



Invaders and Settlers: Romans



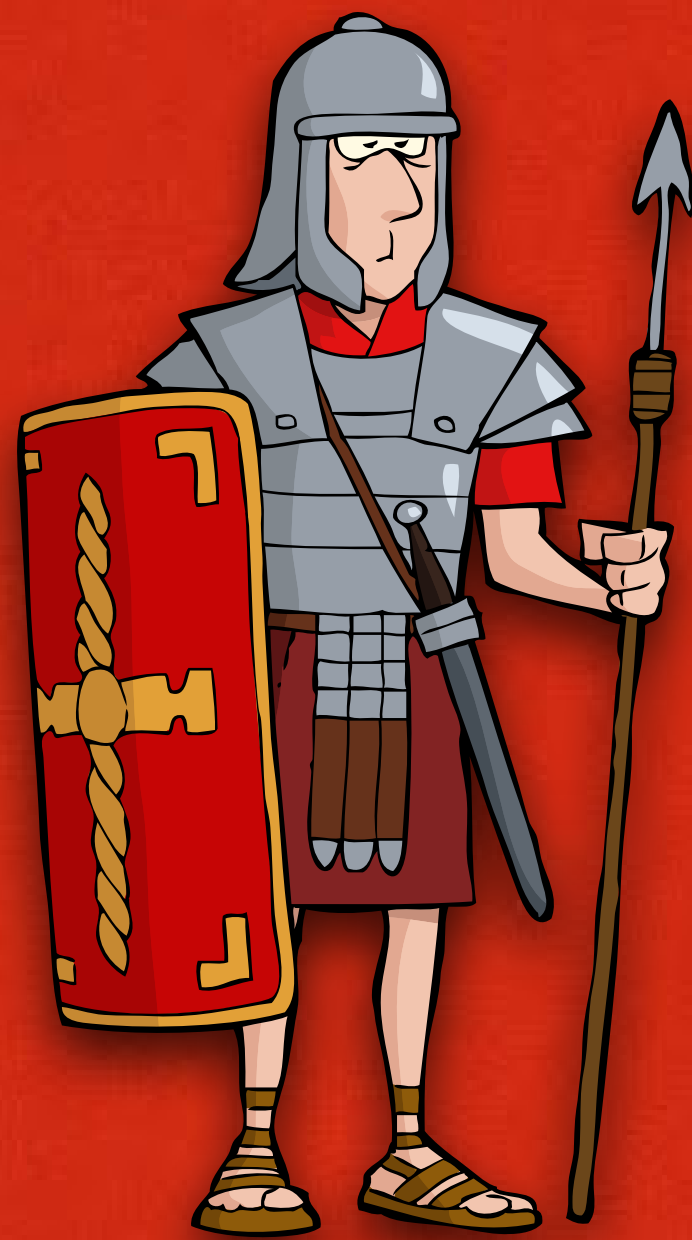
Learning Objective:

To find out about the results of Boudica's revolt

What do you remember about Boudica?



Did everyone have the same opinion of her?



Think, pair, then share your ideas.

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Boudica became queen of the Iceni tribe of Celts after her husband died. However, the Romans decided to take control of her lands by force. When she protested, she and her daughters were beaten.



Boudica was furious, and led a revolt against the Romans. She led an army made up of 100,000 men from other Celtic tribes who were also unhappy with the Roman rule. They marched to Colchester (then the capital of Roman Britain).

They took the city by storm, ransacking or torching everything they could find. Most of the city was burnt to the ground and they killed everyone they saw.



How do you think the Romans felt after hearing about their defeat at Colchester by Boudica?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.

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Boudica and her army continued their revolt in Londinium (now London) and Verulamium (now St Albans). Both cities were virtually destroyed. It is estimated that 70,000 - 80,000 people were killed altogether, some of whom were Celts.

One of the reasons that Boudica and her followers were so successful was that the Roman army were busy fighting wars elsewhere. They hadn't expected a rebellion in Britain, and were taken by surprise.



Think about what you know about the well-organised, highly trained Roman army, and Boudica's new army formed of previously warring tribes.

What do you think happened next?

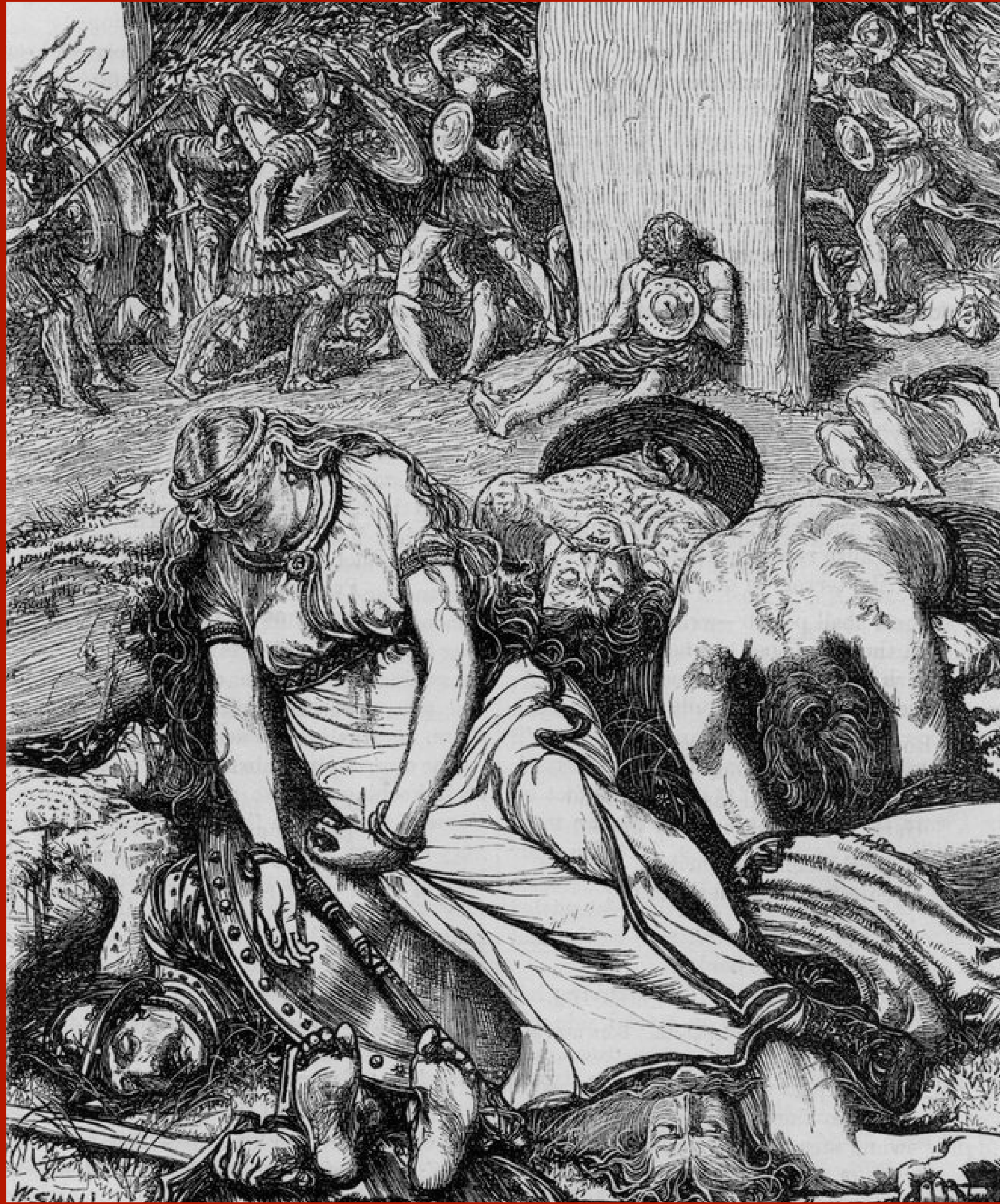
Who do you think won eventually, and why?



Think, pair, then share your ideas.

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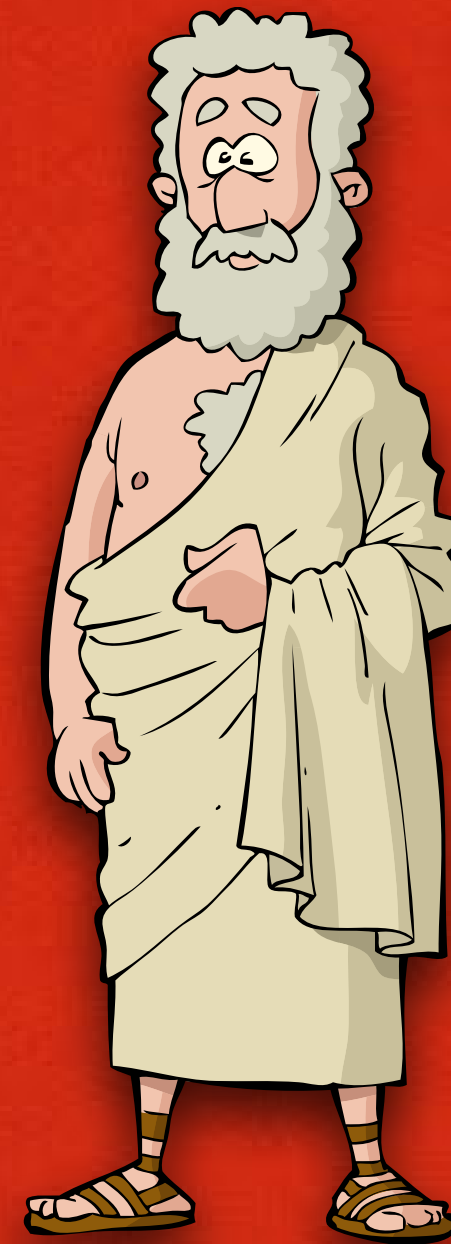
The Emperor of the Roman Empire, Nero, considered withdrawing from Britain altogether due to the ferocious nature of the attacks. However, eventually the Romans, led by the governor Suetonius, managed to use their tactics, strength and organisation to defeat Boudica and her army.

Boudica, however, did not want to be captured and suffer the humiliation of defeat. She committed suicide by drinking poison.

Most historians agree that Boudica's revolt was destined to fail.

The Roman army was too advanced for such disorganised and fractured tribes. Rather than freeing the Celts from Roman rule, it made the Romans even more determined to keep control over those Celts who still resented their presence in Britain.

Despite the outcome, do you think Boudica was right to fight for her people?

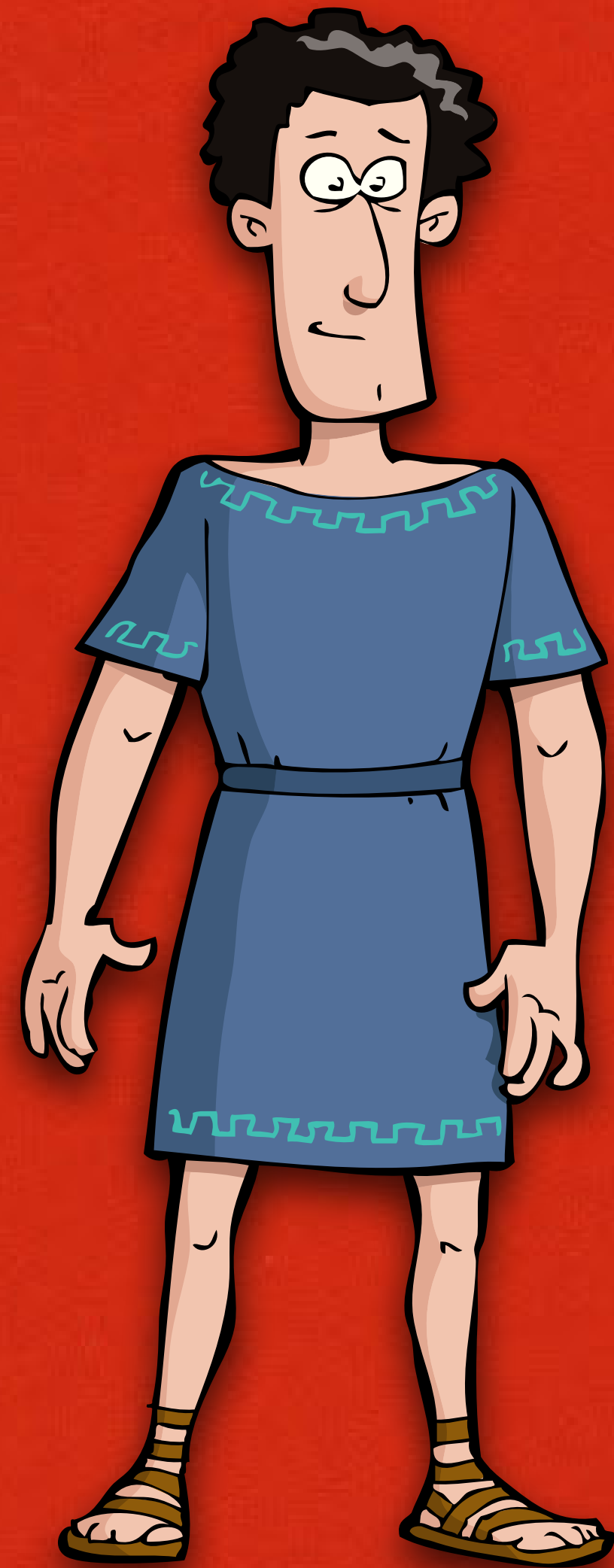


What would you have done if you were in Boudica's position?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.

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Now it's time for you to begin some independent work about Boudica's revolt.

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Plenary:



If you had to decide, whose side would you have been on: the Celts or the Romans?

Why?

Think, pair,
then share your ideas.

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