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Roman Britain

A Roman Brexit

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A Roman Brexit: The end of Roman rule

All great things come to an end and around 409 BC it was time for the Romans to leave Britain and never return. Some of the locals were happy while some were worried about what might come next.

It was like a **Roman Brexit** and is one of the **landmark moments** in British history.

While the Romans were in Britain, visitors from as far as north Africa could have expected to be able to talk with the locals in a common language, and spend the Roman coins they had with them at the local market.

However, by the early fifth century, Roman life was almost over. Roman towns had disappeared along with the idea of **urban life**, which was not to be seen again for **centuries**, while dress, **diets** and buildings changed to be unrecognisable as Roman.

Even the bath houses were unused! Which may seem unbelievable as they were a perfect way to keep clean and keep unwanted smells away.

Vocabulary	Meaning
Roman Brexit	Brexit refers to when Britain chose to leave Europe. A Roman Brexit refers to when the Romans left Britain.
Landmark moments	A landmark moment is a very important moment in history.
Urban life	Urban life refers to living in the city – city living.
For centuries	For hundreds of years.
Diet	Diet is the kind of food that you eat.

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The economy: Business and trade

The Romans created large scale manufacturing of goods and created an economic system that worked together as one: An integrated economy.

In addition, **the economic affect** was huge! When the Romans came to Britain, they changed its **economy**. They introduced the use of money, built towns wherever they went, and created a large-scale, **integrated economy**. They also introduced **widespread manufacturing** which was only **localised** when they arrived in Britain.

Vocabulary	Meaning
The economy	The economy is the system where money, industry, and the trade of a country is organised.
The economic affect	The affect the Romans had on Britain's economy was very big. They changed the industry, increased trade and introduced the use of money. Therefore, the economic affect the Romans had was huge.
Integrated economy	Integrated means to work together, to combine things together so that they work well together. The Romans brought all things related to the economy together and created a system where industry, trade, money all worked as one within one system, and so improved the economy of Britain. Creating an integrated economy had a big economic affect.
Localised	If things are localised, they only happen in a small area.

However, by about A.D. 450, this economic system **had broken down completely**. The Britons went back to very small-scale, localised manufacturing. Furthermore, the use of coins to **purchase** [buy] items was also **abandoned** [Not used anymore].

An interesting fact is that many coins found around this time had holes in them. This was because they used them as fashion items such as a necklace or an earring, instead of using them to purchase goods such as food.

Vocabulary	Meaning
Widespread manufacturing	Widespread means something happens in a wide area, in many different parts of the country. Manufacturing is the making and producing of goods. So widespread manufacturing means the making and producing of goods was happening in many parts of the country.
…had broken down completely	If a system breaks down completely, it falls apart and is no longer organised. When the Romans left, the system that they created fell apart and was no longer used.
Abandoned	If something is abandoned it is no longer used or cared for. The Roman Economic system and the use of coins was abandoned and no longer used after they had left.

Roman coins were not used as money after The Roman Brexit. Instead, some put holes in them and used them as jewellery.

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A golden opportunity

At almost the same time the Romans left Britain, **Barbarians** from Ireland, Scotland and the **Anglo Saxons** attacked various parts of Britain and took it for themselves.

This led to **the Roman way of life** disappearing and was followed by new **cultures** and different ways of living across Britain.

For example, when the Anglo Saxons **invaded** Eastern Britain, it led to the **widespread use of Germanic styles** of dress, culture, language and buildings.

Vocabulary	Meaning
A golden opportunity	A golden opportunity is the perfect time or chance to do something to become successful. It's the perfect moment to try / do something.
Barbarians	These were people from other parts of the country or from other countries who were believed to be less civilised than your own. They were also seen to be more violent, less educated and far less advanced.
Anglo Saxons	These were a Germanic group of people who came to Britain in the 5th Century. They were a mixed group mainly from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
Roman way of life	This refers to the way they live their life. What they do every day from socialising, exercise, type of food etc.
Cultures	The Roman way of life is their culture. It refers to the food they ate, the clothes they wore, the things they believed in, the music they listened to and their art etc.
Invade	To enter country that doesn't belong to you by force with the idea of taking control of it and their people.
Widespread use of Germanic styles	Widespread means something happens in a wide area, in many different parts of the country. Therefore, they style of the Anglo-Saxons [Germanic style] and way of life spread very quickly

An example of **Anglo-Saxon style of dress** which was very different from the Romans

An example of an **Anglo-Saxon house** at the time they invaded Britain after Romans

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The locals did try **to resist** at first and it led to the **legend** of **King Arthur**. The legend says that he was a British war leader who fought against the Anglo Saxons and stopped them from taking control of the whole of England.

Some say he never **existed** and he is just a legend, somebody that was just made up. However, that's what makes him more interesting as no one really knows if he existed or not.

Did he exist, or did he not exist, that is the question!

King Arthur's castle is believed to be Tintagel, off the west coast of England. It's a perfect place to visit to see if the legend is true.

Vocabulary	Meaning
To resist	If you resist, you fight against something and choose not to listen to or follow something.
A Legend	This is a popular story in history that could be true or may not be true. However, the story is loved by many.
To exist	If something or someone exists, it or they are real. So, some say King Arthur never existed meaning they believe he was not a real person.

Tintagel castle, off the west coast of England

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From "Britannia" to "Angleland"

There was also a change of name due to the Roman Brexit. **Britannia**, the Roman name for Britain, became **Angleland**, the place where the Angles, who were from Denmark and Germany, lived. This area is what we call England today.

Their language, which was a Germanic language, became the standard English from that point in time which is what we now call old English.

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Conclusion

Well, that's it guys. This is the final part of a brief history of how the Romans affected Britain and what happened after they left. Britain was **a melting pot** of local tribes, Roman culture and of **tribes** from Ireland and Europe such as the Angles and Saxons.

They have all influenced life as we see it today. However, in my opinion, it was the Romans that gave us most of the things that we still recognise such as the town markets, town centres, the use of money, culture, manufacturing at a large scale, added to our language, and of course the Calendar that we still use on a daily basis.

Britain is **full to the brim** of **Roman artefacts** and **historical places** to visit. So, **let's get cracking**, **pack your bags**, and let the journey of discovery begin.

Vocabulary	Meaning
A melting pot	A melting pot refers to many different things coming together and mixing together. So, a melting pot of tribes means many different tribes coming together and mixing together.
Tribes	A group of people living together with the same culture, beliefs and way of life.
Full to the brim	For the meaning in the sentence, it means that there is so much to see and do. There is no shortage of places to see.
Roman artifacts	An artifact is an object made by people that is hundreds or thousands of years old. Please see photo.
Historical places	An historical place is a place full of history and is hundreds or thousands of years old. It's important to the history of the country it is in.
Let's get cracking	This is an English expression that means let's get started.
Pack your bags	This means to get ready to leave.