

# THE SHAPE OF HISTORY

The Bronze Age began around 2,500 BCE. The people of Britain made metal tools out of copper and bronze dug out of mines. Trade developed with the rest of Europe.



This Roman soldier has gone dotty!

The first record we have of people living in the area covered by present-day Wales dates from 54 BCE. A tribe living in the north-east of Wales helped to fight off an invasion by the forces of the Roman Emperor, Julius Caesar.

The Romans struggled to conquer the western part of Britain at first. It took 13 campaigns before they eventually captured the last remaining stronghold, Anglesey.

Between the years 383 and 410, the Roman Legions withdrew from Britain.

After the Romans left, Anglo-Saxons, Germanic tribes, moved to Britain and settled in England. During the 5th and 6th centuries, they fought to control more land and pushed back the Welsh border.

But the Romans didn't leave without a trace. There is evidence of Roman settlement in many parts of Wales.

Among them are the remains of several Roman fortresses, including Isca at Caerleon, Trawsgoed near Aberystwyth, and Segontium in Caernarfon.

Roman roads linked the fortresses. The best known example is Sarn Helen, which stretches 160 miles all the way from Caerhun in Conwy, to Carmarthen.

