

Video transcript

Who were the Roman emperors?

Excuse me. Yes, you... Ever wondered about how the Roman emperors changed Britain? Great! You can help us rate how impressive they were.

First up, Julius Caesar. He wasn't actually an emperor - he was just a really powerful Roman who started the Empire. He was a great Roman general, a very popular leader and he was a bit of a show off.

He tried to invade Britain twice, but failed. Things didn't end happily for him, when some people in Rome thought he was getting too big for his boots - I mean sandals - they killed him in 44BC. How impressive was that show off? Nine! A good start... Next!

Meet Caligula who ruled from AD37 to 41 and was famous for being crazy and cruel. Rumoured to have made his horse, Incitatus, the head of government and a priest.

He made an attempt to invade Britain, but instead declared war on the English Channel and ordered his soldiers to gather sea shells from the beach. How do we rate that? A ten! Well I suppose he was impressively bizarre. Next!

Meet Claudius, the man who finally conquered Britain in AD43. To celebrate he rode an elephant through Colchester. Now what do we think about that as an impressive entrance? Another ten, fantastic... Next!

Meet Nero, another Emperor who was known for being a bit crazy. He was too busy staging musicals back in Rome to visit troublesome Britannia. During his reign, Queen Boudicca famously led an unsuccessful rebellion against the Romans in Britain. So, is it a zero for the absent Nero? No it's five. Next!

A bit later came Hadrian who ruled Britain from AD117 to 138. He of course built Hadrian's Wall to prevent invaders from the North.

A nine, fantastic. That wall is pretty impressive...

Well, there we are, a taster of British Roman history in a matter of minutes. So which emperor impressed you the most? Oh, I'll leave them to convince you.

