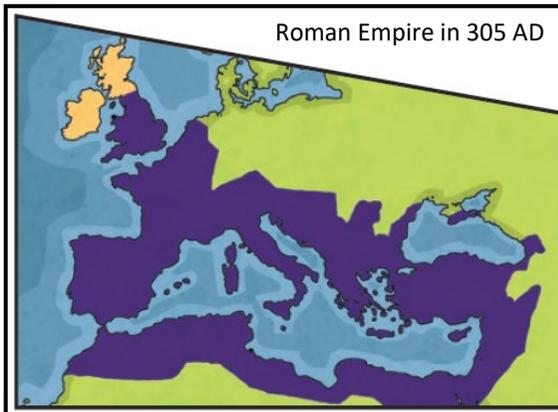


Ancient Romans



Roman Empire in 44 BC



Roman Empire in 305 AD



The army

The Roman army was the largest and meanest fighting force in the ancient world.

One of the main reasons Rome became so powerful was because of the strength of its army. It conquered a vast empire that stretched from Britain all the way to the Middle East. The army was very advanced for its time. The soldiers were the best trained, they had the best weapons and the best armour. Being a soldier was a serious business.

When the Romans invaded Britain, their army was so good that it took on armies 10 times its size and won!

Ancient Rome

Around 2,000 years ago, the city of Rome was at the centre of a huge empire that stretched from Scotland to Syria. At the peak of its power, Rome ruled more than 45 million people across Europe, North Africa and Asia. Its army was the most powerful in the world, and as it conquered more land, Rome grew from a town into an enormous capital. Ancient Rome was home to gleaming white marble temples, lavish palaces and spectacular gladiator shows. With over one million people living there, the city was also a dirty and dangerous place, with a maze of side-streets and slums.

	Date	Key Events
1	753 BCE	Founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus (according to legend)
2	44 BCE	Murder of Caesar by rebelling Senators
3	27 BCE	Augustus becomes first Roman Emperor
4	79 CE	Mount Vesuvius erupts destroying Pompeii
5	80 CE	The Colosseum in Rome is completed seating 50,000 spectators
6	285 CE	Split in Roman Empire to divide it between East & West
7	330 CE	Establishment of Constantinople as capital of the Roman Empire
8	410 CE	Goths sack Rome (Fall of Roman Empire)

The soldiers

Only **men** could be in the Roman Army, no women were allowed. There were two main types of Roman soldiers: **legionaries** and **auxiliaries**.

The legionaries were the elite (very best) soldiers. A legionary had to be over 17 years old and a Roman citizen. Every new recruit had to be **fighting fit** - anyone who was weak or too short was rejected.

Legionaries signed up for at least 25 years' service. But if they survived their time, they were rewarded with a gift of land they could farm. Old soldiers often retired together in military towns, called '**colonia**'.

An auxiliary was a soldier who was **not** a Roman citizen. He was only paid a third of a legionary's wage. Auxiliaries guarded forts and frontiers but also fought in battles, often in the front lines where it was the most dangerous.

Vocabulary

AD	Anno Domini, the time after the birth of Jesus.
Aqueduct	A structure, like a bridge, which is used to carry water.
Auxiliary troops	Soldiers who were not citizens of Rome, but fought for the Roman army.
BC	Before Christ, the time before the birth of Jesus.
Chariot	A vehicle with two wheels pulled by horses.
Century	A division of the Roman army made up of 80 soldiers and led by a centurion.
Colosseum	Exceptionally large amphitheater in Rome that hosted gladiatorial combat and animal fights.
Consul	The highest position in the Roman government.
Emperor	A person who rules an empire.
Empire	A group of countries that are ruled by one ruler.
Gladiator	A person who fought people or animals for entertainment.
Latin	The language used by the Romans.
Legion	The main unit of the Roman army.
Mosaic	A picture made of tiny tiles which the Romans used in their villas.
Pagans	People who worship several gods or goddesses in which nature is seen as very important.
Public bath	A building, like a modern Spa, where people went to wash, exercise and socialise.
Senate	A group of prestigious people who advised the consuls.
Testudo	The tortoise formation formed by soldiers to protect each other.
Villa	A large, luxurious home, usually built in the country, for wealthy people to live in.