

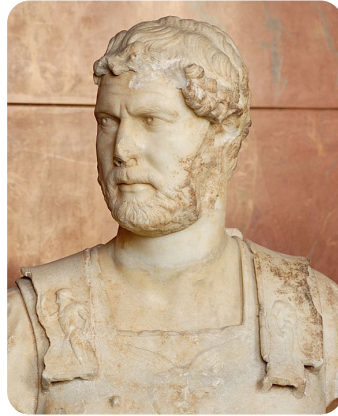
# Hadrian

(AD 76–138)

**Emperor number:** 14

**Length of reign:** 21 years

Famous for building Hadrian's Wall between Britannia and Caledonia in AD 122.



## Significance:

- He realised that the Empire was getting too big, so he decided to strengthen the borders, which is why he built Hadrian's Wall.
- He loved the army and spent as much time as possible with his soldiers.
- He ordered the construction of the Parthenon in Rome.
- He made laws to force Jewish people to become more Roman. He wanted to get rid of the Jewish religion.

**Death:** He died from illness and old age.

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# Claudius

(10 BC–AD 54)

**Emperor number:** 4

**Length of reign:** 13 years

Famous for conquering Britain in AD 43.



## Significance:

- He conquered Britain in AD 43.
- He rode an elephant through Colchester, UK to celebrate his victory.
- He encouraged tribes in Britannia to become client kingdoms, where the leader took a Roman name and the people followed Roman ways.
- He tried to outlaw druids, the priests in Celtic Britannia who killed humans as sacrifices.

**Death:** He was poisoned by his wife so that his son, Nero, could become emperor.

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# Caligula

(AD 12–41)

**Emperor number:** 3

**Length of reign:** 4 years

Famous for being cruel and unpopular.



## Significance:

- At the beginning of his reign, he freed prisoners, got rid of unpopular taxes and staged exciting events like chariot races and gladiator fights.
- Seven months into his reign, he became very ill and his personality changed. He killed his rivals and thought that he was a god.
- He spent the money that his father, Tiberius, had saved, then he stole from the Roman citizens to replace it.
- He planned to invade and conquer Britain in AD 40, but he didn't manage to cross the *Oceanus Britannicus* (English Channel).

**Death:** He was murdered by his bodyguards after a sporting event.

# Nero

(AD 37–68)

**Emperor number:** 5

**Length of reign:** 14 years

Famous for watching while Rome burned to the ground.



## Significance:

- He helped ordinary people. He reduced taxes, gave rights to slaves and gave food to the poor. He also set up poetry, drama and sports competitions.
- Roman citizens believed that he started the fire in AD 64, which destroyed much of Rome. He blamed the fire on Christians and ordered them to be killed by wild animals.
- He built a huge, luxurious palace called *Domus Aurea* (Golden House) for himself, after the fire that destroyed a third of Rome's land.
- People rebelled against Roman rule in Britannia, Spain and Gaul, so the senate declared that Nero was an enemy of Rome.

**Death:** He killed himself after he was condemned to death for being an enemy of Rome.

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# Trajan

(AD 53–117)

**Emperor number:** 13

**Length of reign:** 19 years

Famous for expanding the Roman Empire and building roads, bridges and public buildings.



## Significance:

- He was a respected general. He conquered new lands and brought great wealth to Rome. The Roman Empire was at its largest during his reign.
- He was called the 'soldier emperor' by the Roman citizens because he spent his life in the army.
- He loved to build. He ordered roads, bridges, aqueducts and harbours to be built throughout the Empire. In Rome, he built public baths, a forum, libraries, streets and Trajan's Column.
- He gave money to Roman citizens, food to the poor and set up a public fund to help poor children in Italian cities.

**Death:** He died from illness and old age.

# Commodus

(AD 161–192)

**Emperor number:** 18

**Length of reign:** 15 years

Famous for being cruel and wearing lion skins to look fearless.



## Significance:

- Commodus was not interested in learning about Rome's government or the army.
- He thought that he was the Roman demigod, Hercules, who was famous for his strength. He ordered the Roman citizens to call him Hercules.
- He loved to fight like a gladiator. He chose to fight injured gladiators, ill animals or wounded soldiers so that he could win.
- He ended an era of peace in Rome by killing lots of people, including whole families, because they were rich and popular.

**Death:** He was murdered while having a bath.

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# Augustus

(63 BC–AD 14)

**Emperor number:** 1

**Length of reign:** 41 years

Famous for becoming the first emperor of Rome and ending the Roman Republic.



## Significance:

- He brought peace and wealth to Rome and began to rebuild the city and the Empire.
- Under his control, the Empire nearly doubled in size. The Roman army conquered new lands in Europe and Asia and made alliances in Britain and India.
- He improved Rome and other parts of the Empire by making new laws, charging fair taxes and building roads, bridges and aqueducts to help the army to move around easily.
- He created new public services, including a police force, firefighting service and postal service.

**Death:** He died from illness and old age.

Image from: Wikimedia Commons/Public domain

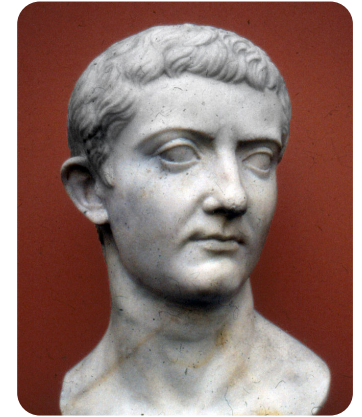
# Tiberius

(42 BC–AD 37)

**Emperor number:** 2

**Length of reign:** 23 years

Famous for being a sensible leader who tried to control Rome's habit of expensive spending.



## Significance:

- He did not spend Rome's money on expanding the Empire or big building projects. His actions saved money and Rome became wealthier.
- Tiberius banished Jews from Rome in AD 19.
- Tiberius left Rome in AD 26 because he couldn't run the Empire any longer and thought that he would be murdered by his enemies. His advisor, Lucius Aelius Sejanus, took charge.

**Death:** He was murdered by a guard under the orders of Caligula, who wanted to become the next emperor.

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# Constantine

(cAD 280–337)

**Emperor number:** 55

**Length of reign:** 31 years

Famous for being the first Christian emperor.



## Significance:

- Constantine united the eastern and western Roman Empires and ruled over both east and the west.
- He wrote an official order called the *Edict of Milan* in AD 313, which meant that Roman citizens could become Christians. People were no longer punished for being Christian.
- Some years after the *Edict of Milan*, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
- He ordered the construction of a new capital city in the Roman Empire and named it Constantinople, after himself. He built many Christian churches in Constantinople and across the Roman Empire.

**Death:** He died of an unknown illness.

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