COULD THIS ANCIENT WALL SHOW WHERE PARIS FIRST BEGAN?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists have found a 20-metre stretch of ancient wall beneath the Île de la Cité in central Paris. The wall may have formed part of Lutetia, the settlement connected with the Gallic Parisii tribe and later the Roman city. Charred material dates the site to between 200 BC and 10 BC, a period that includes the Roman attack on Lutetia described by Julius Caesar. The discovery may help settle a long-running argument about where ancient Paris was located.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This story connects archaeology with Roman expansion, Julius Caesar and the question of how historians test written evidence. Students can compare Caesar's account with physical evidence and consider why the location of an ancient settlement can still be debated.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"How could this wall help historians check Julius Caesar's account?"

Source: The Guardian, reporting Agence France-Presse

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/sep/23/ancient-wall-paris-first-settlement-archaeology-roman