

In 55 BC, the Romans already ruled the country that we know today as France. The Romans called it Gallia and were just across the English Channel.



#### 55 BC: The First Raid



The Roman General Julius Caesar came across the sea to Britain. He wanted to make Britain a part of the Roman empire. He brought with him two **Roman legions**.

The Celts were living in Britain. They fought back bravely and the Romans returned to France, despite winning several battles.



**Roman legions** – There were around 5000 soldiers in a Roman army legion.

#### 54 BC: The Second Raid



cavalrymen – Soldiers on horseback.



One year later, Julius Caesar came back across the sea. This time he brought with him five legions and 2000 cavalrymen

The Roman army fought in southeast England and this time got to the other side of the river Thames.

The British tribes agreed to pay tributes to Rome and were left in peace. Caesar did not think Britain was worth a long war and he had other problems in the empire to deal with. The Celts opened up trading links with the Romans.

#### AD 43: The Third Attempt



Auxiliary soldiers – People recruited from non-Roman tribes to reinforce the army or provide a specific skill. The Latin word 'auxilium' means 'help'. Nearly one hundred years later, the Romans returned. Emperor Claudius was now in charge and he was determined to make Britain part of the Roman empire. He sent General Aulus Plautius and four legions of soldiers, plus about the same number of **auxiliary soldiers**. They were split into three divisions. ?

Many Celtic tribes realised how strong this Roman army was and made deals to keep the peace. They agreed to obey Roman laws and pay taxes. In return, they were allowed to keep their kingdoms.

What features do you notice on this map? What can you say about who owned land in 800 BC?





What do we notice now in 237 BC?



What has changed by 133 BC?



What do you think is most significant about this map?



What can we say about the Celts in AD 79?



What can we say about the Celts in AD 117?



Where in the UK are the most important Roman cities?

