Knowledge Organiser

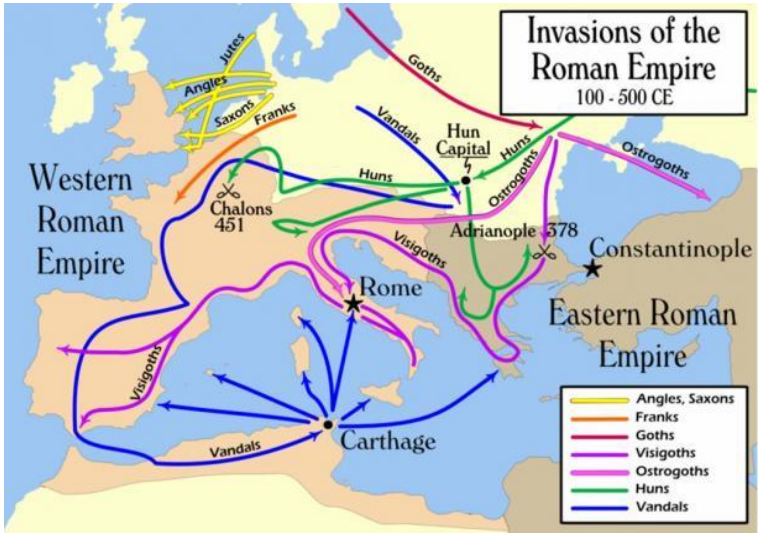
Year 4 - Autumn Term B

History: The Fall of Ancient Rome

Vocabulary	
aqueduct	An artificial channel that uses gravity to transport water long distances.
archaeologist	A specialist who studies ancient people and cultures.
chariot	A light, horse-drawn, two-wheeled vehicle for one person driven from a standing position.
Circus Maximus	The largest roofless stadium in Rome which was used for chariot races and public games.
eruption	The ejection of lava, rock and ash from a volcano.
Forum	A city square that was the heart of ancient Rome's public life; it was used for many different things e.g. elections, public speeches, trials, gladiator matches and even shopping.
gladiator	A person, often a slave or captive, who was armed with a sword or other weapon and who had to fight to the death against another person or a wild animal, for the entertainment of spectators.
Goths / Visigoths / Ostrogoths / Vandals / Huns	Germanic tribes who attacked and invaded the Roman empire from the 3rd to the 5th centuries.
raze / sack	The destruction of a city by attackers

Attacks on the Roman empire

The empire suffered repeated attacks and invasions by European and North African tribes. This weakened the empire and eventually, it split and then fell.



Key dates:

79 Mt Vesuvius erupts burying the town of Pompeii.
121 To keep out the Picts, Hadrian's Wall is built across northern England.
306 Constantine becomes Emperor and converts the empire to Christianity.(before this, Rome persecuted the Christians).
395 Rome splits into two empires.
410 The *Visigoths* and the *Vandals* sack Rome. This is the first time in 800 years that the city of Rome fell to an enemy.
476 The end of the Western Roman Empire and the fall of Ancient Rome. The last Roman Emperor, Romulus Augustus, is defeated by the German Goth, Odoacer.