



BOUDICA KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview and Map

Who Was Boudica?

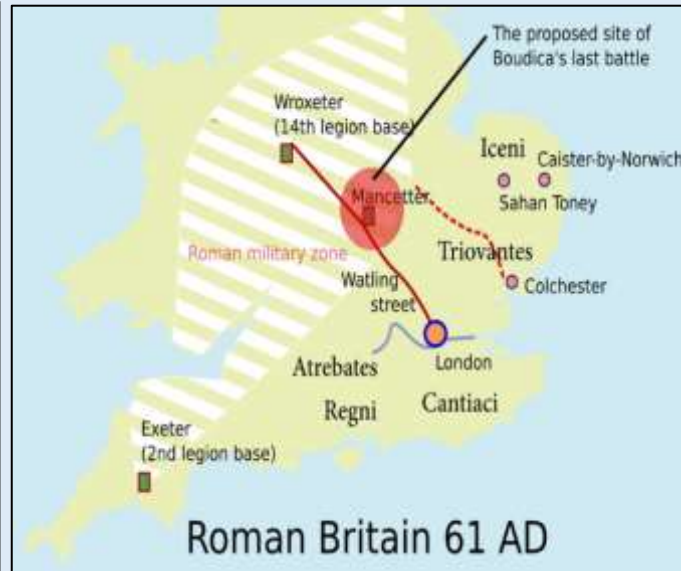
Boudica (sometimes spelt Boudicca, Boadicea, or Boudicea) was the queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe.

Under her rule, the tribe led a revolt against the forces of the Roman Empire in Britain, between 60-61CE.

The Romans had ignored the will of her deceased husband, Prasutagus, and had treated the tribe badly.

The revolt eventually failed, but led to several other uprisings. Boudica is therefore considered as a folk hero in the United Kingdom.

Boudica died shortly after the revolt – she is thought to have poisoned herself.



Important People

Boudica

Boudica was the leader of the resistance against the Romans. It is likely that she was tall, with long reddish hair, and was of royal descent. Cassius Dio (a Roman statesman) also described her as having a harsh voice and a piercing glare. The wife of the former King of Iceni, Prasutagus, Boudica rebelled against the Romans after they ignored the terms her late husband's will. Boudica and her daughters were assaulted by several Roman occupiers, who also tried to increase their power over her kingdom of Iceni. Uniting with other tribes (including the Trinovantes) Boudica was successful in destroying St. Albans, Colchester and London, killing many thousands of Romans (often by torture), before being defeated in the Midlands. Boudica and her daughters poisoned themselves, rather than being taken alive.



Gaius Suetonius Paulinus



Gaius Suetonius Paulinus was a Roman general best known for stopping the rebellion of Boudica. He was appointed the title of the Roman Governor of Britain in around 58CE. He aggressively tried to subdue any rebel tribes. Boudica's rebellion took advantage of his absence on one of these missions (he was in Anglesey at the time the rebellion started). After hearing of the trouble, he marched to London (called Londinium at the time) but realised that he did not have the numbers to defend it, and so withdrew. He eventually regrouped and met Boudica's army at an unknown location in the West Midlands. Even though the Romans were heavily outnumbered, Roman tactics and skill helped them to win the battle.

Prasutagus



Prasutagus was the King of Iceni, an ancient Celtic tribe who used to occupy the area of what is now Norfolk. He is best-known as the husband of Boudica. As an ally of Rome, his tribe was allowed to remain mostly independent, but it meant that as well as naming his two daughters as his successors, he also had to place the Roman Emperor on his will. The Romans ignored his will and took over, leading to Boudica's rebellion.

Catus Decianus



Catus Decianus was the Roman procurator (the person in charge of money) of Britain at the time of the rebellion. It is thought that his greed partially caused Boudica to rise up against the Romans – upon the death of Prasutagus, Catus had demanded that he demanded that Iceni loans were repaid, and he confiscated some of their other income. When called for, he only sent 200 men to Colchester, and fled himself!

Important Places, Events and Information

Camulodunum (Colchester)



Camulodunum was the ancient Roman name of the town that is now Colchester in Essex. It was mostly a Roman Legionary base when Boudica and her forces attacked. After being destroyed in the rebellion, it was rebuilt, becoming a major centre in the 2nd/3rd centuries.

Fact
Colchester lays claim to being the oldest recorded town in the UK.

Londinium (London)



Londinium was a settlement built on the current site of the City of London around 43CE. It was a port and commercial area throughout the time of the Romans. It was only a modest town, with a small garrison, which was abandoned as Boudica's forces approached.

Fact
After Boudica's defeat, London was rebuilt and rapidly grew into the UK's largest town.

Verulamium (St. Albans)



Verulamium was a town in Roman Britain, situated in the southwest corner of what is now St. Albans. After the Roman invasion, it grew into a large town, which meant that it caught the attention of Boudica. On her orders, the town was sacked and burnt in 61CE.

Fact
Many of the Roman parts of the town have never been dug up – they are now parkland.

Roman Invasion



In 43CE, the Romans invaded Britain and gradually took over power from local tribes. Eleven British King surrendered without any losses, meaning they were free to be largely independent allies of the Romans. The Iceni tribe were one of these 11 allies.

Fact
It is unknown whether Prasutagus himself surrendered, or one of his ancestor kings.

Prasutagus' Death



Prasutagus enjoyed a long and mostly trouble-free reign. It is unknown exactly how he died in 61CE, but it is thought to have been a worrying time for the Iceni – he had been a strong and successful King.

Fact
The Romans capitalised on his death and began to take over Iceni lands.

Battle of Watling Street



The final battle at the end of the Boudican revolt is thought to have taken place on the Roman trade road now known as Watling Street. The alliance of tribes, led by Boudica, were finally brought to a halt by Suetonius' Roman army. Although the Romans were heavily outnumbered, their greater military understanding and use of local terrain allowed them to beat the tribes. The exact site of the battle along the road is unknown.

Fact
Watling Street is a long, long street that spreads across much of England. It is thought to have been a major trade route. It is highlighted in red on the map shown on the left.

Boudica's Death



Defeated by the Romans, Boudica knew that both she and her daughters would be in for a rough time. The Romans were well-known for thinking up horrible means of torture for those who rebelled against them (in order to prevent anyone else from getting ideas!) At some time in the battle (or not long after) Boudica and her daughters killed themselves with poison.

Fact
Boudica means 'victory'
Fact
Romans had lots of elaborate ways to torture prisoners, which Boudica was keen to avoid!

Boudica's Appearance



Boudica has been shown in lots of different ways over the years. However, she is thought to have had long red hair, to have been tall, and to have always worn a large golden necklace and colourful tunics.

Fact
Boudica was fairly young, only around 31 when she died.

The Boudican Layer



If you dig deep around Colchester then you come to a layer of ash, broken pottery, and other debris, known as the 'Boudican Layer.' It is the remnants of the destruction caused when Boudica attacked the town.

Fact
The rebels destroyed everything, including every last citizen.

Comparisons with other female rulers



Boudica's story has been linked with the lives of two of Britain's other strong female rulers – Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. There are obvious comparisons to Elizabeth – her mental toughness and physical appearance being two. Apparently, Queen Victoria often compared herself to the Iceni Queen.

Fact
All three women lived through times that were dominated by men, and showed amazing courage and strength to rule.

Boudica Timeline

43CE – A large Roman army invade Britain. Some tribes (like the Iceni) form Allies with the Romans.

49-60CE – Boudica marries Prasutagus, King of Iceni. They have two daughters.

60CE – Prasutagus dies. The Romans ignore his will, and take all of his wealth. Boudica and her daughters are flogged.

60CE – Boudica calls together an army, including the Trinovantes, and other local tribes.

60CE – Boudica's army destroys Colchester, St. Albans and London, killing 80,000 people.

61CE – The Romans respond by beating Boudica's army in the Midlands.

61CE – Boudica and her daughters take poison so that they are not captured alive.