

# The Great Roman Britain Challenge

# Salve!

- Welcome to the Roman Britain Challenge! Have a go at our challenging puzzles to complete a map of Britain under Roman rule.
- You will need to use your geography, maths and history skills, and it might be helpful to have an atlas or access to Google Maps.
- We have given you the outline of Britain to start with, you can print it out or draw/trace one of your own.
- Follow the instructions and clues in each section to complete your map.
- The answers are on the last page to check your work – but no cheating!



# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

- Here are the names of some important towns in Roman Britain, but in their Roman names.
- Use the clues to work out the town as we know it today, and with the help of an atlas or Google Maps, label it on your map. You can use the internet for help if you need it.
- The counties that the towns are in are also here for you. They might give you some clues as well!
- You can label the town using its Roman name, its modern name, or both.
- Handy hint: lots of Roman towns have the same ends to their names, -chester and -cester tell us that the town may have been founded by the Romans.

# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

## Camulodunum (Essex)

- The first Roman town to be attacked by Boudicca, birthplace of TV presenter Dermot O'Leary.

## Callewa (Hampshire)

- The Iron Age/ Roman town was never built upon, the bronze eagle found there is the inspiration for the novel and later film *The Eagle of the Ninth*.

## Aquae Sulis (Somerset)

- The Romans settled here thanks to the naturally hot spring water, Jane Austen set two of her novels here.

## Eboracum (North Yorkshire)

- Though several Roman emperors visited, this town better known for its wall, Minster (church) and for being captured by the Vikings.

# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

## Ratae (Leicestershire)

- Built by the Romans to protect bridges and roads in the area, King Richard III is now buried here.

## Moridunum (Carmarthenshire)

- Home to one of only two Roman amphitheatres in Wales, it is now dominated by its castle, built in the 1100s.

## Isca (Devon)

- Built as a fort at the end of the Fosse Way, today their successful Rugby Union team is called the Chiefs.

## Duroliponte (Cambridgeshire)

- A Roman town that seems to have been built only from wood, this town – along with Oxford – is most famous for its high ranking university.

# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

THE  
ROMAN  
BATHS  
BATH

## Verulanium (Hertfordshire)

- Another town destroyed by Boudicca., children's author Michael Morgpurgo was born here.

## Noviomagus (West Sussex)

- Well known for being home to Fishbourne Roman Palace, and the Festival Theatre.

## Venta (Gwent)

- A market town in Roman times, its neighbour Caerleon has a large amphitheatre.

## Lindum (Lincolnshire)

- The modern name for this town is not too far from the Roman name, and looks after one copy of the Magna Carta.

# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

THE  
ROMAN  
BATHS  
BATH

## Corinium (Gloucestershire)

- This town's museum is named after the Roman settlement.

## Viriconum (Shropshire)

- The site of an expansive Roman bathhouse, in 2010 Channel 4 built a replica Roman villa here using only Roman methods.

## Durovernum (Kent)

- The earlier Iron Age settlement here was rebuilt into the Roman town's grid system, home to the head of the Anglican Church and a set of Tales by author Geoffrey Chaucer.

## Londinium

- Modern Britain's capital city, but in Roman times it only became the capital after Boudicca burnt down Camuldonum.



## Challenge 2: Roman Roads

- Now you have located some Roman towns, we need to add in the roads. We still use some of the roads the Romans built to get around today.
- The Romans were very good at building long, straight roads to connect their towns.
- There are 4 major Roman roads that you need to add to your map.
- You will need 4 different coloured pencils/pens/crayons (one for each road) and a ruler. Draw a straight line between each of the Roman towns listed below to create your roads.
- Not all of your towns will be connected to one another, and not all of your towns will have roads. But this does not mean there was no road there in the Roman times!

## Challenge 2: Roman Roads

### The Fosse Way

- By 60 AD this road was the edge of Roman Britain.
- It starts at Isca, and goes through Aquae Sulis, Corinium, Ratae and ends at Lindum.

### The Ermine Way

- This road made sure that the Roman towns in Wales were properly connected to the larger towns in England.
- It starts in Moridunum and goes through Venta and Corinium to end at Calleva, where it joins several other major roads.

## Challenge 2: Roman Roads

### Watling Street

- It was along this road, probably in the middle section, that Boudicca was defeated by the Romans.
- It starts at Viriconium, and goes through Verulamium and Londinium to finish in Dunrovernum.

### Ermine Street

- Don't get confused with the Ermine Way! This road joins major Roman towns along the East coast.
- The road starts at Eboracum and goes through Lindum and Duroliponte to finish in Londinium.

## Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

- The Romans didn't have cars or aeroplanes to help them get around. They had to walk, or ride a horse. This means travelling could take a very long time.
- According to Roman historians, a person can walk 22 miles a day, a person on a horse can travel 39 miles a day.
- Read the stories below and help the Romans with their travel plans. You will need a calculator, Google Maps, and the information above to help you.
- You may also need the help of the map you have made and the information you have put on there so far.

# Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast? Example

## Example: Flavia

Flavia lives in Aquae Sulis. She wants to visit her brother Lucius in Calleva. How long will it take her?

- Find Aquae Sulis and Calleva on your map. You should already know what their modern names are.
- Are they on the same Roman road? If not, Flavia's journey may take longer as she can only travel along the roads you have drawn.
- Corinium joins the two roads together. Flavia needs to travel to Corinium on the Fosse Way, then across on the Ermine Way to get to Calleva.
- Use Google Maps to find the distance in miles between modern Aquae Sulis and Corinium. Try to find the most direct route – this will be closest to the Roman road – make sure you set Google Maps to “Walking”.

# Challenge 3:

## How Far? How Fast?

### Example

- Write this distance on a spare piece of paper. Now do the same for Corinium to Calleva. Add the two distances together.
- AS – Co = 32.4 miles, Co-Ca = 52.2 miles, so 84.6 miles total
- Divide this number by the distance that Flavia can walk or ride in a day so see how many days it would take her.
- 84.6 miles / 22 miles a day walking  
= 3.8 so nearly 4 days walking to get there.
- 84.6 miles / 39 miles a day riding  
= 2.1 so just over 2 days riding.
- You can round the numbers to make it easier – modern roads don't always follow the Roman roads so you don't have to be too exact!
- Now it's your turn!

## Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

### 1. A Place for Healing

Periginus is not feeling very well.

He needs to travel from his home in Isca to visit the healing waters in Aquae Sulis.

How long will it take him to **ride** there?

## Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

### 2. The Battle of Watling Street

(For this puzzle you will need to mark one extra Roman town on your map – Manduessedum, or modern Mancetter in Warwickshire).

A battle is brewing! Boudicca's army of Celts are in Verulamium, destroying the town.

Roman General Paulinus is with his troops near Viriconum. He rushes down Watling Street to try to stop Boudicca, but she brings her army up to meet him. Everyone has to **walk**.

We think the two armies met and battled at Manduessedum. But who got there first?



# Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

## 2. The Battle of Watling Street – EXTRA CHALLENGE

Paulinus was actually in Wales at the time of Boudicca's attack on Verulamium, so had to use another Roman road to get to Viriconum. It was a military road that connected Seguntium (Caernarfon) and Deva (Chester). Deva connects to Viriconum on the extension to Watling Street.

Add these extra places to your map and connect them with their roads.

Using this new information, now how long does it take the Romans to get to battle?

## Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

### 3. Holiday Plans

Gaius and Octavia are very rich and want to go on a tour around Roman Britain. They want to travel for 7 days at the most, and will use their **horses**. They live in Eboracum.

Where can they visit?

Bonus: How far can they travel *and* return in those 7 days?

# The Great Roman Britain Challenge

Adults Only!

Answers and Further  
Historical Information

# Challenge 1: Roman Towns

Roman Name	Modern Name
Camulodunum	Colchester
Calleva	Silchester
Aquae Sulis	Bath
Eboracum	York
Ratae	Leicester
Moridunum	Carmarthen
Isca	Exeter
Duroliponte	Cambridge
Verulamium	St Albans
Noviomagus	Chichester
Venta	Caerwent
Lindum	Lincoln
Corinium	Cirencester
Viriconum	Wroexter
Durovernum	Canterbury
Londinium	London

## Challenge 2: Roman Roads

- Fosse Way:

Exeter, Bath, Cirencester, Leicester, Lincoln

- Ermine Way:

Carmarthen, Caerwent, Cirencester, Silchester

- Watling Street:

Wroxeter, St Albans, London, Canterbury

- Ermine Street:

York, Lincoln, Cambridge, London

# Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

- Numbers don't have to be exact, modern paths and walkways don't precisely follow the Roman roads. Allow for approximations and rounding.

- 1 - Perginus

Isca (Exeter) to Aquae Sulis (Bath)

All on the same Roman road (Fosse Way) for 77 miles.

$77/39 = 1.97$  days (2 days riding).

- 2 - Battle of Watling Street

Boudicca: Verulamium (St Albans) to Mancetter - 80 miles.

$80/22 = 3.63$  days (3.5 or 4 days walking)

Paulinus: Viriconum (Wroxter) to Mancetter – 50 miles

$50/22 = 2.27$  days (2 or 2.5 days walking)

The Romans arrive first.

(We don't quite know where the Battle of Watling Street took place, but the most likely place has been suggested as Mancetter near Alverstone).

## Extra Challenge

Caernarfon to Chester = 68 miles

Chester to Wroxter = 43 miles

$68+43 = 111$  miles extra,  $111/22 = 5$  days extra for the Romans.

# Challenge 3: How Far? How Fast?

- 3 - Gaius and Octavia

Start in Eboracum (York).

39 miles per day riding x 7 days travel = 273 miles of range.

Gaius and Octavia can visit all these places:

- York to Lincoln on Ermine Street = 66 miles

Then from Lincoln:

Leicester + 53 miles

Cambridge + 87 miles

Cirencester + 131 miles

to Bath + 31 miles

to Silchester + 53 miles

to Caerwent + 45 miles

London +197 miles

to St Albans +22 miles

to Canterbury + 58 miles

Bonus: Out and return in 7 days – 136.5 miles range.

York to Lincoln, Leicester only.

# Sources and References

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