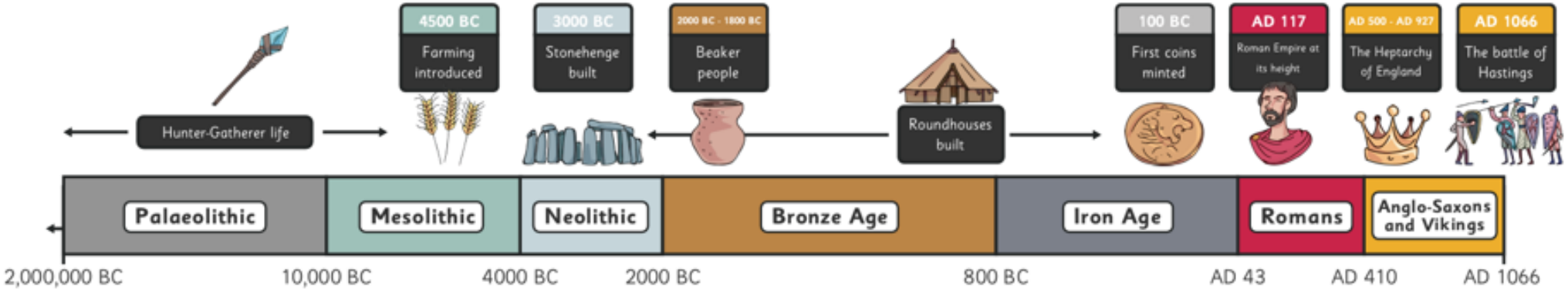
Science Knowledge Organiser

Year 4	Light	Summer 1



Roman Britain

The Romans were not happy just conquering the settlements of Britain – they wanted to turn them into **Roman cities** too. Roman towns in Britain were **full of brick buildings** and temples. The Romans liked everything to be organised, so the **streets** were built in **straight lines**. In the middle of the settlement, there would be a large square called a **forum**. It was used as a **marketplace and for meetings**.

It had **shops and offices on three sides** and **government offices on the other side**. Some towns had **public baths, open-air theatres** (called amphitheatres) and huge **decorative statues**. The buildings were made of **stone and brick**, and many of the buildings were built so well that archaeologists have been able to excavate whole buildings!





The growth of the Roman Empire

Under the rule of Emperor Augustus, the Roman Empire had grown and it's reach was maintained by Emperor Augustus' new Imperial Army – an army so well trained and powerful that barely anyone could stand in their way. Augustus and other Roman leaders had eyed Britannia as a way to expand the Empire over the last half a century, but it wasn't that easy. There had been multiple attempts to invade, but they failed. It took until the year **43 CE** for the Romans to be successful in their quest, and under the rule of **Emperor Claudius**, they invaded and the **Britons (Celts)** tried to fight back, but were beaten by the heavily armoured and organised soldiers in the **Roman legions**. Within four years, **Rome controlled large regions of Britannia**.

The fall of the Roman Empire

Civil wars and chaos erupted across the Roman Empire during the **3rd century**. This crisis saw around **20 emperors rise and fall in just 50 years**! Unfortunately, the problems facing the empire were not only with those trying to rule it. Now, more than ever, forces outside the empire were beginning to make things difficult for the Romans. With all this strain, the Roman empire started to fall apart, and a man named **Constantine** fought his way to become the single emperor of Rome again – **uniting all Roman lands under him**. He even moved the capital from Rome to a city he named after himself – **Constantinople.** After Constantine's death, chaos and struggle continued and eventually, the empire would split in half forevermore.