

# Boudicca

## Who Was Boudicca and What Was She Like?

Boudicca was a British queen. She fought against the Romans.

Boudicca is believed to have:

- been very tall;
- had long, **auburn** hair;
- been scary to be around;
- had a fierce look in her eye;
- had a **stern** voice;
- worn a thick, colourful cloak;
- worn a large, golden necklace.



## When Did She Live?

Boudicca is thought to have lived between AD 30 and AD 60.

## What Is Boudicca Famous For?

Boudicca's husband was called Prasutagus. Prasutagus was the king of the Iceni people. When her husband died, Boudicca led the Iceni people in a battle against the Romans.

## What Exactly Was Her Name?

### Did you know...?

Boudicca and Prasutagus had two daughters but nobody knows what they were called.



There have been lots of different spellings of Boudicca's name throughout history. The first spelling was written by Tacitus, who spelt it both as Boudica and Boudicca.

It is thought that somebody who copied Tacitus's work in 1624 might have accidentally spelt her name as Boadicea. Her name has even been spelt as Buduica, Voadiciea and Bunduca!

Nobody alive today knows exactly how Boudicca's name would have been said. Even if Boudicca herself could tell us, she would probably not have known how to write it down because not many people could read and write when Boudicca was alive.

Most people now agree that her name is **pronounced** as Boo-dih-cah.

### Did you know...?

The name Boudicca is thought to come from the Celtic word 'boudā' which means 'victory'.



### What Happened to Boudicca?

Nobody knows exactly what happened to Boudicca. Some people think that Boudicca drank poison so that she would not be caught by the Romans. Other people think that she became poorly during the battle.

### Did you know...?

There is a statue of Boudicca in London near Westminster Bridge. The statue is called Boadicea and Her Daughters. The bronze statue shows Boudicca and her two daughters riding in a chariot which is being pulled by two horses. Boudicca has a spear in her right hand.

### Glossary

**auburn:** A reddish-brown colour.

**pronounce:** To correctly say a word.

**stern:** Serious or strict.



# Questions

1. What is the name Boudicca thought to mean? Tick one.

- fierce
- victory
- winner
- auburn

2. What was Boudicca's husband called? Tick one.

- Iceni
- Tacitus
- Voadiciea
- Prasutagus

3. Which of these statements are true? Tick **two**.

- Boudicca had two sons.
- Boudicca was alive in the year AD 68.
- Boudicca led the Iceni people.
- There is a statue of Boudicca in London.

4. Draw **four** lines to match each aspect of Boudicca to the adjective describing it in the text.

height



hair



eyes



voice



auburn

tall

stern

fierce

5. Find the information about the statue of Boudicca. What is Boudicca riding in?

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6. Find and copy the way that Boudicca's name was accidentally spelt in 1624.
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7. Explain why Boudicca might have been scary to be around.
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# Answers

1. What is the name Boudicca thought to mean? Tick one.

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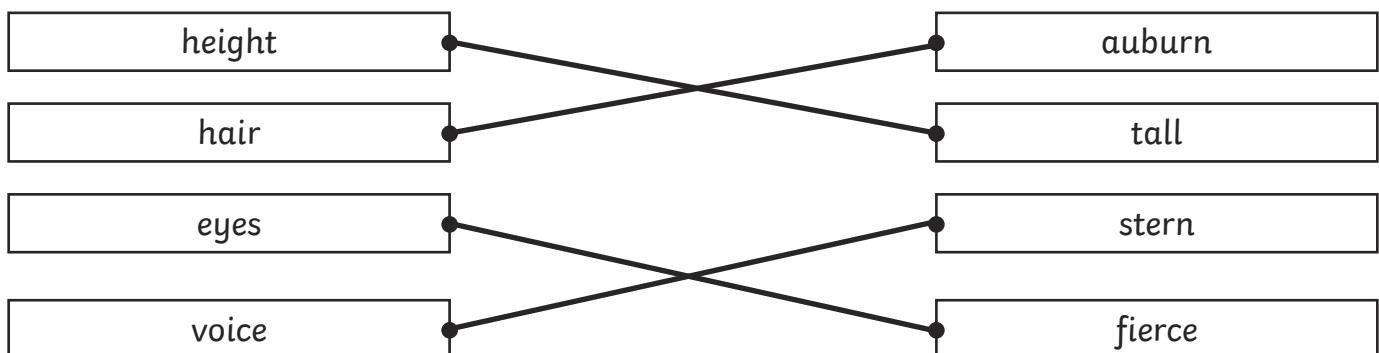
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5. Find the information about the statue of Boudicca. What is Boudicca riding in?

**The bronze statue shows Boudicca and her two daughters riding in a chariot which is being pulled by two horses.**

- Find and copy the way that Boudicca's name was accidentally spelt in 1624.

**Boadicea**

- Explain why Boudicca might have been scary to be around.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Boudicca might have been scary to be around because she is said to have had a fierce look in her eye and a stern voice so she sounds like she would be frightening.**

# Boudicca



## Who Was Boudicca and What Was She Like?

Boudicca was a British queen. She fought against the Romans as they invaded Britain. **Scholars** agree that she was born into a noble family with royal blood.

Boudicca is believed to have been very tall and to have had long, **auburn** hair. Stories tell that she was frightening to be around because she had a fierce look in her eye and a harsh, stern voice. Although it is not known for certain, she is believed to have worn a thick, colourful cloak and a large, golden necklace.

## When Did She Live?

Boudicca is thought to have lived between AD 30 and AD 60.

## What Is Boudicca Famous For?

Boudicca's husband was Prasutagus. Prasutagus was the king and leader of the Iceni people. After the death of her husband, the Roman army broke a promise that they had made to Prasutagus so Boudicca led the Iceni people in a battle against them.

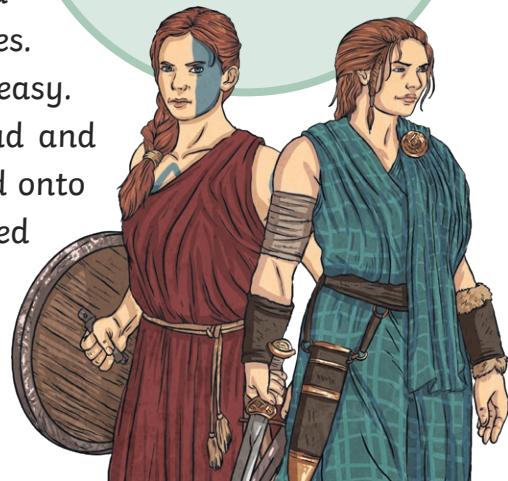
## What Exactly Was Her Name?

Most of the things that we know about Boudicca today come from the works of Tacitus. Tacitus had been taught how to read and write so he wrote about the history of the Roman empire in an ancient language called Latin.

Many people were interested in what Tacitus had written and wanted a copy to read for themselves. However, copying books in ancient times was not easy. To copy a book, someone who knew how to read and write would need to copy the book word by word onto new paper. It is thought that somebody who copied Tacitus's work in 1624 might have accidentally misspelt Boudicca as Boadicea. Her name has even been spelt as Buduica, Voadicea and Bunduca throughout the ages!

### Did you know...?

Boudicca and Prasutagus had two daughters but nobody knows their names.



Nobody alive today knows exactly how Boudicca's name would have been pronounced. Even if Boudicca herself could tell us, she would likely not have known how to write it down. However, most people now agree that the correct spelling is Boudicca and that her name would probably have been pronounced as Boo-dih-cah.

## What Happened to Boudicca?

Nobody knows exactly what happened to Boudicca. While some scholars believe that Boudicca poisoned herself to avoid being captured by the Romans, others believe that she simply became ill during battle.

### Did you know...?

The name Boudicca is thought to come from the Celtic word 'boudā' which means 'victory'.

### Glossary

**auburn:** A reddish-brown colour.

**scholars:** People who are highly educated or experts in a topic.



# Questions

**1. ...to have had long, auburn hair.**

Which of these is closest in meaning to **auburn**? Tick one.

- brownish-black
- reddish-brown
- blondish-brown
- blackish-grey

**2. ...she is believed to have worn a thick, colourful cloak...**

Which word in this sentence shows that nobody knows this fact for certain? Tick one.

- believed
- have
- worn
- cloak

**3. Why do some scholars believe that Boudicca poisoned herself? Tick one.**

- There was evidence of it left behind.
- They believe that she did not want to be captured.
- Somebody who was there saw her do it.
- She did not want to live without her husband.

**4. Why does nobody know the names of Boudicca's daughters? Tick **two**.**

- There is no written evidence.
- They were purposefully kept secret.
- They changed their names many times.
- Nobody who met them is still alive.

**5. List **two** incorrect spellings of Boudicca's name which have been used historically.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Find and copy the Celtic word which the name Boudica is thought to come from.

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7. Summarise why Boudicca began to fight against the Romans.

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8. Why can it not be known for certain what happened to Boudicca?

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# Answers

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- She did not want to live without her husband.

**4. Why does nobody know the names of Boudicca's daughters? Tick **two**.**

- There is no written evidence.**
- They were purposefully kept secret.
- They changed their names many times.
- Nobody who met them is still alive.**

**5. List **two** incorrect spellings of Boudicca's name which have been used historically.**

**Accept any two of the following:** Boadicea; Buduica; Voadiciea; Bunduca.

**6. Find and copy the Celtic word which the name Boudica is thought to come from.**

**boudā**

7. Summarise why Boudicca began to fight against the Romans.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Boudicca began to fight against the Romans because they broke a promise that they had made to her husband Prasutagus.**

8. Why can it not be known for certain what happened to Boudicca?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: It cannot be known for certain what happened to Boudicca because nobody alive today was around at the time and there are no reliable historical records.**

# Boudicca

## Who Was Boudicca and What Was She Like?

Boudicca was an ancient British queen who fought against the Romans as they invaded Britain during the first century AD. Scholars agree that she was of noble birth and, in ancient texts, she is described as having royal blood.

Boudicca is believed to have been very tall and to have had long, auburn hair. Ancient tales recount that she was intimidating to be around as she had a fierce look in her eye and a harsh, stern voice. Typically for the time, she is believed to have worn a thick, colourful cloak. Around her neck, it is rumoured that Boudicca liked to wear a large, golden necklace.



## When Did She Live?

Boudicca is thought to have lived between AD 30 and AD 60.

## What Is Boudicca Famous For?

Boudicca's husband was Prasutagus. Prasutagus was the king and leader of the Iceni people in the area mostly known today as Norfolk, England. After the death of her husband, the Roman army broke a promise that they had made to Prasutagus so Boudicca led the Iceni people in revolt against them.

## What Exactly Was Her Name?

Most things that we know about Boudicca today come from the works of Tacitus, who was a Roman historian and writer. Having been born into a wealthy family, Tacitus was taught how to read and write and he documented the history of the Roman empire by writing about it in Latin. Many people were interested

in the works of Tacitus and wanted a copy to read for themselves. However, copying books in ancient times was not easy: it needed someone who knew how to read and write to copy out the book, writing it word by word onto new parchment. It is thought that somebody who copied Tacitus's work in 1624 might have accidentally misspelt Boudicca as Boadicea – a name that many



people have been taught since. In fact, many British navy ships throughout history have been named HMS Boadicea rather than HMS Boudicca. Her name has even been spelt as Buduica, Voadicea and Bunduca throughout the ages!

As nobody alive today was around during the time when Latin was spoken in ancient Rome, there is nobody who knows exactly how her name would have been pronounced. Even if Boudicca herself could tell us, she would likely not have known how to write it down. However, most scholars now agree that the correct spelling is the one used by Tacitus (Boudicca) and that her name would most likely have been pronounced as:

Say it so that...

Bou	di	cca
it rhymes with the word 'you'.	the 'i' is like the 'i' in the word 'fish'.	the 'ca' is like the 'ca' at the start of the word 'cat'.

### What Happened to Boudicca?

Exactly what happened to Boudicca and where it happened are unknown. While some scholars believe that Boudicca poisoned herself to avoid capture by the Romans, others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.



#### Did you know...?

The name Boudicca is thought to come from the Celtic word 'boudā' which means 'victory'.

# Questions

1. Who is responsible for most of the historical records about Boudicca? Tick one.

- Prasutagus
- Tacitus
- Iceni
- Voadiciea

2. **...others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.**

Which word in this phrase implies that the illness caused Boudicca's death? Tick one.

- believe
- contracted
- fatal
- battle

3. Fill in the missing words:

Boudicca had a \_\_\_\_\_ look in her eye and a harsh, \_\_\_\_\_ voice.

4. **Boudicca is thought to have lived between...**

What do the words 'is thought to have' imply in this phrase?

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5. In which area of modern-day England were the Iceni people mostly thought to have lived?

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6. Explain why Boudicca's name has been commonly misspelt.

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7. Do you think that Boudicca was a fitting name for the Iceni queen? Explain your answer.

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8. Summarise Boudicca's appearance in 20 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Who is responsible for most of the historical records about Boudicca? Tick one.

- Prasutagus
- Tacitus**
- Iceni
- Voadiciea

2. ...others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.

Which word in this phrase implies that the illness caused Boudicca's death? Tick one.

- believe
- contracted
- fatal**
- battle

3. Fill in the missing words:

Boudicca had a **fierce** look in her eye and a harsh, **stern** voice.

4. **Boudicca is thought to have lived between...**

What do the words 'is thought to have' imply in this phrase?

**The words 'is thought to have' imply that the information is not known for certain.**

5. In which area of modern-day England were the Iceni people mostly thought to have lived?

**Prasutagus was the king and leader of the Iceni people in the area mostly known today as Norfolk, England.**

6. Explain why Boudicca's name has been commonly misspelt.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Boudicca's name has been commonly misspelt because copying books meant rewriting each word by hand and this means that it is easy for people to make mistakes with the information. It has also been misspelt because no one knows for certain the original and correct spelling.**

7. Do you think that Boudicca was a fitting name for the Iceni queen? Explain your answer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as:** I do not think that Boudicca was a fitting name for her because it comes from a word which means 'victory' yet Boudicca did not win the battle against the Romans.
  
8. Summarise Boudicca's appearance in 20 words or fewer.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as:** Boudicca had long, auburn hair, an intimidating demeanour and wore typical Celtic clothing, such as a cloak.