

# Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser - Roman Empire

## The Roman Army

- By 100BC, Roman Republic expanded from Italian **peninsula** in all directions.
- Roman governors in charge of each province.
- Soldiers in command of a **century** (around 80 soldiers) were called Centurions.
- Roman army put six **centuries** together to form a **cohort**.
- Ten **cohorts** made a **legion**. (Roughly 5,000 **legions** in an army).
- At the height of the Roman Empire, the Roman army had half a million soldiers.
- Built well-defended buildings where soldiers lived and walls to defend their **frontier**.

## The first Emperor

- The Caesars said they were **descended** from Romulus, and therefore from the goddess Venus.
- Octavian became as powerful as a king - never used the word 'king'.
- He took the name 'Augustus' ('the high one') after senate agreed.
- The month August comes from the name Augustus.
- Augustus made improvements to the army, built roads and rebuilt Rome.



## Pompeii and Vesuvius

- Mount Vesuvius - a volcano, not just a mountain.
- A cloud of smoke at the top of Vesuvius was a sign that it was going to erupt.
- 24th August, 79 AD - Vesuvius erupted (ash, hot pumice and sulphuric gas released = poisonous vapour).
- Pliny wrote two long letters to his friend, which is why we know so much about the eruption.
- Debris filled the streets of Pompeii, covering everything.
- Hundreds and hundreds of years later archaeologists found the remains from the Roman town. They are still finding things today!

## The expansion of Rome



## Timeline

753 BC	Rome was founded.
100 BC	Roman Republic expanded - took over more territory.
100 BC	Julius Caesar was born.
44 BC	Julius Caesar died.
31 BC	Augustus became emperor.
14 AD	Augustus died.
66 AD	The Jewish-Roman wars began.
79 AD	Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed Pompeii.
73 AD	The Jewish-Roman wars ended.

## Important People

- Julius Caesar: successful Roman commander - conquered Gaul.
- Augustus: first Emperor (also known as Octavian).
- Octavian: Julius Caesar's nephew.
- Mark Antony: Roman commander killed by Octavian.
- Tiberius: emperor who reigned after Augustus.
- Caligula: cruel emperor who reigned after Tiberius.
- Claudius: became emperor after Caligula was killed. Cunning and clever - added the island of Britain to the empire and built more roads and aqueducts to carry fresh water to towns and cities!
- Nero: emperor who could be very cruel and violent. He used poison on his enemies.
- Titus: emperor - finished building the Colosseum and was emperor when Vesuvius erupted.

## Vocabulary

1. Province	A territory.
2. Governor	An individual in charge of an area.
3. Centurion	The soldier in command of a century.
4. Century	A group of around 80 soldiers.
5. Cohort	Six centuries made a cohort.
6. Legion	Ten cohorts made a legion.
7. Standard	A pennant, flag or banner with a specific symbol on it.
8. Peninsula	A piece of land almost completely surrounded by water.
9. Frontier	The edge of an empire.
10. Cunning	Skilful and an expert.
11. Descended	Someone who lived a long time ago is directly related to them.
12. Aqueducts	These are used to carry fresh water to towns and cities, usually a bridge.
13. Colosseum	A stadium where Romans watched games (sports).
14. Vapour	A substance in the air.
15. Rebellion	An act of resistance against a government or leadership.