



Britain and the Romans

Parts 1 and 2

The Roman Empire

The scene you will watch reflects accurately the general look of British and Roman combatants even though it takes place in Germany.



Do now

What do you know about the Roman conquest of Britain? Create a KWL chart. If you don't know anything then identify at least 2 ways you think the Romans were different than the indigenous people of Britain, or at least two things you know about the Romans or Julius Caesar.



2:42

Pause for discussion



Review

Last lesson we discussed the early people of the British Archipelago. They were groups of loosely affiliated clans that were never organized beyond the clan level, and lived a simple iron age existence.

We have also looked at how the people of the highlands were NOT the same people in the lowlands, and how Britain had two distinct cultural groups because of the terrain.

Review

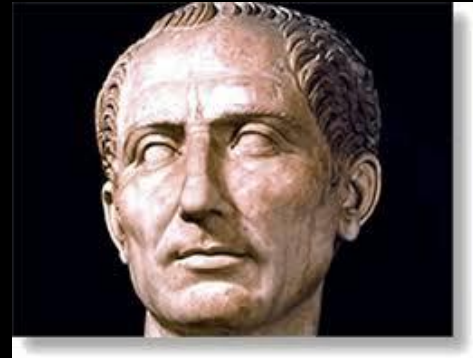
Does anyone have any questions about the last lesson?

Review

The people of Britain were about to meet the Roman Empire, which was not only the largest military and political force they would encounter for a millenium, but so radically different that it would impact Britain forever.

Roman Conquest- Julius Caesar

As Julius Caesar conquered Gaul (France) many Gaulish leaders fled to Britain, and with their forces became the new ruling Class in Southern Britain. With their immigration they brought many continental changes to British society. These changes included the confederation of tribes to a common cause, and the strengthening of the druids.



The final major conflict in Gaul involved Vercingetorix, seen here surrendering to Caesar. The Gaulish general was kept alive for six years and paraded about like a wild animal before being executed over Caesar's objections.



Caesar and Britain

Once Gaul was subdued, Caesar turned his attention to Britain, and all the enemies it held. Not only were his enemies from Gaul, but the druids. The druids not only had been an inspiration to his Gaulish enemies, but also practiced human sacrifice, something Caesar personally and Rome institutionally detested. He led two expeditions into Britain and had some success, but politics in Gaul and Rome pulled him from Britain and lasting conquest.

The Druids



Question 1 Journal

IN YOUR JOURNAL: Why didn't Caesar return to Britain to conquer it?

After Caesar

After Caesar's assassination in 44 B.C.E., Rome traded with the tribes in Southern and Eastern England and to some degree with all the tribes along the coast of England. This led to an increased "romanization" of these tribes, and their aristocracy adopted Roman styles, traditions, and even food.

Roman Conquest part 2

In 43 C.E., eighty years after Caesar “invaded” Britain, Claudius turned the attention of the Roman Empire to the conquest of Britain.

The main reason for this was his personal quest for glory. Gaining territory was the greatest honor a Roman General or Emperor could achieve.

Claudius

Claudius was a politician, not a general or military leader, so the while the campaign was conducted by the generals, Claudius ensured it was he who led the army in the conquest of a city or town, even delaying an attack until he could arrive.



The Strategic View

In reality, Britain had become a thorn in the Empire's side. The Gaulic refugees and their descendants from Caesar's conquest in France were promoting rebellion on the continent, even to the point of bribing Roman legions to fight with them, or at least to not aid Rome.

With that in mind there was a real possibility that a General in Gaul could raise an army and attack Rome itself. It would be much harder to do that if a Roman army were in Britain.

Question 2

IN YOUR JOURNAL: Why do you think Britain had become haven for Rome's enemies?

(What conditions do you think allowed them to exist or made eliminating them difficult?)



The British Warrior

The Britons fought from chariots, wore light soft leather armor, and

most were armed with a spear and *buckler*. The elite forces might have hard leather armor and wield either a long sword or axe and shield. They were generally not professional soldiers but farmers.



Roman Legionnaire

The Roman Legionnaire was a professional, and had enlisted in the army for twenty five years, In contrast to his British counterpart wore an iron or even steel helmet, torso armor, and arm and leg protection. They were also equipped with a large shield that they could create shield walls and “turtles” with. They were also equipped with very specialized weapons: the pilum, spetum and gladius.



The Pilum

The pilum was a 2 meter long throwing spear with a range of about 30 yards. It featured a hard iron tip that could penetrate shields, and cause the enemy to discard their shield.



Question 3

Why would you want your opponent to not have a shield?

2

The Spetum

The spetum was a two meter long thrusting spear that had two prongs next to the point.

This was a spear that kept opponents at range.

Spetum



The Gladius

The gladius was a technological marvel of its time. Not only was it steel but it had hard steel on the edges to retain sharpness, and softer steel in the center, which prevented the sword from shattering. They were primarily a thrusting sword although they were edged and quite capable of cutting as well.



Roman Siege/ Heavy weapons

The Romans were experts in siege warfare, and not only had the modern equivalent of heavy artillery in the form of the Onager (which we call the catapult) which was carried disassembled in carts, and the Ballista, a giant crossbow, which were in various sizes, the largest actually being mounted on carts. Finally they could also build equipment on site such as siege towers.

Remember not only were engineers with each legion, each soldier had actually performed civil engineering such as road building.

The Scutum

Roman shields in the legion were large and could form a wall, or turtle, which provided protection from arrows, or chariots.



Question 3

IN YOUR JOURNAL: Compare the two soldiers and examine what might be the strengths and weaknesses of their army.



British Warrior



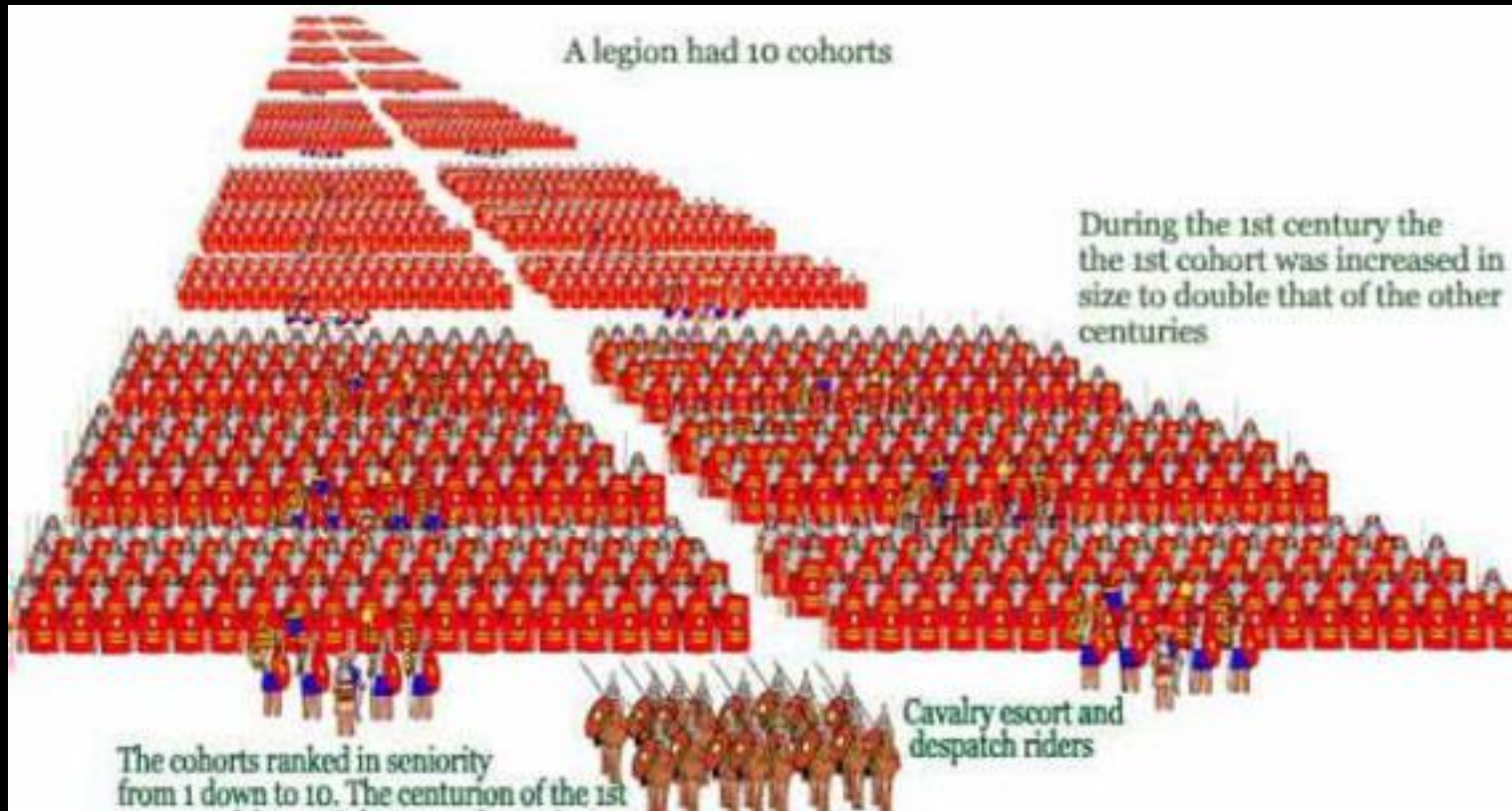
Roman Legionaire



The Roman Legions

The standard unit in the Roman Army was the legion, of 5,000 soldiers divided into 10 cohorts. Every Roman soldier was highly trained not only in individual fighting but unit tactics, small unit tactics, and basic engineering. The Roman Army was also the one who built the aqueducts and vast road system of the empire.

The Roman Legion



Other Units

The Roman Army also had specialized units, such as cavalry, archers, ancillaries (cooks and doctors), heavy weapons, engineers and scouting infantry.

The Conquest's Borders

There initially were plans to conquer all of Britain, including Scotland and Ireland, but the savagery of the *Picts* and the Celts and low return on cost of complete subjugation led Claudius to abandon these plans. These were the only people the Romans never conquered and in fact built a wall to keep them out of Roman territory.

The name Picts was given to the people in Scotland because of their habit of painting themselves blue in preparation for battle.

Hadrian's Wall

Started by the Emperor Hadrian in 122 CE and finished six years later, the wall stretches from the West coast to the East. Every Roman mile would be a garrison of 50 soldiers and every 200 yards a turret was manned by 5-10 soldiers.



Beyond the wall

In what we now call Scotland were the Picts, about which very little is known. After the Roman collapse it is known they formed a kingdom.

The Celts in Ireland were also a significant military presence and at some point invaded Scotland, and these settlers became the modern day Scots.

Route of Hadrian's Wall

There was another wall, Antonine's Wall started in 142 CE and finished in 154CE, but it was abandoned in 162CE and the troops repositioned to Hadrian's wall.



Part 2



Impact of the Roman conquest and
Christianity



The Aftereffects

The Romans were far more interested in the the lowlands and their agriculture than the highlands, although lead and tin were essential in refining silver. Thus the lowlands saw extensive Romanization of the British elite, while in the highlands the Roman presence were usually isolated military and mining outposts.

Other effects

Rome built towns, cities with interconnecting roads. They also introduced the baths, sanitation, advanced medical practices and colosseum games. In the 2nd century Londinium became the provincial capital.



Roman Roads- The Via Apia

The Via Apia or Apian Way was THE superhighway of its time. It was built in the 4th century BCE.

Here is what it looks like today near Rome. Note this road is 2400 years old.



Journal

Answer the following:

Predict 3 changes roads bring to an area and the people in it.



Discussion

Discuss and list impact of roads from student input.

5:00

Stop

Politics

The subjugation of Britain did little to change the lives of the typical Briton, other than to whom he paid taxes.

In the new towns and cities, the Roman governor ruled, but the day to day operations were managed by magistrates, who were in effect mayor, chief tax official and sheriff all in one.

TOWNS AND CITIES

The introduction of roads, temples and a government significantly changed England. Before the Romans, a loose affiliation of semi-warring tribes occupied the area, and at most had what would be called a village of several homes together in a walled compound.

The Romans built true centers of commerce and government, that also became centers of religious practice, and power.

The Highlands

The Romans never fully controlled the highlands, frequently having just a fort near a valuable resource such as a mine.

However, the Roman economy, and culture did spread somewhat into the highlands. The use of coins, and Christianity were major changes that were quickly adopted.

The Introduction of Christianity

While the exact date Christianity came to Britain is unknown, but archaeological evidence goes back to about 200 CE. There are legends of Joseph of Arimathea* visiting Britain after Christ's death, or of an early British king adopting Christianity, but these are unsubstantiated.

- Anyone know who he is?

Early British Christianity

Early Christianity in Britain was strongest in the cities, but it was very small and not very significant politically. It did escape the persecution present in the rest of the empire.

In any case, the Christians made a real effort to destroy the “pagan” religions in place, especially the druids, which was also supported by the Romans. This effort was solidified by the Emperor Constantine who made Christianity the official religion of Rome in 311 CE.

Early Christianity pt 2

A quick development in the growth of British Christianity was the development of monastic orders. Literally hundreds, of small monasteries were built away from the “sinful” cities and towns, however near enough to small villages that would provide trade and parishioners to the monks. Many were built near the coast and relatively isolated so the monks could study and pray in peace.

Think-Pair-share

There were several factors that helped British Christianity not only survive but thrive in Britain. Take 2 minutes with your elbow partner to consider some possible reasons and write them down.



2

Collapse of Rome

In the 3rd century CE the Roman Empire was in decline and in Britain the power base shifted from the Roman magistrates in cities to large landholders. This occurred because Roman money became scarce, and the economy shifted from coin based to product based.

410CE is generally recognized as the end of Roman rule as The Roman Emperor refused to aid allies in Britain.

Pause for discussion

List possible factors for Christianity's survival on the board.

5:00

Stop

The Romans and Literature

The impact of the Romans on British literature was in many ways similar to the impact of the British on the Hawaiian culture. With a partner, and considering the differences between 19th century British and Hawaiians, find two similar ways the Romans impacted Britain.

Discussion

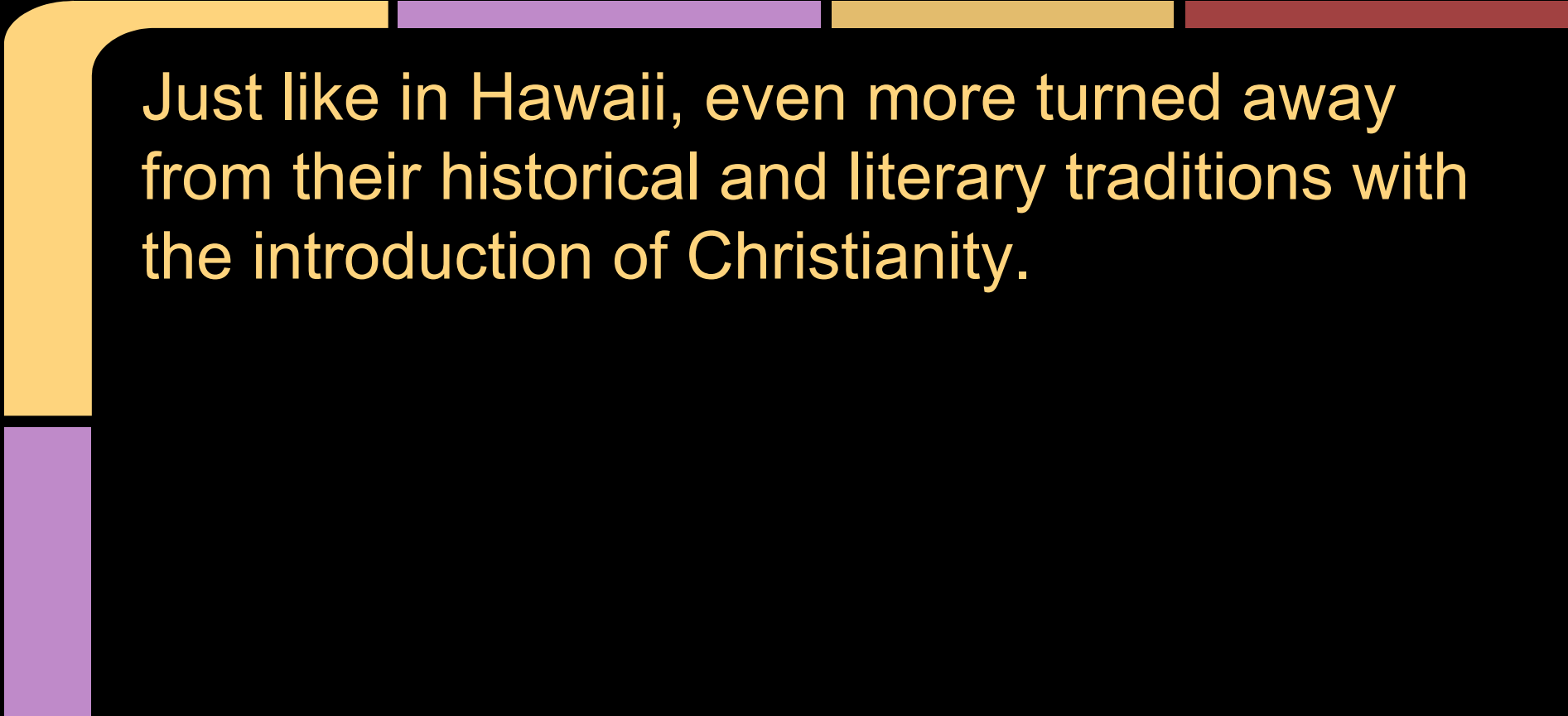
Discuss the possible impact on British literature by the Roman conquest.

1:50

Roman Literature

The Romans brought with them a history and immense variety of literature, from Egyptian, to Persian and the Greek sources of literature. They introduced the formal elements of drama, of comedy, tragedy, and the tragic hero.

Many British, in an effort to be more “civilized” no longer perpetuated the oral traditions of their own people, but adopted the Roman thought and literature or rewrote their own to more closely resemble Roman styles.



Just like in Hawaii, even more turned away from their historical and literary traditions with the introduction of Christianity.

Muddy points

Write the muddy points on anything you are unclear about on a half page and turn it in.

Exit question/ homework

Predict at least 3 consequences of the departure of the Roman Empire in Britain.

HOMEWORK: Expand on one of your consequences and examine how it would impact the following people: a Christian priest, a farmer, a rich merchant, and a fisherman. Write 2-3 sentence for each in your journal.