

Read through the following account of the Roman Invasion of Britain.

Your teacher will tell you which level of questions you need to answer: Centurion, Lieutenant or General.

By the time they invaded Britain in 43 AD, the Romans already had a vast empire. The land they occupied included countries as far apart as Spain, Turkey, France and Egypt, and they were extremely rich. So why did they bother invading the small, rainy island that lay across the Channel?

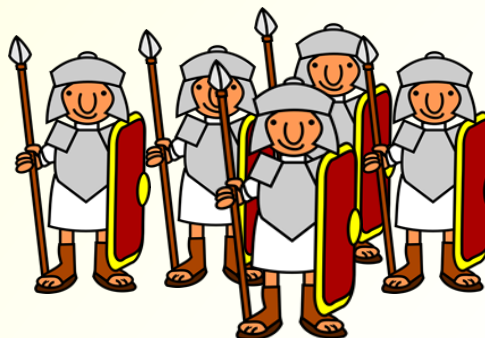
The answer is that the new Roman Emperor, Claudius, was already an old man by the time he came to power. Because of his age, he was worried that his subjects would think he was weak. By conquering Britain, Claudius would be able to show everyone that he was a great leader – worthy of ruling the vast Roman Empire.

There were other good reasons to invade Britain, too. The Romans had already been trading with the Britons for many years, and so they were well aware that British mines were rich in metals such as gold, silver, tin and iron. By adding Britain to their empire, the Romans would be increasing their wealth.

In preparation for the invasion, Claudius assembled an army of more than 40,000 soldiers. Led by the commander Aulus Plautius, they sailed across the Channel and landed in Kent before travelling across the Thames and the Medway.

Although the British Celts were fierce warriors, they could not defeat the highly organised and skilful Roman army. Within just a few months, the Romans had defeated the Catuvellaunian tribe, capturing their capital city of Colchester. Eleven other British tribes quickly surrendered to the Romans.

By 47 AD, most of southern Britain was under Roman rule. Britain had become a part of the Roman Empire!



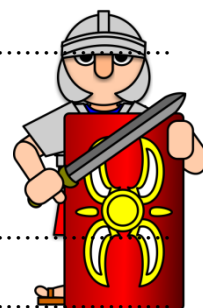
Name: ..... Date: .....

## Centurion level

1. In which year did the Romans invade Britain? .....

2. Name two countries that the Romans had already conquered.

.....  
.....



3. What was the name of the Roman Emperor? .....

4. How many Roman soldiers invaded Britain? .....

5. Where did the Romans land? .....

6. Which city did the Romans capture first? .....

7. By which year was most of southern Britain under Roman rule? .....



## Star challenge

Can you use an atlas or a map to locate the city of Colchester?

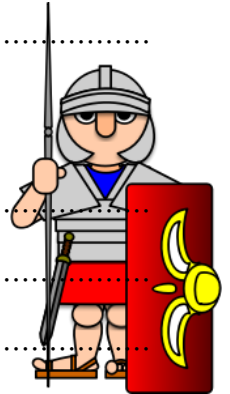
Name: ..... Date: .....

### Lieutenant level

1. In which year did the Romans invade Britain? .....

2. Name three countries that the Romans had already conquered.

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3. Give one reason why the Emperor Claudius decided to invade Britain.

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4. What was the name of the commander who led the invasion?

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5. Which city did the Romans capture first? .....

6. After the Catuvellaunian tribe was defeated, how many more tribes surrendered to the Romans? .....

7. How many years did it take the Romans to gain control of Southern Britain?

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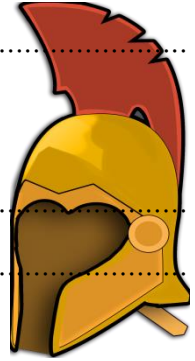
### Star challenge

Can you use an atlas or a map to locate the River Medway?

Name: ..... Date: .....

## General level

1. In which year did the Romans invade Britain? .....
2. Look at the first paragraph. Which sentence or phrase tells you that the Romans had a successful army? .....  
.....
3. What was the main reason for the Emperor Claudius invading Britain?  
Explain using full sentences. ....  
.....  
.....
4. Why else did the Emperor Claudius decide to invade Britain? .....  
.....  
.....
5. Which tribe did the Romans defeat first, and what was the name of their capital city? ...  
.....
6. In your own words, why do you think the other tribes surrendered to the Romans? .....  
.....
7. How many years did it take the Romans to gain control of Southern Britain?  
.....



## Star challenge

Can you use an atlas or a map to locate the River Thames, the River Medway, and the city of Colchester?

## Answer sheets

Centurion level	
1	43AD
2	Any two of : Spain, Turkey, France and Egypt
3	Claudius
4	40,000
5	Kent
6	Colchester
7	47AD

Lieutenant level	
1	43AD
2	Any three of: Spain, Turkey, France and Egypt
3	Your answer should <b>either</b> explain that the Emperor Claudius wanted to prove he was a great leader, <b>or</b> mention that British mines could provide the Romans with wealth.
4	Aulus Plautius
5	Colchester
6	Eleven
7	Four

General level	
1	43 AD
2	<b>Either</b> 'the Romans already had a vast empire', <b>or</b> 'The land they occupied included countries as far apart as Spain, Turkey, France and Egypt'.
3	Your answer should explain that the Emperor Claudius was old and wanted to prove he was a great leader by leading a successful invasion
4	Your answer should explain that British mines were rich in metal, which the Romans could use to increase their wealth.
5	The Catuvellaunian tribe. Their capital city was Colchester.
6	Your answer should explain that after seeing the Catuvellaunian tribe defeated, the other tribes may have preferred to come to a peaceful agreement rather than losing men in battle.
7	Four years.