

The Rebellion of Boudicca

Boudicca's Story

My name is Queen Boudicca, I am Queen of the Iceni and rule a territory that in your time is called East Anglia. It is 61 A D and the Romans have been in our lands for nearly 20 years. I am a rich and powerful Celtic Queen. I rule the Iceni with my husband King Prasutagus.

When the Romans first came to our lands we made peace with them and were allowed to keep our lands. We do live differently now and have many Roman things but I am a Celt and I still live like a Celt. I wear Celtic clothes and do not behave like Roman women. I am a queen and I rule equally with my husband in the traditional way.

I don't trust the Romans and feel that they take too much from us but I don't want to make war as it will hurt my people who need my leadership.

Things are not going well my husband has died and now the Romans are demanding my land for taxes they are so greedy.

I have refused to hand my lands over and they tied me and my daughters to a pole and beat us. They want me to stand down as Queen and the beatings were a warning to me to do as I am told. I will not. My people are outraged and are loyal to me. I am a good Queen and I will fight back.

I am going to raise an army and we will march on the Roman City at Colchester I will show the Romans that we will not tolerate this.

We took Colchester easily other tribes have joined my army and we are marching on London and Saint Albans. I now have a mighty army.

The Romans sent soldiers to try and defeat us but we beat them easily. I have ordered my army to kill every Roman they see, we are going to drive the Romans from our lands for good.

Saint Albans and London have been destroyed my army burnt the cities down and we killed many Romans. Now we have to find Suetonius the Roman Governor and defeat him and his troops. We have heard he is in the north so we march tonight.

We have found the Governor, he has marched south to meet us. I have a huge army and we out number his troops, the day of battle belongs to us, and we have our gods on our side. I have sent for our families to come and watch us defeat these Romans and drive them from our lands.

Disaster, my warriors are beaten I had to flee the field of battle but I have been captured with my daughters. My warriors attacked the Roman lines but made no real impact. The Romans countered and drove my warriors back. Our supporters blocked our retreat and the warriors were cut down. Then, once the Romans broke their way through my army they began to slaughter women and children. The battle has been lost the Romans will take my land and my people will be enslaved. I shall be humiliated in Rome before its people. One of my loyal followers has smuggled me in poison. I am a Celtic Queen and cannot suffer the humiliation. My daughters and I will take the poison. The land of the Iceni now belongs to Rome.



Queen Boudicca of the Iceni before battle

Questions:

1. What Celtic tribe is Boudicca the queen of?

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2. Where does this tribe live?

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3. What is the year is it?

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4. Does Queen Boudicca like the Romans and why?

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5. What is the name of bouddica's husband?

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6. What happened to Boudicca's husband and what did the Romans want and do ?

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7. What did Boudicca do next?

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8. Name the towns that Boudicca and her army destroyed?

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9. What is the name of the Roman Governor of Britain?

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10. What does Boudicca want to do to the Governor?

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11. Pretend you are one of Boudicca's warriors and describe the battle you fight.

11. Continue with your story.

11. Continue with your story.

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12. What happened to Boudicca after the battle?

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13. Why did Queen Boudicca commit Suicide?

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14. Draw a Picture of the Battle.