



THE ROMAN INVASION OF BRITAIN

Caesar's invasion



- Invaded Gaul in 55 B.C. in order to secure it for the Roman Empire
- Defeated King Cassivellaunus
- Left after two summers
- Contacts between Britain and Rome grew

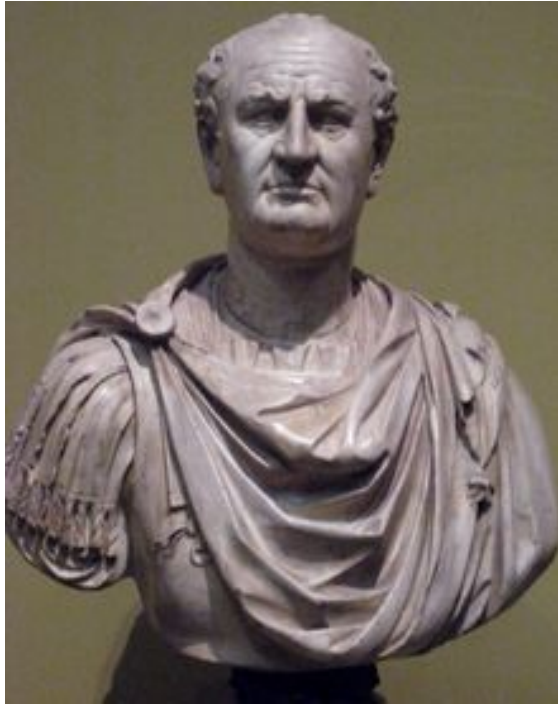
The Pretext



- Claudius decided to expand the Empire to the British Isles
- The pretext was Caratacus' invasion of the Atrebates, whose king appealed to Rome for help
- At first Claudius' troops refused to disembark from their boats
- They attacked near Richborough in modern Kent



The fight in the South



- Led by Vespasian, a future Emperor of Rome
- First real opposition from the Durotriges tribe in Dorset
- Roman military camp built near the hill fort of Hod Hill
- Overall, 20 hill forts were captured



Maiden Castle



- A war cemetery left behind by the Romans
- Celtic warriors attempted to defend it with 54,000 sling stones, but failed
- By summer Claudius was able to land the submission of twelve chieftains



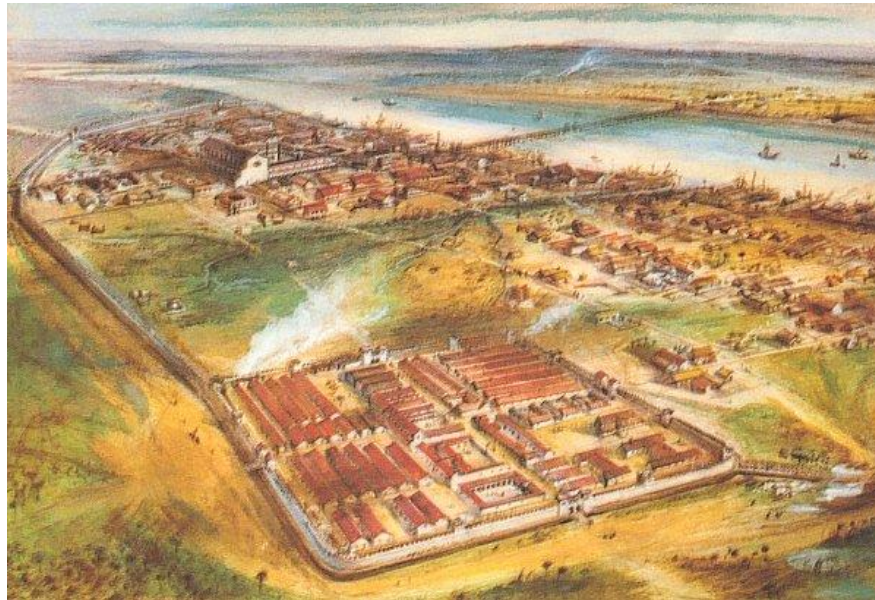
Tribal troubles

- The initial plan was to limit the conquest to the lowlands of modern England
- However, the Romans still had to deal with Caratacus' tribes
- Caratacus and his warriors were defeated in a battle near Snowdonia in 51 A.D



The new capitals

- The first Roman capital was at Colchester
- Later a small settlement near the Thames river was built up to become a trade and administrative centre.
- The Romans called it Londinium (modern London)
- It served troop movement, administrative communication and trade expansion



Client kingdoms



- The Romans allied with tribes on the borders of their territories
- Treaties with tribes in the north and in East Anglia created buffers on the frontiers
- The process of mopping up resistance continued

Thank you for your attention!

