

History

Boudicca's attack on Colchester

Please watch the following video: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zk3b4wx>

If you cannot watch the video, look at the transcript below:

Transcript of video:



Colchester was built in Roman style, all the usual features. Forum: Roman marketplace, basilica: government building, Temple.....

"How do you know that?"

"It was emperor Claudius' temple, wasn't it?"

"Yes."

"The one especially built to celebrate his victory?"

"Yes."

"And the one destroyed by the Iceni tribe, who if I remember rightly, were Clets!"

"Yes, but they didn't destroy it all did they?"

"Didn't they?"

"No, you can still see signs of it in that building over there."



"That's not a Roman building"

"No, but the signs of us Romans can be found... underneath!"



"There you are, the foundations of the temple. Those are 100% Roman."

"Shame they are not 100% here."

"Rom, remind me exactly what happened here in Colchester. Surely we Celts didn't get the better of your splendid Roman army!"

"Can't quite remember to tell you the truth."

"Can't you? Well I think I may be able to. I believe it had something to do to Boudicca, who if my memory serves me well, wasn't only a Celt, but a woman, and a very brave one too."

"Boudicca? Never heard of her."

"Well I expect your gadget will be able to tell us"

"Very well" (plays a button on a device)

From device:

Boudicca was Queen of the Iceni tribe, a group of Celts who lived north of Colchester. When the Romans first conquered Britain, they left the Iceni's alone.



But when Boudicca's husband died, everything changed.



They took the Iceni's land, whipped Boudicca and attacked her daughters. Forcing her to take revenge. Boudicca led the Iceni's on a raid on Colchester. They set fire to the city and went to burn down St Albans and London. At first, they didn't face much opposition. But soon the Romans were able to put up an impressive fight and take charge again. Boudicca is believed to have killed herself rather than be shamed by her Roman enemies.

Now read through this information about Roman Towns:

The Roman towns were full of fine buildings and temples.



The Romans liked everything to be organised and orderly. Streets were laid out in neat, straight lines, like on a chess-board. In the middle there was a large square, called the **forum**. It was used as a market place and for meetings. It had shops and offices on three sides and government offices on the other side.

Many towns had running water and sewers. Aqueducts were bridges for bringing water to the towns.

Only the rich had water piped to their houses; everyone else used water from public fountains. The only toilets were public lavatories, which were built around the town and connected to underground sewers.

What could you find in most Roman towns?

Most towns would also have shops as well as the forum. At one end of the forum was a large building called the **basilica**. There were temples too where the Roman gods were worshipped. Some towns had **public baths**, an open-air theatre and huge monumental arches.

What was the general layout of a Roman town?

Throughout their empire the Romans built towns in exactly the same style. They were designed in the form of a grid, with streets built at right angles to each other and parallel with one of the two main roads.

The streets of Roman towns were between five and eight metres wide. Their width depended upon their importance.

Each town had two main roads. One heading North-South and the other East-West. At the point where these roads met was the town centre, where the administrative centre and the forum were found.

The central part of the town contained the main businesses, with the homes and dwellings of the citizens further towards the edges of the town.

What were Roman buildings made of?

Buildings were made of stone and brick. They were so well built that we have been able to excavate many Roman buildings and even towns.



Corbridge Roman Town as it might have looked and some of its remains today.

What were the largest towns the Romans built in Britain?

The three largest were London, Colchester and St. Albans. Colchester was their main town.

What were the names of the Roman towns?

The Romans called our towns different names to what we know them as today.

Verulamium (St Albans)

Lindum (Lincoln)

Eboracum (York)

Every town with a name ending in 'chester' or 'caster' or 'cester' was once a Roman town e.g. Doncaster, Dorchester and Cirencester.

Camulodunum (Colchester)

Callewa (Silchester)

Venta (Winchester)

Ratae (Leicester)

Glevum (Gloucester)

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/romans/towns.htm>

Task:

Record the key parts of a Roman town. Explain why these are the important parts.

Record how Boudicca would have felt. Record her motivation for attack.

For a next step: create a Roman Town using the pictures above as clues.