

Why was Boudicca important?



The Roman Empire

The Romans had a huge empire. At this time, England was run by many tribes. Each tribe had its own King. The Romans wanted to rule England and set out to beat these tribes in battle therefore ruling Britain.



Why did they want Britain?

The Romans wanted to rule Britain because it had lots of gold, silver and tin mines. These were really important as they made their weapons, armour and goods (jewellery) out of these metals



Let's start from the beginning.

- The Romans attacked Britain in AD 43. King Caratacus was the King of a British tribe called Catuvellaunians (*cat-u-vell-aneans*). *They tried to stop the Romans taking over Britain.*
- *Caratacus was the first King to unite British tribes against the Romans.*



What happened to King Caratacus?

- Caratacus fought against the Romans for 8 years but was beaten in the end.
- He got taken to Rome. He thought he was going to be killed. Instead they let him go and he came back to Britain and died.



The Iceni

- King Prasutagus was the King of the British tribe the Iceni.
- Queen Boudicca was his wife.
- The Romans let them rule over their lands in return for money and trade.
- The British tribes, including the King and Queens, had to obey the Romans and do what they said. If they didn't, they would be killed.



What happened next

- In 61 AD Prasutagus died. He had always been friendly with the Romans but his wife, Boudicca, did not agree with them.
- The Romans were demanding taxes to be paid or they wanted her to give up the throne. Boudicca decided to fight back!



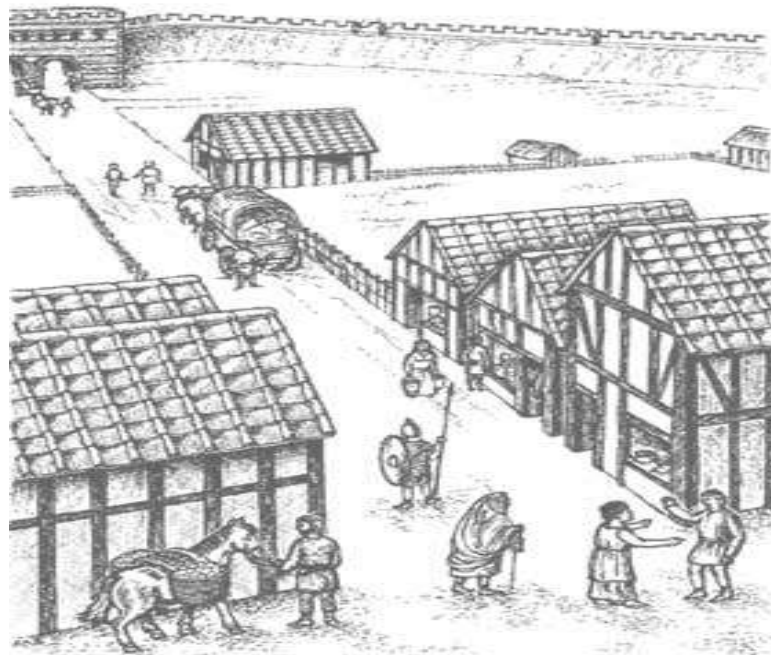
Other tribes joined in...

- Soon other tribes joined the Iceni army and they marched to Colchester – this was the capital of Roman Britain.
- Boudicca and her army then attacked the town. They even burnt down a temple where elderly soldiers and families had been taking shelter.
- Next Boudicca led her army to London (it was called Londinium at that time). Here they burned down the city and killed hundreds of people living there.

Where was the Roman army when all of this was going on?

- Part of the army was in Exeter.
- The Roman general there was too frightened to move when he heard about the rebellion.
- The rest of the army was with the Roman Governor, who was trying to conquer North Wales. It took a long time for him to march back to the South of Britain to fight Boudicca.
- Boudicca may have had ten times more soldiers than the Romans did, but the Romans were well trained. Eventually, the Britons were defeated. Rather than being captured, Boudicca drank poison and died.

After Boudicca's rebellion Britain was mostly peaceful under Roman rule. People enjoyed living in Roman-style towns with baths and shops and they spoke Latin.



Challenge 1:

I would like you to produce a storyboard explaining this story. Divide your paper into 6 pictures and select the important bits. Good luck!



Challenge 2:

- Look at the pictures below and put them in the order that you think is the most accurate?



Images of Boudicca- which one do you think is the most accurate?

Look 👁 👁 carefully at each Boudicca picture above and place a tick ✓ cross ✗ or in-between ~ in each box.

Boudicca picture number	Terrifying look, fierce eyes	Great mass of yellowish red hair down to hips	Golden torque around neck	Dress of many colours with cloak	Brooch
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

Which is the most historically accurate Boudicca image?

Number

Which is the worst Boudicca image and why? Number

Challenge 3:

- Do a little research on Boudicca and from what you learn draw a picture of what you think she would look like.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkrkscw/articles/zhn6cqt>

<http://www.history-for-kids.com/boudica.html>

- Write a brief description of her from what you have drawn and read.

Example:

What did Boudicca look like?

‘**Boudicca** was very tall. She looked terrifying with a fierce glint in her eye. Her voice was harsh. A great mass of startling bright yellowish red hair hung down to her hips. Around her neck she had a huge torque of gold. She wore a dress of many colours with a thin cloak over it, pinned together with a brooch.’

Cassius Dio’s description of Boudicca (100 years after Boudicca’s reign)