

Roman Britain

The Romans first came to Britain in 55 BC. Julius Caesar's army fought some British tribes, but then returned to Rome.

Over a century later, in AD 43, the Romans came again and conquered Britain. Emperor Claudius brought elephants with him to frighten the Britons. The Romans then ruled England and Wales for four hundred years.

The Romans never conquered Scotland. Instead, Emperor Hadrian built a wall in AD 122 to keep the Scots out. Hadrian's Wall ran from one side of the country to the other.

Gradually, the native Britons started living like Romans and some of the buildings the Romans built still survive. These include Hadrian's Wall itself, together with the foundations of forts and gateways.

The remains of lighthouses, town walls, amphitheatres, villas and bath houses survive, as well. The villas and bath houses include hypocausts, which were used to keep them warm.

1. What did Julius Caesar do?

2. What might a native Briton have seen in AD 43 and what might he have thought about it?

3. Who was Hadrian and why is he still famous?

4. What makes Roman Britain an especially good period of history to study?
