

The Roman Invasion of Britain

55BCE

In 55 BCE the Celts lived in Britain. Julius Caesar sailed across the English Channel with ten thousand Roman soldiers. They landed on the beach but the Celts were waiting for them so they had to fight while they were still in the water.

The Romans won a few battles and then went back to Gaul, which is now France.

54BCE

The next year Julius Caesar came back with thirty thousand soldiers. The Celts were not ready to fight. The Romans won lots of battles. Some tribes paid money to the Romans so they wouldn't hurt them. The Romans had to leave to fight in Gaul.

43CE

Almost one hundred years later, Emperor Claudius sent fifty thousand Roman soldiers to conquer Britain. They split into three groups. The first group fought in the South. The second group marched towards North Wales and the third marched towards York.

In one battle the Celts tried to defend themselves and their fort by using thousands of stones from the beach in slingshots. Lots of Celts died.

Many tribes agreed to pay taxes to Rome and follow Roman laws so they didn't have to fight.

The fighting went on for many, many years.



The Roman Invasion of Britain

Questions

55BCE

- 1) Who was living in Britain in 55BCE?
- 2) What happened when the Romans landed?

54BCE

- 1) How many Roman soldiers came over in 54BCE?
- 2) How did some tribes avoid fighting?
- 3) Why did the Romans have to leave?

43CE

- 1) Which Emperor sent soldiers in 43CE?
- 2) How many groups did the Roman soldiers split into?
- 3) What does 'defend' mean?

Discuss the following questions with your partner:

- 1) The Celts tried to defend themselves with thousands of stones from the beach put into slingshots. How do you think historians know this?
- 2) If you were a Celtic chieftain or king, would you submit to the Romans or fight them? Why?

The Roman Invasion of Britain Answers

55BCE

- 1) Who was living in Britain in 55BCE? **The Celts lived in Britain in 55BC.**
- 2) What happened when the Romans landed? **When the Roman's landed on the beach, the Celts were waiting for them so they had to fight while still in the water.**

54BCE

- 1) How many Roman soldiers came over in 54BCE? **Thirty thousand soldiers came to Britain in 54 BC.**
- 2) How did some tribes avoid fighting? **Tribes avoided fighting by paying money to the Romans.**
- 3) Why did the Romans have to leave? **The Romans had to leave to fight in Gaul.**

43CE

- 1) Which Emperor sent soldiers in 43CE?
Emperor Claudius sent soldiers to Britain in 43AD.
- 2) How many groups did the Roman soldiers split into?
The Roman soldiers split into 3 groups.
- 3) What does 'defend' mean? **Defend means to protect yourself from danger.**

Discuss the following questions with your partner:

- 1) The Celts tried to defend themselves with thousands of stones from the beach put into slingshots. How do you think historians know this?
Answers may vary.
- 2) If you were a Celtic chieftain or king, would you submit to the Romans or fight them? Why? **Answers may vary.**