

# What did the Romans do for us?

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When the Romans invaded in AD43, they really liked Ancient Britain, but they weren't too impressed with the Ancient Britons.

The Romans pretty much thought they were better at everything; they built big brick and stone buildings with central heating. They built sewage systems and paved, straight roads that stretched right across the country to connect up all their new Roman towns.

Before long they'd built so much that Britain didn't look too different from Rome itself – apart from the weather of course.

The Romans even brought animals, like rabbits to Britain. And stinging nettles too! The Romans also built temples to worship their many gods - like Mars, Jupiter, Mercury and Venus. You've probably heard of them, because we've named our planets after them.

Later on, the Romans decided to believe in just one god and introduced Christianity to Britain too.

Before the Romans arrived there was no written language in Britain. They changed all that by teaching important Britons how to read and write – and how to speak the Roman language - Latin. And even today, two thousand years later, a lot of our words come from Latin, like 'enormous' and 'victory' and 'lavatory'!

The ways we measure distances – miles feet and inches - that's all Roman. We've got Roman numerals, which you still see in a lot of places, like clocks. And coins too – the Romans made using coins to buy things popular throughout the whole of Roman Britain, rather than just swapping one thing for another – like a sheep for a sword for example.

All in all we owe a lot to the Romans - but don't tell them that - they're smug enough as it is.

