

Boudicca



Who was Boudicca?



- Boudicca was the wife of Prasutagus, the ruler of a Celtic tribe called the Iceni.
- The Iceni lived in a region of Britain that is now called East Anglia.

Prasutagus and the Romans Agreement

- When Romans settled in the South of England in 43 AD they made an agreement with Prasutagus so that he would be able to continue as ruler of the Iceni.
- When Prasutagus died, the Romans turned on the Iceni.
- They stole from the Iceni tribesmen, made people slaves and they had Boudicca whipped.



The Rebellion

- In about 60 AD, the Roman governor was sent to North Wales to lead an army.
- While he was away Boudicca led an attack against the tribe's Roman rulers with several other tribes. Her army was called the Britons.
- They managed to destroy Camulodunum (Colchester), the capital of Roman Britain and defeated the Roman IX legion.



Attack on Londinium

- Hearing the news, the Roman governor rushed back from Wales.
- He tried to evacuate Londinium (London) as he guessed this would be the Britons next target.
- Boudicca and her army destroyed Londinium and Verulamium (St Albans).
- People believe that over 70,000 people were killed in the attacks by the Britons.



Defeat



- The Roman army regrouped in the Midlands and finally defeated the Britons in the battle of Watling Street.
- No one knows what really happened to Boudicca. Some say she killed herself when she knew the Romans had defeated her, others say she fell ill and died.

The Legend



I was whipped by the Romans when they tried to take our lands and now I am fighting for my freedom. Think how many of us are fighting and why. We must win this battle or die. Let the men live as slaves if they want. I will not.

These were the words of Boudicca's last speech, as recorded by Dio Cassius

Boudicca is a heroine because she achieved a lot and fought for her country, for her people and for herself. Although she lost the final battle, she never let the Romans conquer her.

This is what a Roman writer called Cassius Dio wrote about her:

She was a tall woman, with piercing eyes and a loud voice. A great mass of red hair hung down below her waist. Round her neck was a large gold torc (like a really thick necklace made to look like a metal rope). She wore a full, flowing tartan dress, and over it was a cloak, fastened by a brooch.

He didn't draw a picture!

In fact there are no pictures of her from the time.

The ones we have in books were all drawn or painted much later.

Imagine that you are a police sketch artist and need to draw a picture of Boudicca using Cassius Dio's witness statement.

Share your pictures on Seesaw.

Yours may
look
similar to
this! Or
not!



There are lots of other versions of her:



1



2



3



4

What words best describe the way she is shown in each?
Can you think of some different synonyms?

Strong?

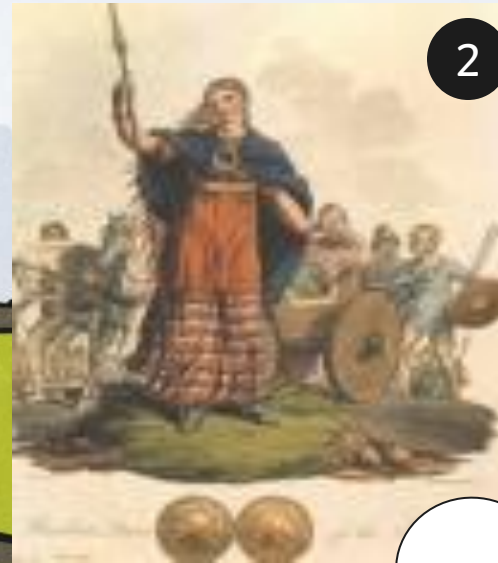


Fierce?
Angry?



Brave?

2



Determined?



There are many different artists impressions of Boudicca. Which do you prefer? Why?



This bronze statue of Boudicca and her daughters was sculpted in 1850 and stands on the banks of the River Thames in London.

