

Answer Key: Roman Fort Webquest

N.B. - Bear in mind that there may be multiple possible answers that work here and that the questions are asking the students to postulate a theory based on the evidence.

1. Please look at the two plans and compare them. What differences do you see between the fortress and the camp? What is present one place but absent in the other? Why might those differences exist?

- A) *The camp clearly has a cavalry component that is not present at the fort and thus has stables.*
- B) *The fort has granaries because the soldiers are stationary and can keep stores, but is clearly only for infantry.*

2. First use [this site](#) to build your own fort. Once you know where everything goes in a Roman fort, print out [this map](#) of the first century fortress based on an unfinished fortress at Inchtuthill, Scotland and label it carefully.

This one is pretty obvious, but you could certainly have them label more of the buildings.

3. Now go watch the [tour of the Roman fort in Londinium](#).

- a. How large was this fortress? *5 hectares*
- b. What were its towers used for other than sentry posts? *Space for stores or ammunition*
- c. Where were similar forts located in Roman Britain? *On Hadrian's wall*
- d. How did this fort differ from those forts? *It did not serve any one unit and much larger than the ones on the wall, though smaller than a legionary fort.*
- e. What was added to the walls of its presumably large granary to hold the weight of the grain sacks? *buttresses*
- f. Why was it finally dismantled?
The military needs had changed and soldiers were moved to the south of the city.

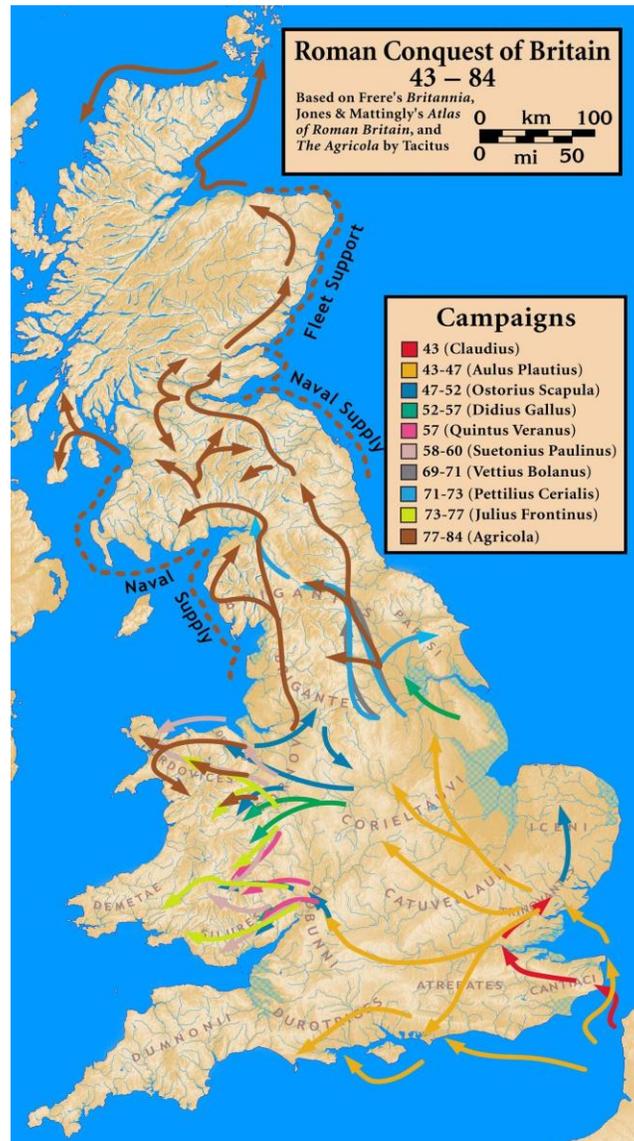
4. Now explore the following sites and their maps and answer the questions below.

[link](#) for a blank map to label

[Site for map of Roman Military Camps](#)

a. Using the map of Roman Military Camps, you should be able to draw lines that approximate 2 major campaigns in northern Britain, the two major walls built across northern Britain to keep the Barbarians at bay. Please be neat. Look at the topography and then tell me why the campaigns did not go further northwest.

Very hilly. The two campaigns are north of the walls. You can see all campaigns here:



b. Using [this page](#), answer the following questions:

i. Where else (outside of Northern Britain) are British military sites clustered and what are they guarding?

Ports and areas that were harder to control due to uneven terrain. What you can't see from these sources is that they also tend to cluster around mines.

ii. Draw in the 5 roads you feel were the most important to the Roman settlers and army. Why did you choose these roads?

This is just a judgment call. What is important is that they have some evidence to back up their choices.

iii. Do the Romans appear to have been concerned about revolt in Southern Britain? Why or why not?

Not in the southeast. Perhaps more in the southwest. Again ask them to back up their answers.

iv. Where are the legions' permanent camps? Why are they placed where they are?

They are placed in areas where transportation flowed easily and near the edges of the more settled, less restive area, presumably as protection.

v. What type of fort was the fort described above at Housesteads (hint, look at "[Forts and Fortlets of Britain](#)").

Auxiliary Infantry Fort

vi. Looking at the maps on all the sites, what other patterns do you see in where sites were placed, and what might they mean?

All sorts of answers are possible here. Forts cluster along roads. Marching forts appear mostly outside of the more settled regions. Forts also follow the lines of the two fortification walls that span the north of Roman territory.

vii. Looking in the various lists of sites on Roman-Britain.org, pick two sites and take notes about their appearance, location, function and important artifacts. You will report these two back to the class (tell me which ones you are doing so we can make sure there is no overlap)

References:

<http://library.thinkquest.org/22866/English/Leger.html>

www.romanbritain.org

http://www.bandaarcgeophysics.co.uk/arch/roman_marching_camps_uk.html