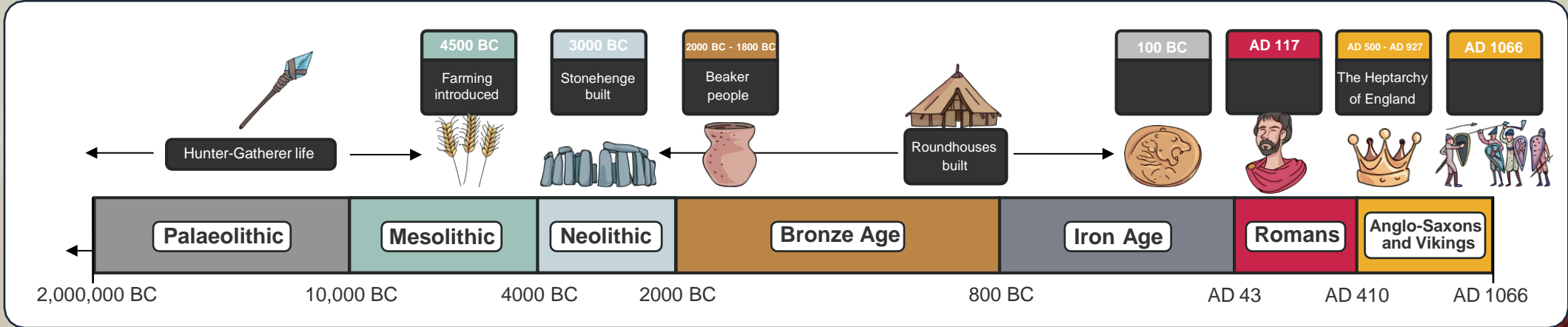


Rotten Romans

Were the Romans remarkable or rotten?



Early Rome

Archaeologists believe that people have lived in the **Italian region** for over **850,000 years** with there being evidence of **Palaeolithic** life south of the **River Reno**.

Over **849,000 years later**, a famous legend says that a pair of **twin brothers** settled near the **River Tiber**; thus, creating the settlement of **Rome**. This settlement would grow and expand to become one of the **most powerful and largest empires** the world had ever seen. In its early years, Italy was not ruled by a single group. The land had many different people who would invade and rule over others.

At first, the neighbouring Etruscans were the most powerful in the region and it is believed that they ruled over Rome for a short time, until the Romans revolted and established a republic c. **506 BCE**.

Key Vocabulary

Invasade	To enter a country by force with large numbers of soldiers in order to take possession of it.
Settle	To arrive, especially from another country, in a new place and start to live there and use the land.
Plebeian	Plebeian were the working class. Most plebeians were soldiers, farmers, bakers or builders.
Patrician	Patrician were at the top of Roman society and were very wealthy.
Settlements	A place where people come to live.
Conquer	To take control or possession of foreign land or a group of people by force.
Warrior	A soldier usually one who has both experience and skill in fighting especially in the past.
Tribe	A group of people, often of related families, who live together, sharing the same language and culture.
Empire	A group of countries ruled by a single person, government, or country.

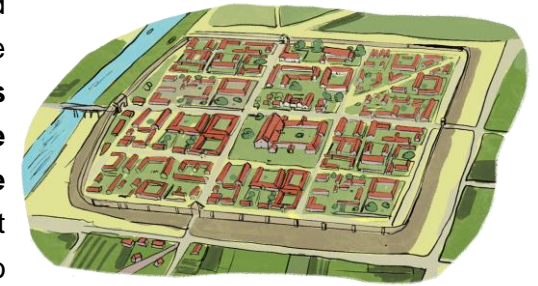
The growth of the Roman Empire

Under the rule of Emperor Augustus, the Roman Empire had grown and its reach was maintained by Emperor Augustus' new Imperial Army – an army so well trained and powerful that barely anyone could stand in their way. Augustus and other Roman leaders had eyed Britannia as a way to expand the Empire over the last half a century, but it wasn't that easy. There had been multiple attempts to invade, but they failed. It took until the year **43 CE** for the Romans to be successful in their quest, and under the rule of **Emperor Claudius**, they invaded and the **Britons (Celts)** tried to fight back, but were beaten by the heavily armoured and organised soldiers in the **Roman legions**. Within four years, **Rome controlled large regions of Britannia**.

Roman Britain

The Romans were not happy just conquering the settlements of Britain – they wanted to turn them into **Roman cities** too. Roman towns in Britain were **full of brick buildings** and temples. The Romans liked everything to be organised, so the **streets** were built in **straight lines**. In the middle of the settlement, there would be a large square called a **forum**. It was used as a **marketplace and for meetings**.

It had **shops and offices on three sides** and **government offices on the other side**. Some towns had **public baths, open-air theatres** (called amphitheatres) and huge **decorative statues**. The buildings were made of **stone and brick**, and many of the buildings were built so well that archaeologists have been able to excavate whole buildings!



Boudicca



Boudicca was a **Celtic queen** who fought against the Romans when they came to take her land. Her army **destroyed the Roman cities of Colchester, St Albans and London** by burning them to the ground one by one. On her mission across England, she eventually met a Roman legion somewhere in the middle of the country, where she was sadly defeated and Roman reports claim **80,000** of her fighters were killed in battle. Today, she is remembered for her bravery and **fight for freedom**.

Julius Caesar

Julius Caesar never took the title of **Emperor**, but he was the first person to take control of the Roman Empire away from the **Senate** (ruling council), paving the way for future emperors. Born in 100 BCE, he rose to become a powerful general, bringing huge areas of Europe under control of the empire. The Senate were afraid of his mighty army and ordered Caesar to retire, but he refused to obey. A war began between Caesar's army and supporters of the Senate. Caesar was victorious and became the leader of Rome, but on March 15th BC, he was assassinated (killed) by members of the senate. Julius Caesar is one of the most famous figures in all of world history.