

# A Year Four Historian at Blackheath Primary learns...

## Autumn

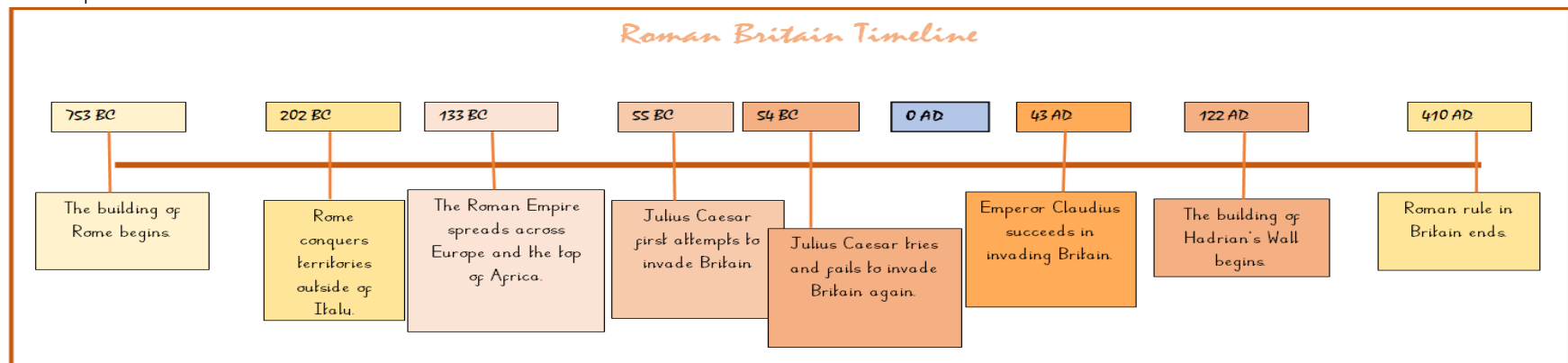
### Key Knowledge

An Empire is a group of countries brought together under one ruler (usually an emperor). The Roman Empire lasted from 27AD and 476 AD and was the largest empire in the ancient world. The Roman Empire operated under a strict hierarchy, with a few number of powerful people at the top, and a greater number of less powerful people at the bottom. The least important people in ancient Rome were slaves, who had very few rights. The Roman Empire expanded through a series of wars with other states and empires and was at largest by 150 AD.

The Roman conquest of Britain first began in 55BC and 54BC, under the direction of Julius Caesar. The Romans did not stay, but established trading and other links with friendly British kings. In 43AD, under the Emperor Claudius, the Romans returned and began the process of conquest, eventually conquering what we now call England, Wales and parts of modern Scotland. The Romans called their British conquest Britannia.

The Romans and Celts (Britons) had very different ways of organising their fighting forces. The Romans had an organised and professional army whereas the Celts fought in smaller tribal units and were mainly warriors who were also farmers. The Romans typically had better weapons and armour than the Celts and were able to spend most of their time training to fight, which made their army highly effective. From around 60/61 AD Queen Boudicca of the Iceni led a revolt against Roman rule after the Romans broke promises to respect the independence of some Celtic rulers. Boudicca's forces were able to win some battles and destroyed some Roman settlements. However, Boudicca was eventually defeated, meaning that the Romans were firmly in control.

The Romans brought many changes to Britain, including building roads, some of which still survive today; their written and spoken language, Latin, building towns and cities, many of which include stone buildings and walls and growing different foodstuffs. Later in the Roman period they also brought the religion of Christianity for the first time. The British Roman period ended in 410 AD, as the Roman troops had to return to defend their empire on mainland Europe.

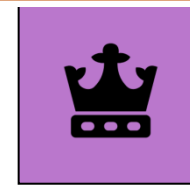
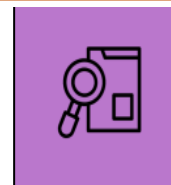


### Key Skills

To learn key historical knowledge about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.

To understand what can be learnt from relevant historical artefacts and other sources.

To evaluate change and continuity between the Roman period and those both before and after, including modern Britain.



# Spring

## Key Knowledge

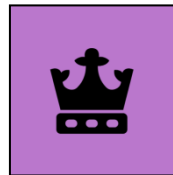
After the Roman army left in 410 AD, the Britons were unable to defend themselves from attacks from the Picts and Scotti (from modern Scotland). It is believed that a British king called Vortigern asked two brothers from a tribe called the Angles, called Hengest and Horsa to help, and that they arrived in 449 AD. Eventually, the new arrivals decided that instead of helping the Britons, they would take land for themselves! Over time, more settlers from modern Germany, Denmark and Belgium arrived. The largest groups were the Angles and Saxons, from where we get the term Anglo-Saxon. By 600AD, the Anglo-Saxons had pushed out the native Britons and established 7 main kingdoms.

The Anglo-Saxons spoke their own language, which helped give rise to the modern English spoken today, they built more wooden buildings than stone and were good farmers, metal workers and jewellers. Originally, they believed in many Gods but from 597 onwards, they became Christians. Starting from 793 AD, people from modern Denmark, Norway and Sweden, known as Vikings, began to raid (attack and steal) from Anglo-Saxon monasteries. They arrived in boats, took what they wanted and left. From 830 AD, groups of Vikings decided to settle (stay). They did so because they ran out of land to farm in their home countries and needed somewhere else to live. The Vikings were successful in defeating and taking land from all of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms with the exception of Wessex.

Wessex was led by King Alfred, later known as Alfred the Great. Alfred improved the Anglo-Saxons' defences and was able to defeat the Viking King, Guthrum, in 878 at the Battle of Edington. The Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons agreed to divide the country between them and to trade goods. From 937, the Anglo-Saxons controlled enough of the country for Alfred's grandson Athelstan, to be regarded as the first king of England. The word England means 'Land of the Angles. Over the next century, control of England passed between different Viking and Anglo-Saxon kings until 1066, after the death of King Edward the Confessor, William of Normandy (William the Conqueror) defeated King Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings and the Anglo-Saxon age was brought to an end.

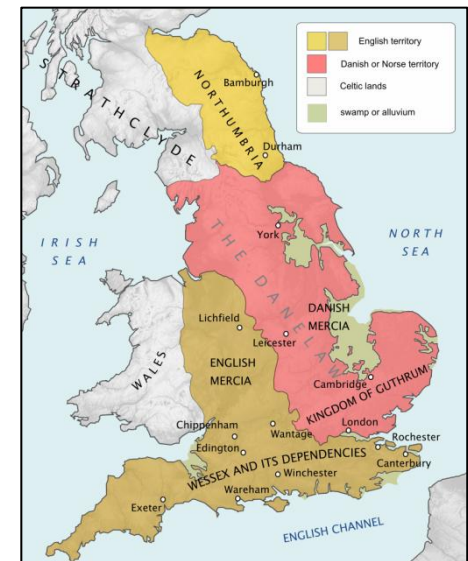
## Key Skills

- To compare sources of evidence to help me identify reliable
- To discuss and describe why people are considered significant in history information.
- To sequence significant events.



Alfred the Great (King of Wessex)

## The 7 main Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms



How England was divided between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.