



**GAY JULIUS CAESAR AND  
THE ROMAN INVASION  
AND CONQUEST OF  
BRITAIN**

# FAMILY BACKGROUND



- Julius was born to Aurelia and Gaius Julius Caesar approx. July 12, 100 BCE
- His family had noble roots, even though they were neither rich nor influential
- His father died around 85 BCE.
- The month that Caesar was born was renamed “July” in his honour.

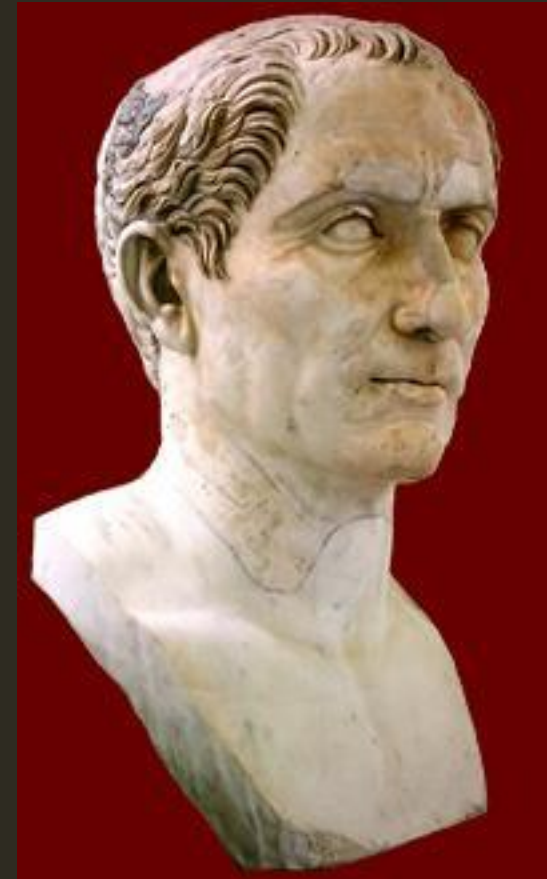
# EARLY YEARS

- He was betrothed and possibly married a wealthy young woman, Cossutia.
- When he was 18 his betrothal was suddenly broken off, and he married the daughter of a member of the Popular faction, Cornelia.
- They had a child named Julia. She was Caesar's only legitimate child.
- Caesar was forced to go into hiding when the Optimate dictator, Sulla, ordered him to divorce his wife and he refused. He was eventually pardoned.
- When Sulla died in 78 BCE, Caesar returned to Rome to begin a career as an orator and lawyer.
- He was awarded the civic crown for saving the life of a citizen in battle.



# CAESAR AND PIRATES

- Caesar was kidnapped on his way to Greece by Cilician Pirates. When he was told that they meant to ask for 20 talents for his return, he insisted that he was worth 50.
- He maintained a friendly relationship with the pirates but warned them that he would find and crucify them after his release.
- Upon his release he kept true to his promise and tracked the pirates down with the help of volunteers. However he slit their throats before their crucifixion because they had treated him well.



# THE FIRST INVASION

The first Roman general to invade Britain was Julius Caesar. While fighting Celtic tribes in Gaul (modern France), Caesar believed they were getting help from the Celtic people of Britain. He resolved to invade Britain and punish those people.



# CROSSING THE CH

In 55 B.C. Caesar set sail with a fleet of ships to cross over to Britain. He planned to land near the famous white cliffs of Dover.



*The first descent of Julius Caesar on the Coast of Britain.*

# BRITISH RESISTANCE

However, Caesar reports that the British people were waiting for him, and threw down upon his troops a barrage of spears and stones, so that the landing for the Roman soldiers was made very difficult.



# CAESAR'S SECOND INVASION

After some initial skirmishes with various Celtic tribes, since winter was approaching, Caesar decided to return to Gaul. However, in the spring of 54 B.C. he attempted a second invasion of Britain. This time he was able to land without opposition. He marched inland and set up a fort.





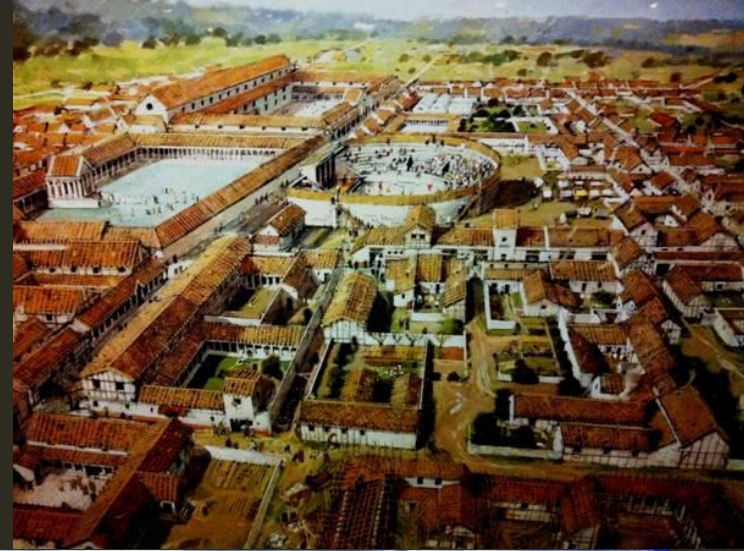
# END OF CAESAR'S INVASIONS

In 54 B.C. Caesar fought a few small battles with the British tribes, and then concluded some treaties with their kings. Soon, he again left Britain, in order to return to Rome, where political developments demanded his attention. He never got back to Britain, for in 44 B.C. he was assassinated.



# ROMAN POWER CHANGES BRITAIN

The British people were very agricultural and rural. They had small villages, but no real cities. The Romans began to change all this. They immediately set about building cities on the Roman model. One of these cities was Londinium, now known as London.



# THE ROMAN ARMY SETTLES IN

To keep the British tribes peaceful and obedient to Rome, a number of military camps were established around the island, so that soldiers could keep constant watch on what the natives were doing. One of the largest camps was at Chester.



# BOUDICCA'S REBELLION

Not all the Celtic tribes were content to have the Romans ruling over them. In 66 A.D. the queen of the Iceni tribe, a woman named Boudicca, led a rebellion against the Romans. At first she was successful. She managed to burn the city of London. However, the Roman army soon caught up with her, and her followers were slaughtered in a very bloody battle.



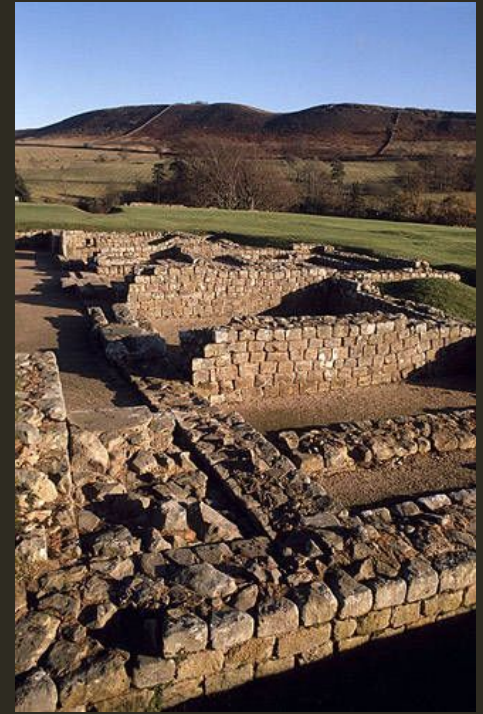
# TROUBLE IN THE NORTH

The Celtic tribes in the north, the area we know as Scotland, had never submitted to Roman rule. They often made raids on the south, and pillaged Roman settlements. The Romans decided to punish these tribes. Under the Roman governor Agricola, a great battle was fought at a place called Mount Graupius, and these northern Celts were soundly defeated.



# A SYSTEM OF FORTS

In order to keep the north peaceful, the Romans now constructed a series of forts from one side of the island to the other. The soldiers stationed in these forts were to patrol the border and prevent the northern tribes from threatening the towns to the south. One of these important forts was built at Vindolanda.



# CAESAR'S DEATH

March 15, 44BCE Caesar attended the last meeting of the Senate before he was scheduled to depart to lead a military campaign against the Parthians. Sixty conspirators also attended, with concealed daggers in the togas, and struck Caesar no less than 23 times as he stood at the base of Pompey's statue. This is where Caesar said the famous phrase 'Et tu, Brutus?'

