



Battle of Catalaunian Fields 451CE

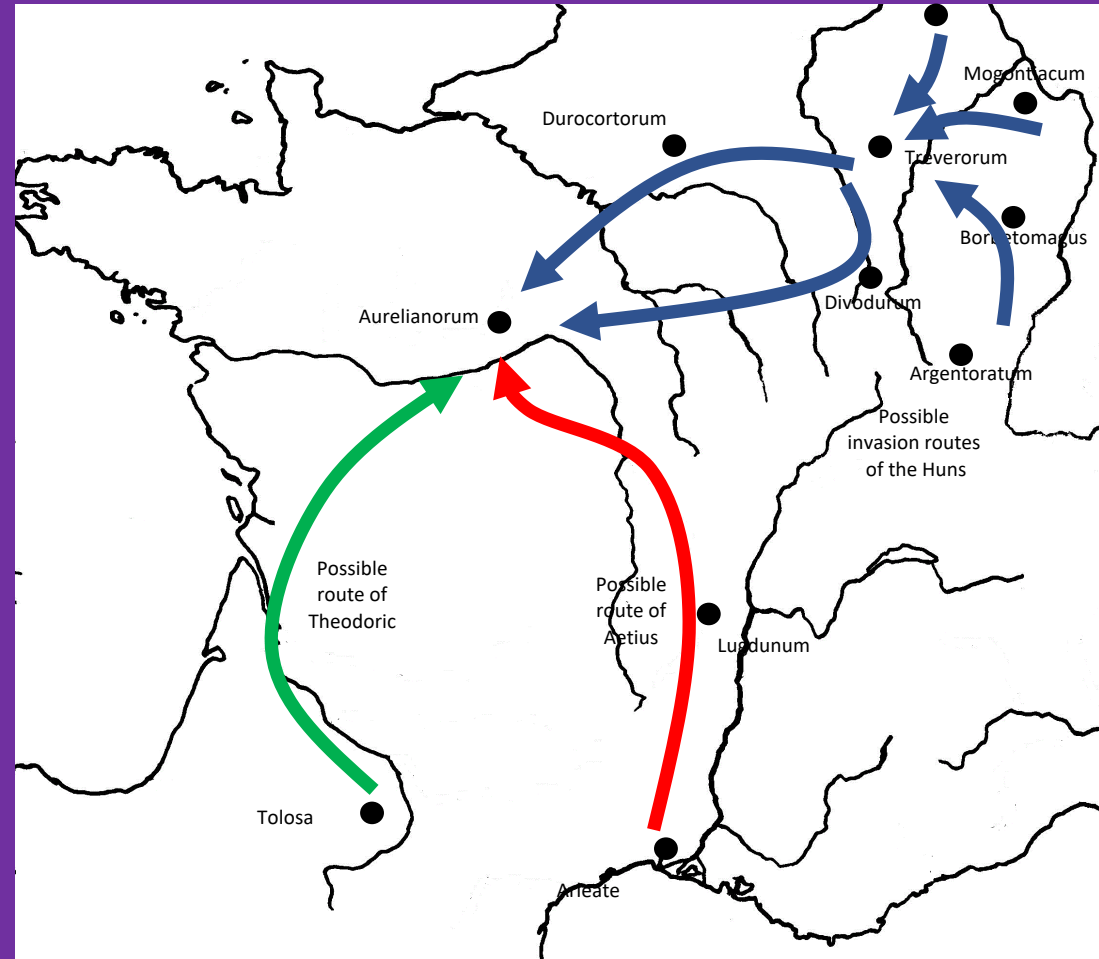
Attila against the Foederate Romans

History from *Age of Atilla* by Richard-Jeffrey Cook

Background



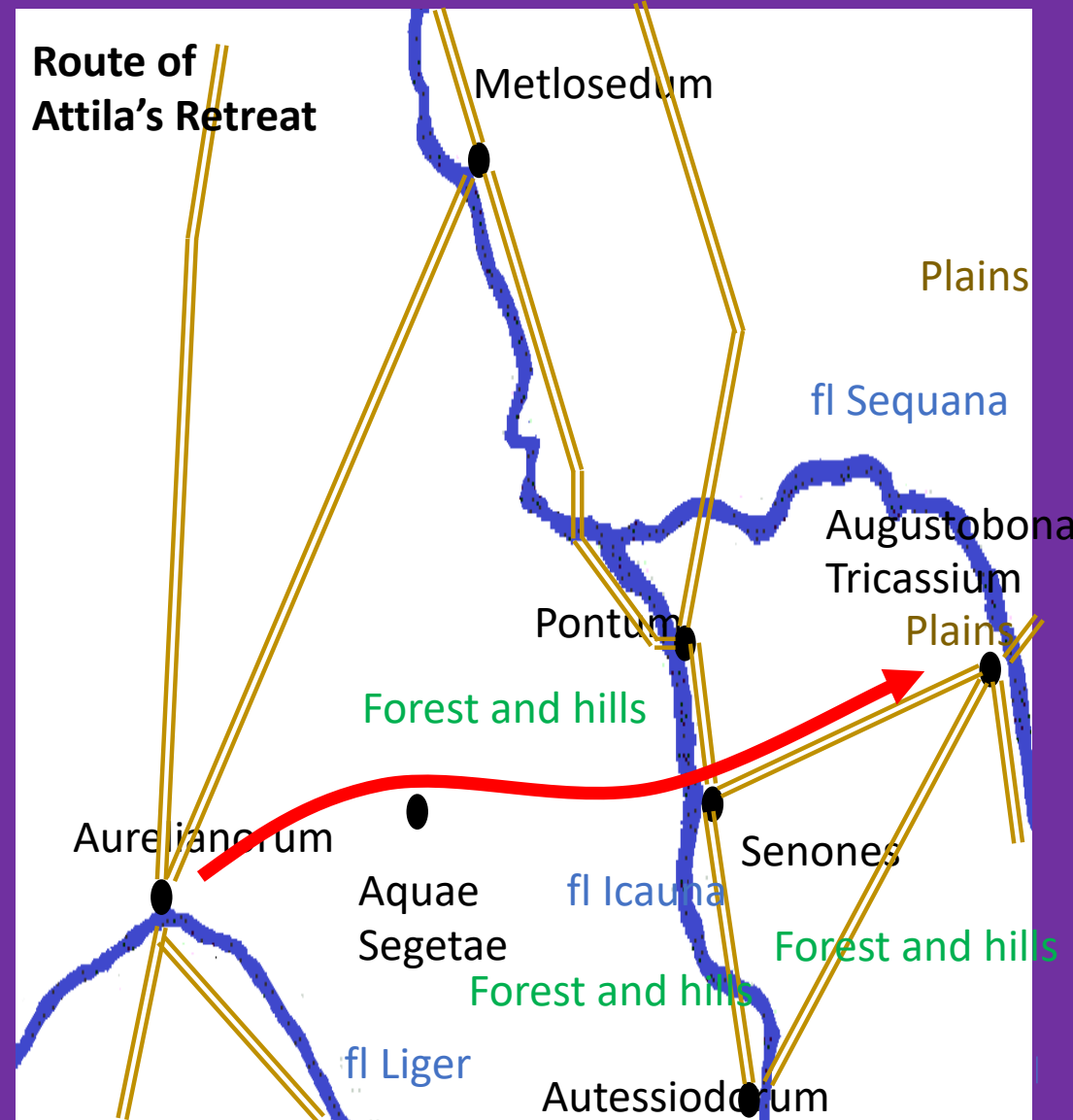
- In 451CE Attila decides to invade Roman Gaul (France).
- He probably has two aims:
 1. put the Hunnic candidate on the Frankish throne.
 2. force the Visigoth's into an alliance against Rome.
- April: Attila sacks Treverorum (Metz).
- June: Attila reaches Aurelianorum (Orleans).



Attila retreats



- JUNE: Attila besieging Aurelianum (Orleans) when the armies of the Romans and Visigoths approach.
- Attila decided to retreat to the open rolling hills of Champagne, which offer the best opportunity for him to fight.
- To reach them, he has to get through the wooded hills of the Foret d'Orleans, and Foret d'Orthe and cross the Icauna (Yonne) and Sequana (Seine) rivers.
- Caught before they could cross the Sequana at Augustobona Tricassium (Troyes).



Battle – Deployment



fl Sequana

Attila's Camp

Gepids

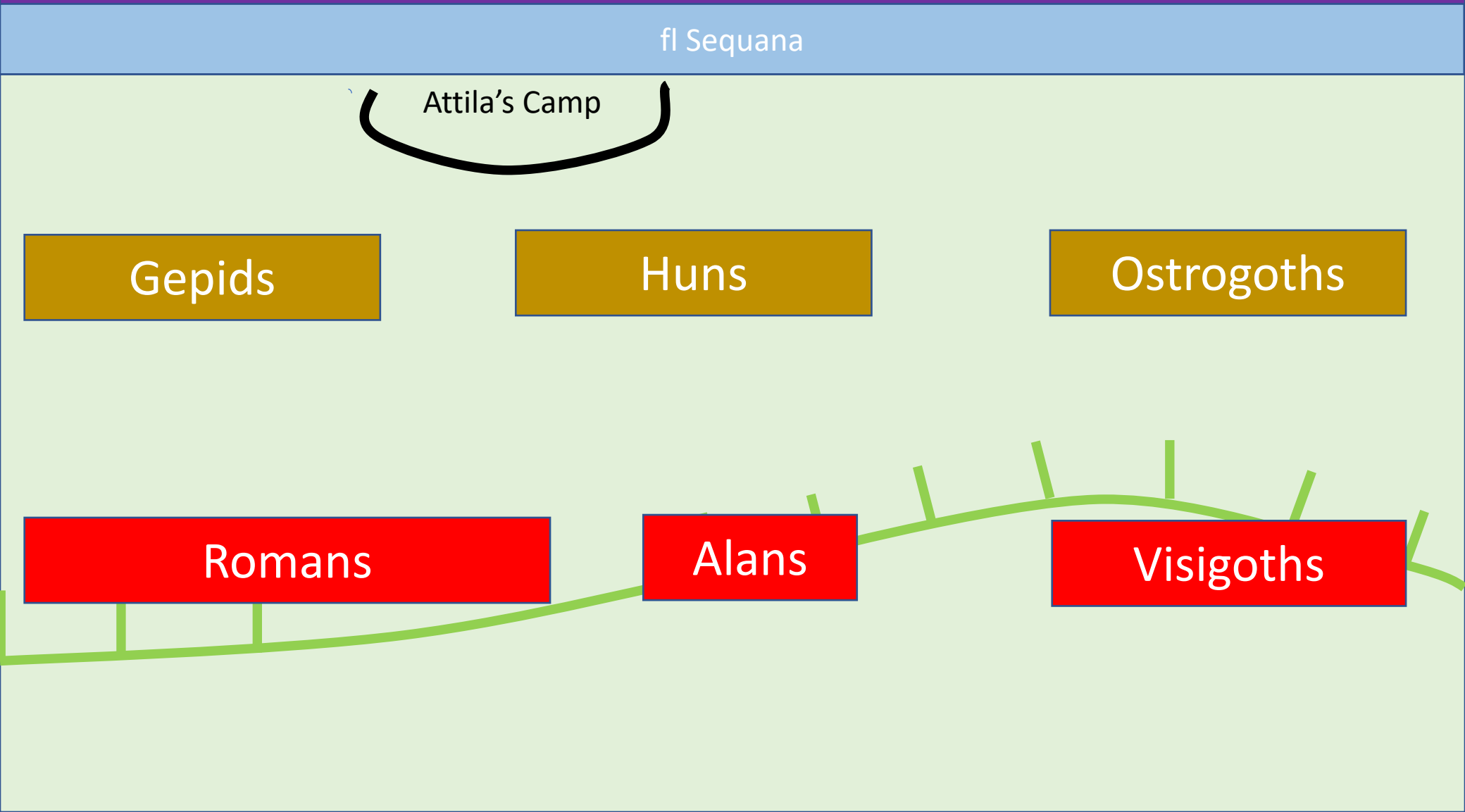
Huns

Ostrogoths

Romans

Alans

Visigoths



Battle – Phase 2



fl Sequana

Attila's Camp

Gepids

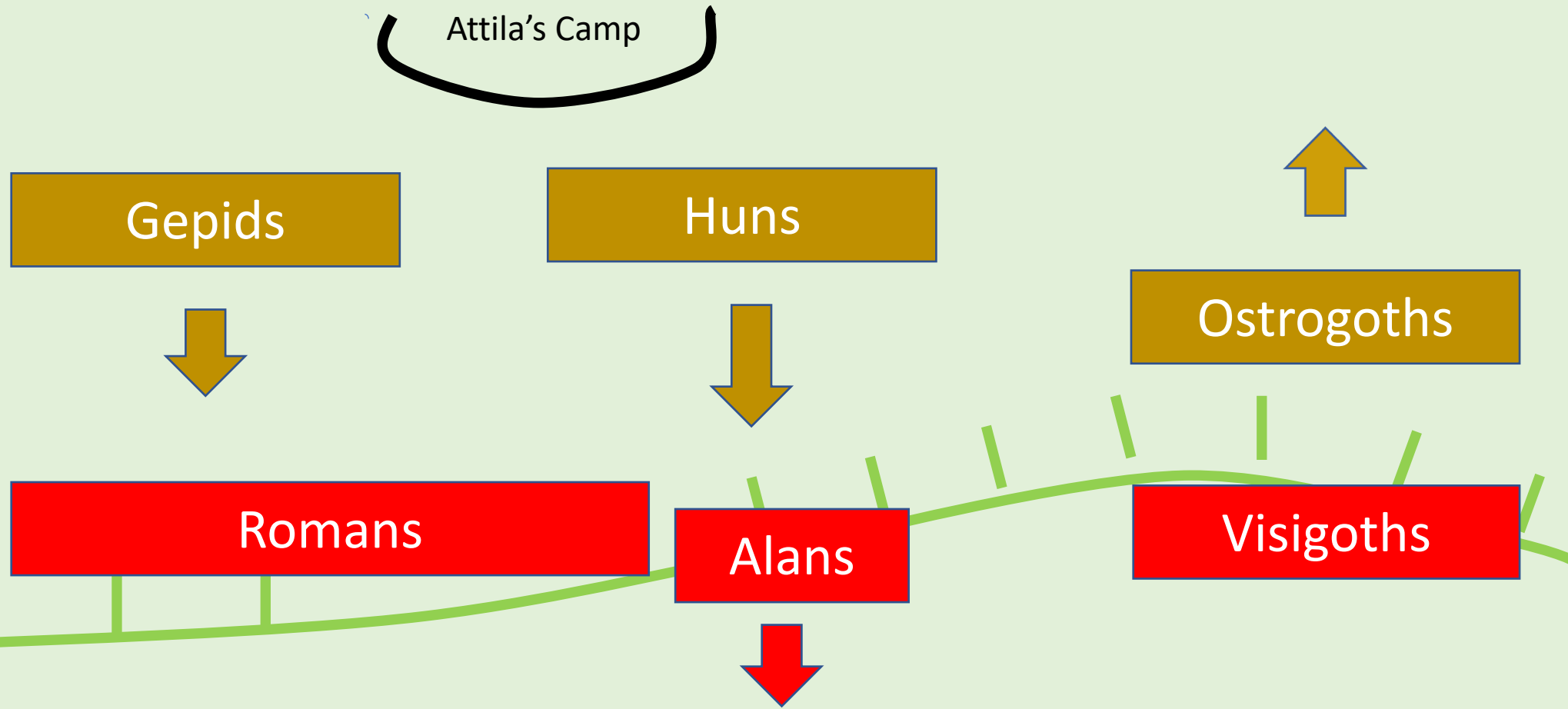
Huns

Ostrogoths

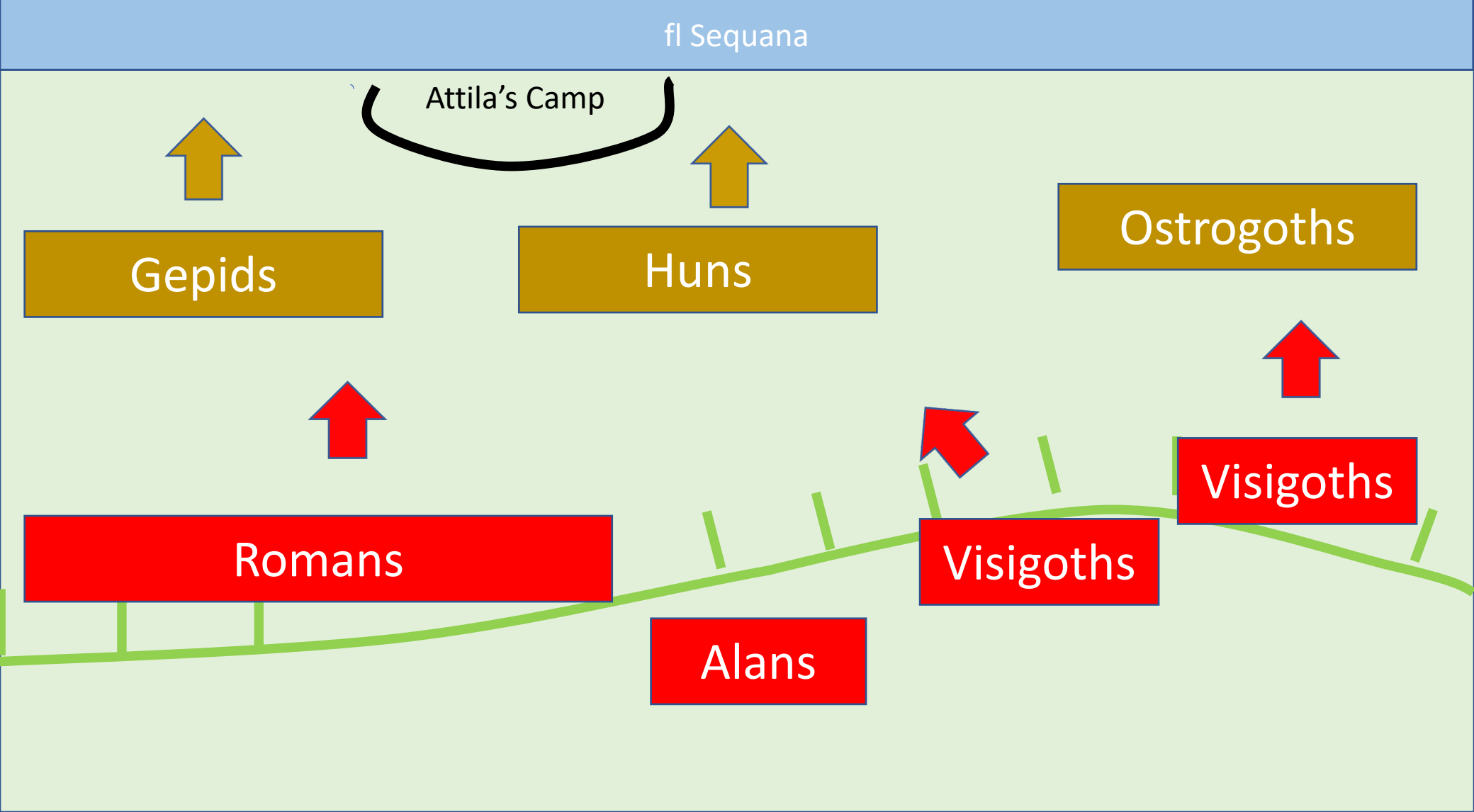
Romans

Alans

Visigoths



Battle – Phase 4



Aftermath



- Hunnic army retires to defend it's camp – to the last man if necessary.
- Theodoric's corpse is found the following morning.
- Either: a) Aetius advises Thorismund (heir to Theodoric) to return to his kingdom to secure the throne or b) Thorismund decides to return anyway.
 - Perhaps Aetius wanted to negotiate a treaty with Attila or Aetius doesn't trust his Visigothic allies.
- Attila is able to retreat back to Hungary and invades Italy the following year.
- Attila dies soon after and the Hun collapse opening the way to Rome to the Germanic tribes.