

Class 10 Reading

Read this text and answer the questions at the end. You will also use this text for your writing lesson.

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, Voadiciea 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

When answering the questions, remember to underline key words and read around them. Read the sentences the words are in and the sentences before and after if you need to. Think carefully about what they questions are asking you to do. Where there is a choice of answers, check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Who is responsible for most of the historical records about Boudicca?
 - a) Prasutagus
 - b) Tacitus
 - c) Iceni
 - d) Voadiciea
2. **...others believe that she simply contracted a fatal illness during battle.**
Which word in this phrase implies that the illness cause Boudicca's death?
 - a) believe
 - b) contracted
 - c) fatal
 - d) 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 thus phrase?
5. In which area of modern-day England were the Iceni people mostly thought to have lived?
6. Explain why Boudicca's name has been commonly misspelt.
7. Do you think that Boudicca was a fitting name for the Iceni queen? Explain your answer.
8. Summarise Boudicca's appearance in 20 words of fewer.

You can also use the following website and login details to read different books. You could also talk to somebody at home about what you have read or write about them as a book review.



Class Sign In Instructions

Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

1. Go to **www.getepic.com/students**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!

iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

1. Click on **"Have an account? Sign In"** then click on **"Students & Educators"**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!