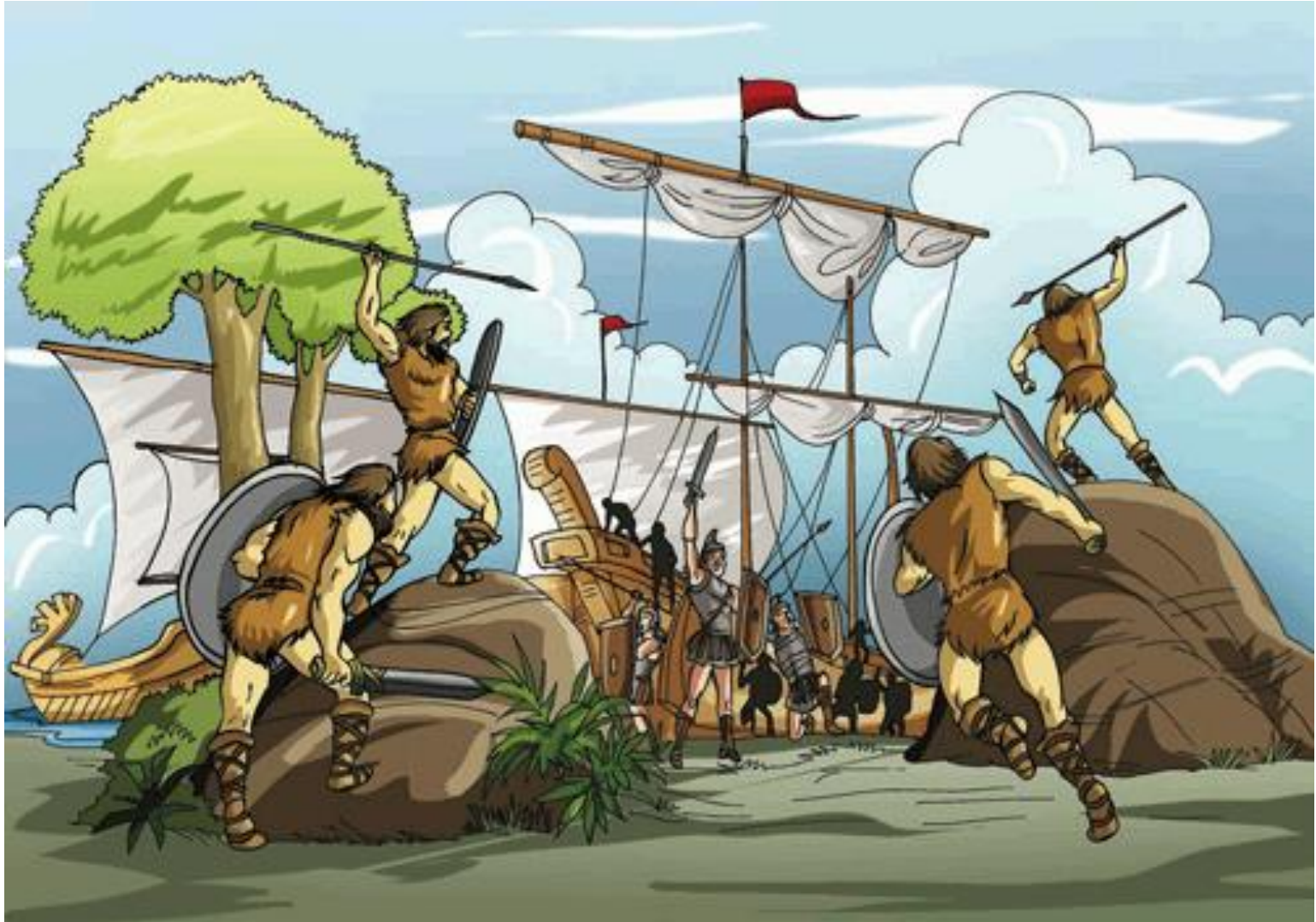


Why Did the Romans Invade Britain?



1. Britain had lots of goods that the Romans wanted

- Lead
- Wood
- Tin
- Wool
- Slaves
- Gold
- Silver
- Corn



Corn

As the Roman Empire grew bigger, there were more and more people to feed. More Romans started living in towns, leaving fewer people in the country to grow crops. Rome needed to import more food and Britain was a very fertile land.



Raw Materials: Wool

Britain had a good supply of sheep. Wool was needed for making Roman togas.



Raw Materials: Leather

The Roman army used a lot of leather for uniforms and soldiers' tents. Leather was also used to make buckets.



Valuable Metals: Silver

- The Romans made their money out of silver – more coins were needed as the Empire grew.
- Britain already had silver mines that the Romans knew about.
- Silver was a luxury item for rich Romans – so there was a big demand for it.



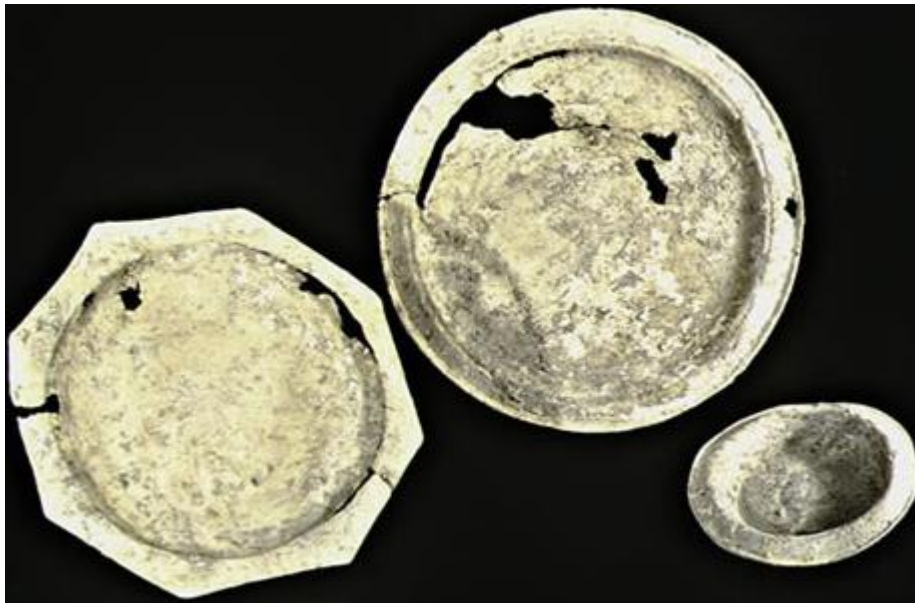
Gold

- Gold was used for jewellery and was in great demand by the Romans.
- Gold was very important in trade as a means of exchange and for gold coins.
- There was a scarcity of gold across the Empire, but Britain had lots of gold.



Tin

Britain also had tin mines and tin and pewter were used for cups and plates. Tin could be mixed with other metals to make strong, hard metals.



The Romans used a lot of lead!

- Lead was really useful for the Romans and Britain had a good supply of it.
- Lead was used to make water pipes and plumbing systems
- Lead was also used to make coffins.

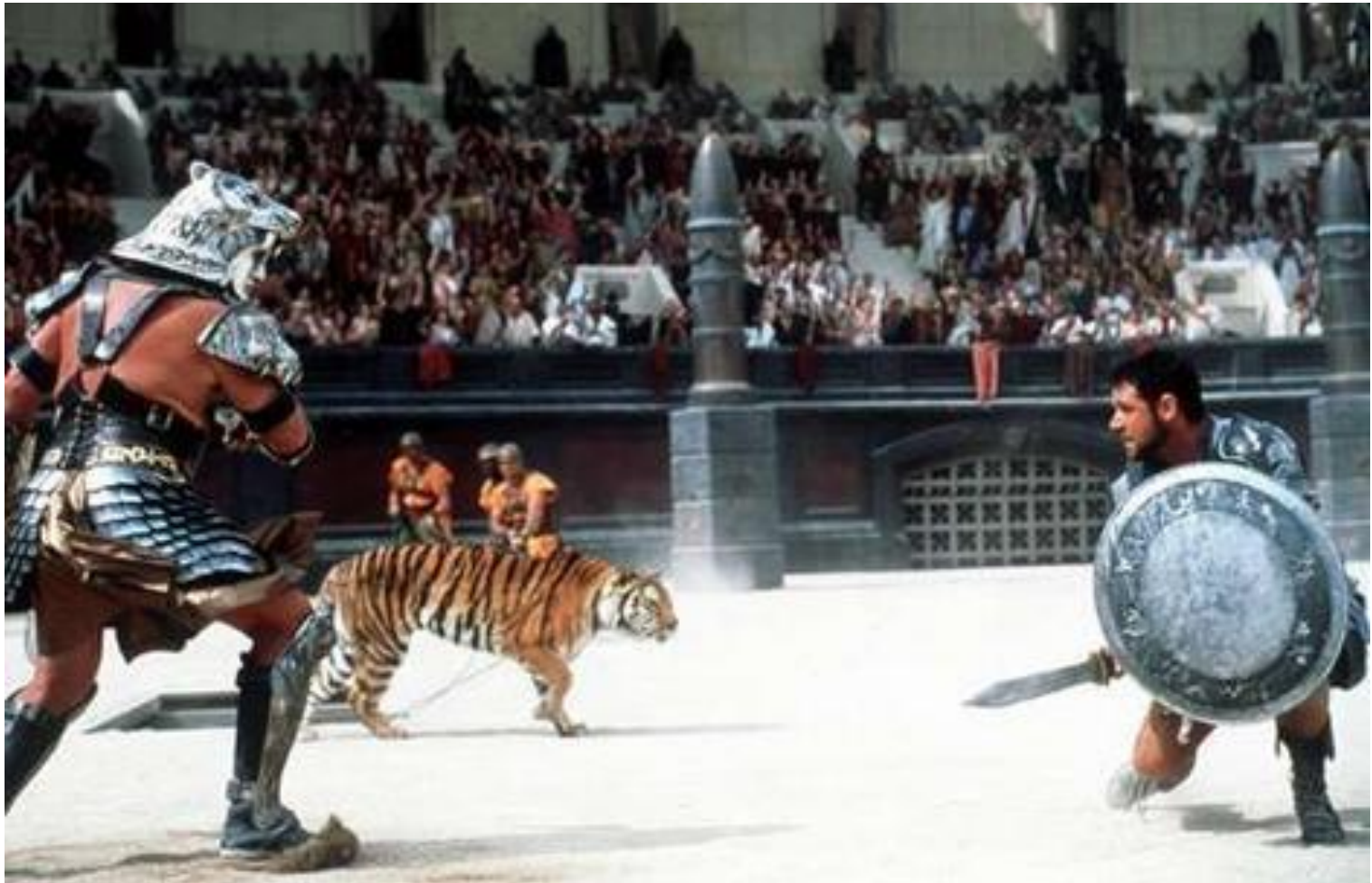


Slaves

- Romans planned to use captured Celts as slaves.
- Roman society ran on the basis of slave labour and there was big demand for slaves right across the empire.
- Slaves were used to work in every type of industry, from nurse maids, to field hands, miners and as galley slaves to row Roman ships.



Slaves could also be made to fight as Gladiators, to entertain the Romans.



2. Power!

- The Romans didn't just want goods from Britain, they also wanted to invade to show how powerful they were.
- By conquering more and more countries and making their Empire bigger, it made Rome more powerful.
- The Romans also believed it was their duty to do this and make the world "civilised" like them.

Read the quote on the next slide to see what they believed about this!



The Roman Belief...

“Remember you are Roman. It will be your job to rule over other countries, so that the world becomes peaceful and everyone obeys Roman law.” Written by Virgil 20BC



3. Ambition

- Invading other countries and adding to the Empire was a way to become more powerful and popular.
- The first invasions took place because Julius Caesar was ambitious and wanted power and glory.
- Claudius had just become Emperor (in the 1st Century BC) and wanted to prove himself as a good leader of Rome, when his invasion took place.



4. Revenge!

The Celts had been helping the Gauls (French) fight against the Romans.

The Romans wanted to punish the Celts for this support.



