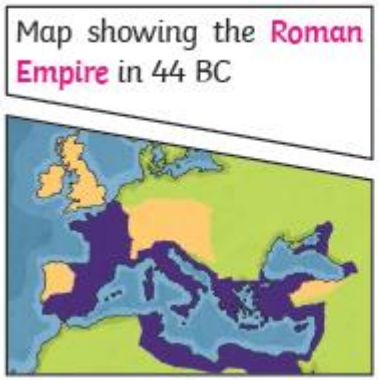
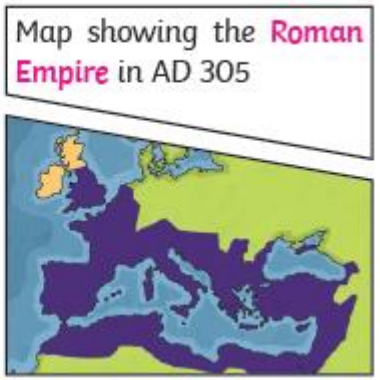
Lower Key Stage 2 - Elveden Academy
Knowledge organiser – The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain

Key Vocabulary:

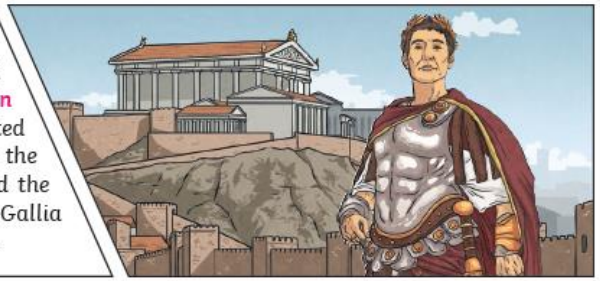
Caledonia	The name used in Roman times for Scotland
Celts	People living in Britain
emperor	The ruler of an empire
Iceni	A tribe of Celts who lived in the east of Britain
legion	A large section of the Roam army, made up of 5000 soldiers.
Picts	Tribes from Caledonia
Roman Empire	The name used for the land that was controlled by the Romans, including parts of Europe, Middle East and North Africa.





Timeline of the Roman Invasion

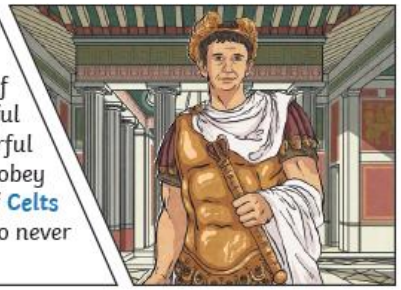
55 BC: The First Raid
Julius Caesar wanted to extend his Roman Empire so he attempted to invade Britain but the Celts fought back and the Romans returned to Gallia (modern-day France).





54 BC: The Second Raid
Julius Caesar tried to take over Britain again. This time, he took bigger and stronger legions and had some success. Some British tribes were forced to pay tributes (luxury items, such as gold, slaves or soldiers) in order to carry on living how they were.

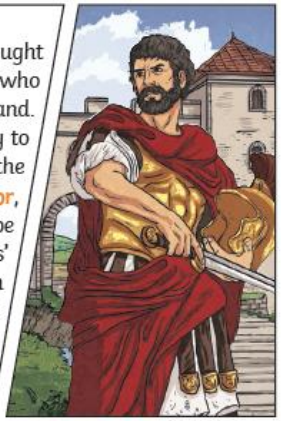
AD 43: Invasion
The new emperor, Claudius, was determined to make more of Britain part of his Roman Empire and started a successful invasion. Many Celts realised how powerful this Roman army was and agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes. Other tribes of Celts continued to fight against the Romans, who never gained full control of Britain.



AD 60: Boudicca's Rebellion
The Romans decided that the Iceni tribe needed to start paying taxes but Queen Boudicca, the ruler of the tribe, refused to let this happen and formed an army to fight the Romans. Thousands of people died in these battles but the Romans eventually won.



AD 122: Hadrian's Wall
The Caledonian tribes fought battles against the Romans who had tried to take their land. The Romans wanted a way to separate their land from the Picts so the Roman emperor, Hadrian, ordered a wall to be built to protect the Romans' land. The wall was 117km long with castles, guarded turrets, major forts, barracks, bathhouses and even hospitals.



Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall in Northern England was built to mark the boundaries of the Roman Empire and to keep the Scots out. Built after the visit of Emperor Hadrian in 122 AD by the Roman army, Hadrian's Wall was constructed and protected by the Roman soldiers living in forts alongside it. The wall is 117 km long and was the furthest frontier of the Roman Empire.



The Iceni

Some 2,000 years ago Great Britain was home to various tribes of Celtic peoples. When troops from the Roman Empire conquered southern England in ad 43, they forced most of the Celtic tribes to surrender to them. However, they allowed one ruler, Prasutagus, to continue to rule the Iceni people of eastern England.
When Prasutagus died in ad 60, his wife, Boudicca, became queen of the Iceni.



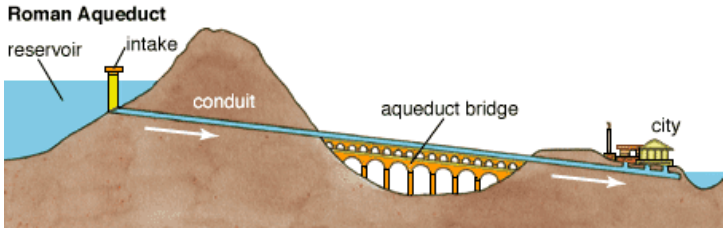
Boudicca

Boudicca was ruler of the Iceni, a tribe of people in ancient Britain. As a warrior queen she led her people against the invasions of the Romans, but she was ultimately unable to defeat them.

Life in Roman Britain

The Romans came to Britain nearly 2,000 years ago and changed our country. Even today, evidence of the Romans being here can be seen in the ruins of Roman buildings, forts, roads, and baths can be found all around Britain.

What technology did they bring?



Although they didn't invent the arch, the Romans were the first people to build arches into big buildings and aqueducts. Romans used aqueducts to supply towns with water from springs, rivers or lakes. Aqueducts were like a bridge with a stone channel to carry water on top.



The Romans liked to keep clean. Towns and forts had underground drains to take away dirty water and sewage. The drain pipes were flushed with water from the baths, so they didn't get too smelly. People visited baths to get fit, get clean and meet friends.



Bits of Roman road can still be seen. Soldiers and carts used this cobbled road to travel between Manchester and Yorkshire.

Roman roads

Britain had no proper roads before the Romans - there were just muddy tracks. So the Romans built new roads all across the landscape – over 16,000km (10,000 miles) in fact!
The Romans knew that the shortest distance from one place to another is a straight line. So they made all their roads as straight as possible to get around quickly.
They built their roads on foundations of clay, chalk and gravel. They laid bigger flat stones on top. Roman roads bulged in the middle and had ditches either side, to help the rainwater drain off.