

Wondrous Boudicca

I'm Arthur the farmer but once I was Arthur the warrior and fought with Boudicca to defeat the Romans. Boudicca was a fantastic leader. The Romans treated her very badly but she didn't run away. She fought them magnificently.

Let me tell you why she fought them. Boudicca was married to Prasutagus. He was the king of the Iceni tribe to which I belong. When the Romans came, they helped him keep in power but do you know what they wanted in return? – his lands and money when he died. Now that was too much. Eventually Prasutagus died and the Romans came to take their reward. But Boudicca was not happy. She wanted to lead the Iceni. She's a woman, but that's no reason not to lead a big tribe. The Romans would not have any of it. They attacked Boudicca and her two pretty daughters too. It's a wonder they weren't killed.

The Romans made everyone give up their swords. I mean what do they think they are doing? It is our right to carry a sword. They have no right to stop us. After they had decided to take over from Boudicca, they started taking other people's property, too. It was a disgrace, and we wouldn't stand for it. Lots of tribes got together to support Boudicca in taking on the Romans.

Boudicca was not just brave, she was cunning too. She waited until the Roman army had gone to Wales then started her attacks. We went with her and slaughtered all the Romans we could find and the British who had become their friends.

No one was a match for us. We destroyed Camulodunum first where the emperor Claudius was having a new temple built. We knocked that down and left the town in ruins. We chased a lot of rich merchants out of Londinium and killed everyone who was left behind. Londinium did burn well.

The Trinovantes joined up with us to attack Verulamium. This town had been set up with the help of the Catuvellauni. You know what that tribe is like, always siding with the Romans. Well, we saw them off too.

The Romans must have got a panic on because they came back from Wales but we went for them even though we were tired after all those battles. Boudicca inspired us to fight and she led us into battle one last time. Sadly we could not win. Boudicca got away though and later died. She didn't die in battle she was too good for the Romans. They had to re-think how they were going to manage to stay in Britain.

Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 18 and 19** of *The Romans in Britain*

Wondrous Boudicca

Age range

- You may wish to cut down the story a little for years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7) can use the whole story.

Resources

A photocopy of the sheet, a costume of a Celtic warrior (optional).

Using the worksheet

This activity should be used in conjunction with activity **8B**. It is aimed to show how some people thought that Boudicca was a heroine. Activity **8B** presents the opposite case. You may either let the students read through the account themselves or any students who are particularly interested in drama might like to dress up in a costume and tell the class by reading from the sheet. Another student could then present the case of the Roman soldier. The accounts have been written in “everyday English” to highlight the opinions of the speaker.

Younger students

The students should look for evidence that support the idea that Boudicca was right in what she did. When they have heard or read the soldier's account they can look for places in the accounts which agree and disagree on the facts.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know that sources can reflect the opinion of the writer or speaker.
- Know that sources about events can contradict each other.

Older students

The students could try and distinguish between fact and opinion in this account and then perform the same exercise on the account given in **8B**. They should then try and state what really happened. You could ask them if anything they have read or viewed before about Boudicca has affected them in their judgements of what is fact and what is just opinion. They could present their

findings in a report or read out their findings so the rest of the class may see how it could differ from either of the two sources.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Distinguish fact from opinion.
- Know that sources may contradict each other.
- Present findings from studying two sources.

Barbarous Boudicca

I am Gaius, a soldier in the Roman army. I was with my troops in Wales when we heard of the trouble in the south. It was that mad woman Boudicca. She had sneakily waited until we were out of the way to slaughter thousands of innocent people. Boudicca had been the wife of the king of the Iceni Prasutagus. He was hardly a king though. We had to help him rule. We did that a lot with the kings of these British tribes. All we asked was that when they died they gave their lands and money to us for safekeeping. You don't want revolts breaking out and people in the tribes fighting among themselves.

Well, when Prasutagus eventually died, Boudicca wants to rule the Iceni herself. I mean she's a woman. Women in the Roman empire are just not cut out to do the ruling. She should have cleared off and left us to it. But oh no. She winds everybody up and gets a real motley crew of an army together to go on the rampage. The first place they attacked was Camulodunum. Claudius was having a magnificent temple built there and they destroyed it. They burnt Londinium to the ground and killed anyone they could find. Our good friends the Catuvellauni were attacked simply for knowing what is best for Britannia. The woman was totally mad.

Anyway we got back to somewhere in the middle of the country and we heard Boudicca was heading towards us. Our scouts calculated that they outnumbered us by ten to one. I must admit we were a bit scared but when we saw them it was a joke. Boudicca had no idea how to run an army. They had no discipline and no courage. When we got stuck in they gave up and ran away. Boudicca didn't stand and fight and go down with her men on the battlefield. She sloped away and took poison before we could get to her.

We changed our way of dealing with the British after that to stop ungrateful barbarians spoiling things for everybody.

Teacher's sheet

Based on **pages 18 and 19** of *The Romans in Britain*

Barbarous Boudicca

Age range

- You may wish to cut down the story a little for years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7) can use the whole story.

Resources

A photocopy of the sheet, a costume of a Roman soldier (optional).

findings in a report or read out their findings so the rest of the class may see how it could differ from either of the two sources.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Distinguish fact from opinion.
- Know that sources may contradict each other.
- Present findings from studying two sources.

Using the worksheet

This activity should be used in conjunction with activity **8A**. It is aimed to show how some people thought that Boudicca was a trouble maker. Activity **8A** presents the opposite case. You may either let the students read through the account themselves or any students who are particularly interested in drama might like to dress up in a costume and tell the class by reading from the sheet. Another student could then present the case of the Celtic warrior. The accounts have been written in “everyday English” to highlight the opinions of the speaker.

Younger students

The students should look for evidence that support the idea that Boudicca was a trouble maker. When they have heard or read the warrior's account they can look for places in the accounts which agree and disagree on the facts.

Outcomes

The students:

- Know that sources can reflect the opinion of the writer or speaker.
- Know that sources about events can contradict each other.

Older students

The students could try and distinguish between fact and opinion in this account and then perform the same exercise on the account given in **8A**. They should then try and state what really happened. You could ask them if anything they have read or viewed before about Boudicca has affected them in their judgements of what is fact and what is just opinion. They could present their