

Boudicca



Before the Romans arrived in Britain, different parts of the country were controlled by different Celtic tribes: the Iceni, for instance, in what is now known as East Anglia, and the Trinovantes in an area north of the Thames estuary. Often they traded; sometimes they fought against each other.

The ruler of the Iceni was Prasutagus, the husband of Boudicca. When the Romans conquered the south of England in AD 43, Prasutagus was permitted to carry on ruling. When he died, however, the Romans took direct control, plundering Iceni lands and property. The tribes began to resent the Romans.

At first, the Celtic tribes had great success, defeating the Roman Ninth Legion and destroying the Roman capital of Camulodunum (Colchester). This was followed by victories at Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans). The Roman Governor of Britain at the time, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, was forced to retreat.

The Roman historian, Tacitus, has provided us with an account of a battle that took place around AD 61.

It has been said that Boudicca prayed to Andrasta, the Celtic goddess of war, before facing the reinforcements that Governor Paulinus put together. Yet, even heavily outnumbering the Romans, the Iceni and the other tribes were no match for the Romans' discipline, weaponry and cavalry. It was a massacre. What happened to Boudicca, no one can be certain. Was she killed in battle or taken prisoner? Some say she took her own life.

Her determination and bravery live on. In 1902, a bronze statue of the Warrior Queen riding in her chariot, designed by Thomas Thornycroft, was erected near the Houses of Parliament in London.

Now complete the table below, saying who each person was.

name	who or what were they?
Iceni	<hr/>
Prasutagus	
Trinovantes	
Camulodunum	
Londinium	
Verulamium	
Gaius Suetonius	
Paulinus	
Tacitus Andrasta	
Thomas	
Thornycroft	
Warrior Queen	

