

Key Dates:

- 753 BC:** Legend says Rome began (Romulus and Remus)
- 265 BC:** Roman Empire begins and starts to expand
- 264 BC:** First war with Carthage begins (There are three and last for 118 years, they become known as the Punic Wars)
- 55 BC:** Julius Caesar attempted to invade Britain but the weather meant he and the Romans had to leave.
- 54 BC - 43 AD:** Caesar successfully invaded England but had to leave. Rome control England through trade.
- 43 - 50 AD:** General Plautius invades England. The Romans continued their conquest and took the South of Britain. London was founded and roads were built.

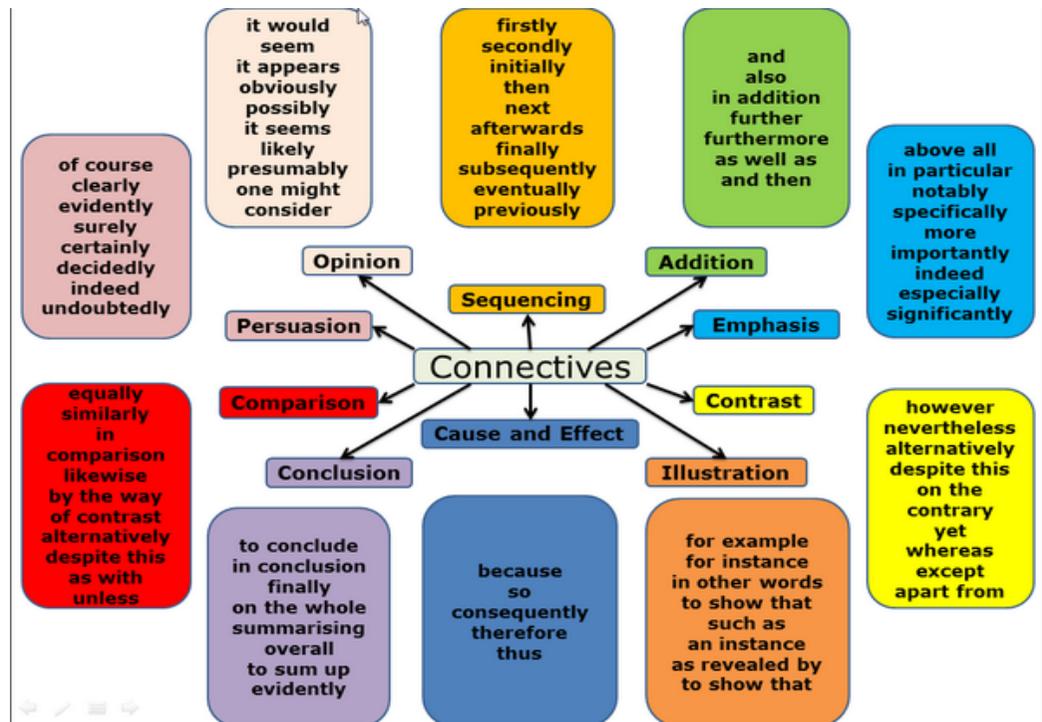


By the end of this Half Term I should know:

- Legend of how Rome began.
- What Chronology means and be able to show how the Roman Empire expanded.
- Roman rule - Who Julius Caesar was.
- Why the Roman Empire invaded England.
- What life was like for the Britons under Roman rule.
- Why people joined the Roman army.
- How the Roman army was organised.
- What life was like for Roman soldiers.

Key Terms

- Chronology:** The study of time e.g. Chronological (time) order.
- Legend/ Myth:** A story based in fact but with fictional features.
- Expansion:** How a state or country grows by taking over other states or countries.
- Invasion:** Attacking another state or country and its people on their own land or country.
- Punic Wars:** Three wars between Rome and Carthage which lasted 118 years .
- Julius Caesar:** A general who later became the leader of Rome.
- Legionary:** A soldier from a Roman tribe (a citizen of Rome).
- Auxiliary:** A soldier from a non - Roman tribe (not a citizen of Rome)





KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 1 - Roman Empire



Birth of Rome (Myth and Legend) Legend has it that an ancient land called **Alba Longa** was ruled by good king **Numitor**. He had a daughter called **Rhea Silvia** who was imprisoned by **Amulius** when he drove his brother Numitor from Alba Longa and became its king. Whilst imprisoned in the temple of **Vestal Virgins**, Rhea Silvia became pregnant by **Mars** (the god of war) and gave birth to twin boys, **Romulus and Remus**. Amulius ordered that the twins be put to death. A servant placed the twins in a basket and set them adrift on the river **Tiber**. The twins did not drown and were instead found by a **she wolf** which raised them until they were taken in by a **shepherd** and his wife. They went on to become fierce soldiers who defeated Amulius and gave the throne back to Numitor. They went on to build their own city. However, Romulus **killed** Remus in a fierce fight and named the city after himself, **Rome**.

Expansion of the Roman Empire: The **Roman empire** did not begin as the mighty Roman empire that we know today. They were actually defeated many times by other groups and **tribes** within **Italy**. The **Gauls** (French) defeated the Romans in Italy and only left when the Romans **paid** them a lot of money to go back north. From 340 BC - 275 BC, the Romans defeated the **Etruscans** (neighbours and friends), the **Samnites** (southern Italy) and the **Greek settlers** in the north (the **Pyrrhic war**). Wars with **Carthage** (North Africa) lasted from **264 - 146 BC**. Once the **Carthaginians** had been defeated Rome had control over the whole region. Now they could expand across **Europe, North Africa and the Middle East** swallowing up other countries.

Roman Invasion of England: As the Roman Empire grew and merged other countries into its empire there were more and more people to feed. More food and resources were needed. Britain was a very fertile land and had many natural resources, such as: sheep (wool), cows (leather), silver, lead, tin and people (slaves for building). The Romans thought that it was their duty to bring civilisation to the world. This would bring world peace as everyone would follow Roman law. The Britons had been helping the Gauls and the Romans wanted to get revenge, while at the same time showing its strength.

Life in Roman Britain The Celtic tribes living in Britain would not have welcomed the Roman invasion and fought against them. However, Roman occupation of Britain, although brutal brought plenty of advantages, as they introduced various aspects of their civilisation which did not exist here previously: Sanitation, aqueducts, water fountains, public baths, medical knowledge, sewers, central heating systems, government, law & order, architecture, roads, flats, villas, towns, education, Latin language, numerals, writing, foods like carrots, grapes, apples, leeks, radishes, peas, celery, turnips etc.

Life as a Roman Soldier: As the Empire grew bigger the army had to fight further and further away from home. Being a soldier became a full-time job and soldiers were no longer sent home when a battle ended. These full-time soldiers were well-trained and disciplined. They had to be tough and confident in the use of a number of weapons. There were two types of Roman soldiers: Legionaries and Auxiliaries. Legionary soldiers were Roman citizens and grouped into large numbers called legions. Auxiliaries were conquered people who joined the Roman legions. These served for 25 years in the army and became full Roman citizens when they retired. This meant that their families would be entitled to all the things that Roman citizens had.

Julius Caesar: Caesar was a successful army general who spent a lot of time with the lower class Romans (plebeians). He was liked by many plebeians as he strongly believed in their rights. He knew true power came with the support of all of the people. He helped limit slavery by ordering landowners to hire workers rather than use slaves. He made public games free to all the people of Rome. He built more roads (helping the unemployed find work). However, he angered others by appointing himself Dictator-for-Life. This meant he had complete control and ruled alone. Caesar began wearing an all-purple toga and red shoes like a god or a king. He spent a lot of time away in Egypt where he had a mistress (Cleopatra) and son (Caesarion).