

ARE YOU A HISTORY BUFF OR A HISTORY BUFFOON?

Take this *difficilis** QUIZ to find out how much YOU know about the Romans and the Britons!

1. What stopped the Romans' first attempt to invade Britain?

- A. The people of Britain fought the Romans on the beaches and drove them back to their ships.
- B. The weather was so bad that the Romans gave up till the sun came out.
- C. The Romans forgot their passports and had to go home to get them.

2. How do we know about the Romans' time in Britain?

- A. From paintings on the walls of old Roman buildings.
- B. From books written by the Britons of the time.
- C. From letters, books and other documents written by Roman writers of the time.

3. Where were most of the soldiers in the Roman army that came to Britain from?

A. Africa, France, Germany, the Balkans, Spain and the Middle East.

B. Italy – only Roman citizens could be in the Roman army.

C. Everywhere – anyone could join the Roman army as long as he had his own sword and shield.

4. Which city was the capital of Roman Britain?

- A. Eboracum – York.
- B. Londinium – London.
- C. Camulodunum – Colchester.

5. Which animals did the Romans bring on their ships to help with their invasion of Britain?

- A. Elephants.
- B. Wolves.
- C. Ostriches.

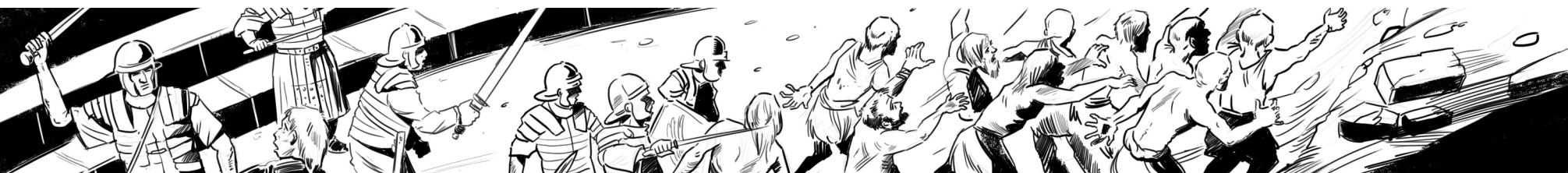
6. Who did most of the hard work in Roman Britain?

- A. Roman centurions.
- B. Slaves.
- C. Specialist contractors from Italy.

7. What were Roman amphitheatres used for?

- A. Staged fights between men and animals.
- B. Huge football matches – called *calcio* in Latin.
- C. Performances of a special kind of Roman musical theatre.

* That's Latin for 'difficult'.



8. What were the native women in Roman Britain allowed to do that the Roman women weren't?

- A.** Referee the football matches in the amphitheatres.
- B.** Work as clerks in the tax office in the capital city.
- C.** Train as warriors and rule as queens.

9. Which ruler in Britain paid the Romans taxes, instead of going to war against them?

- A.** Cartimandua.
- B.** Henry VIII.
- C.** Boudicca.

10. Why did the Romans leave Britain about 400 years after Julius Caesar first arrived in 55 BC?

- A.** It was too cold and wet and they had vitamin D deficiency because the sun never shone.
- B.** Warriors from Scotland, Ireland and Germany kept attacking and the Romans were losing control.
- C.** London's city wall and Hadrian's Wall both fell down at the same time.

Answers on the next page ➡

ANSWERS

1. B

Wild weather and a fierce storm in the English Channel were too much for the Romans. They gave up and decided to come back on a calm, sunny day.

2. C

Everything we know about the Romans' time in Britain was written by the Romans, and by a Greek author called Cassius Dio too. The people of Britain were illiterate. This means the history we know is told from a Roman point of view – it doesn't include what the people of Britain thought or experienced.

3. A&B

The 'Legionaries' in the Roman army had to be Roman citizens. They were the elite of the army. But the rest of the army were 'Auxiliaries' – soldiers recruited from the countries the Roman army invaded. These recruits didn't have much choice, but if they survived 25 years in the army their reward was Roman citizenship!

4. C

Colchester was the original capital of Roman Britain. London became the capital after the revolt led by Boudicca.



5. A

Nobody in Britain had ever seen elephants before. These huge animals filled people with fear and wonder. And that is exactly why the Romans brought them!

6. B

The Roman Empire was built upon the use of slaves – people captured and forced to work for no money. The local Britons kept slaves too, and so did the Anglo-Saxons who came after them, and the Vikings too.

7. A

The Romans brought exotic animals – and armed men called gladiators – to the amphitheatres to fight one another to the death. These displays were hugely popular and hugely violent. The Colosseum at Rome seated 50,000 people and 1,000s of men and animals fought and died there.

8. C

The women of Britain at this time could be warriors and rulers. The Romans did not like women to do these jobs. In particular, they disapproved of the women who were queens.

9. A

Cartimandua was Queen of the Brigantes, a Celtic people of the 1st century AD. She made a pact with the Romans to keep her people safe. Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, refused to make a pact. She led an uprising against the Romans and many of her people died.

10. B

The whole of the Roman Empire was under attack. The Romans left Britain so they could keep control of a smaller empire. This left Britain open to invasion by peoples from Germany and elsewhere.

BUFF OR BUFFOON?**If you scored 10/10**

You're a top-class history buff. Seth and Nadiya will be glad to have you on their side as Defenders!

If you scored 5-9

You have more research to do before the Defenders will add you to their team!

If you scored 4 or under

Seth and Nadiya won't mind. They are history whizz-kids and will gladly give you a lesson!

