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Period 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium BC- 1<sup>st</sup> century BC

## The Celts



The Celts were an ancient civilization which dominated Northern and Western Europe before the Roman Empire. The Celts consisted of independent tribes that were culturally connected. At their height (300 BC) the Celts inhabited land from Ireland to Turkey allowing them in long distance trading in the Mediterranean. Celtic power fell as the Roman and Germans expanded

# Art / Architecture



Iron Age: 150-50 BC  
From the Thames River  
London, England. Not  
Used in battle, the horns  
were a symbol of the gods.  
This helmet was probably  
worn by someone of  
importance. This helmet is  
made of bronze and is  
decorated La Tène style,  
an art style used in Britain  
around this time. Originally  
this helmet would be  
shiny and was once  
decorated with studs of  
bright red glass.

Muirkidach's High Cross at Monasterboice  
Ireland. The high crosses  
consist of separate pieces of  
stone put together. Only about  
200 of these free standing  
monuments remain at this site.  
Some are plain while others  
are decorated with abstract  
ornament, spirals and patterns.  
The most sophisticated monuments  
have panels with sculpture of  
Christian themes.





Carpet pages From the Lindisfarne Gospels. These illustrations are typically placed at the beginning of each of the four Gospel Books. Carpet Pages are ornamentation with bright colors and complex patterns, and normally are symmetrical. Carpet pages are also found in some Hebrew manuscripts. Each carpet page contains a different form of a cross stressing the different church traditions.

Hanging Bowl 410AD Britain. The bowls are made of thin beaten bronze and are a cauldron shape. These cauldrons have 3 decorative plates and just below there's a ring to support hooks with rings. These bowls have beautiful enamel work.



The reversed side of a bronze Celtic mirror from Northamptonshire, England. (50 BC - AD) The mirror also has a La Tène style.

# Famous Celts



Brennus, Gaulish leader of the Senones who assembled the Senones to first fight the Etruscan city of Clusium and then later against Rome. He was able to route a Roman army 11 miles from Rome near the Allia River and occupied the city. In addition he created chaos in Macedonia by killing their king. He died in 279 BC, it was believed he committed suicide.

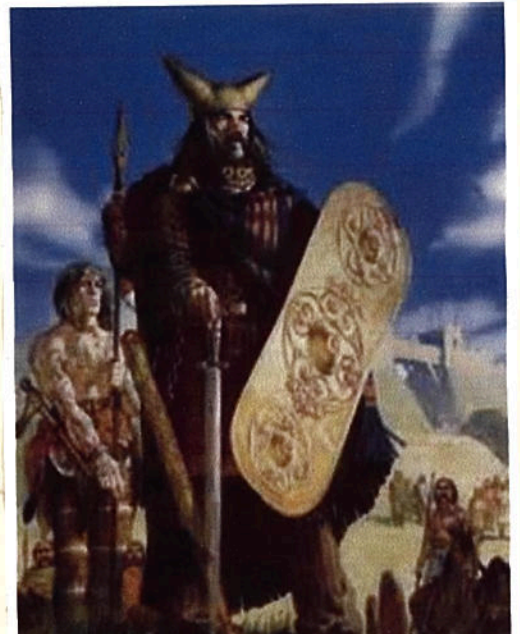


Cartimandua, queen of the Brigantes from 43 AD - 69 AD. She married a British chieftain, Venutrus, a valiant warrior. Cartimandua's marital problems brought Roman legions into her territory. In 69 AD she divorced Venutrus for Vellocatus. Venutrus then raised an army and threatened her, she called for help from the Romans but no one

Vercingetorix (75BC-46BC).  
He fought valiantly to keep  
the Roman Army from  
over running Gaul. Celtic  
Chieftain who managed to  
unite several Celtic tribes  
to fight the Romans.  
He was an Arverni, &  
one of the many Celtic tribes  
to rule over what is now  
France and Northern Germany

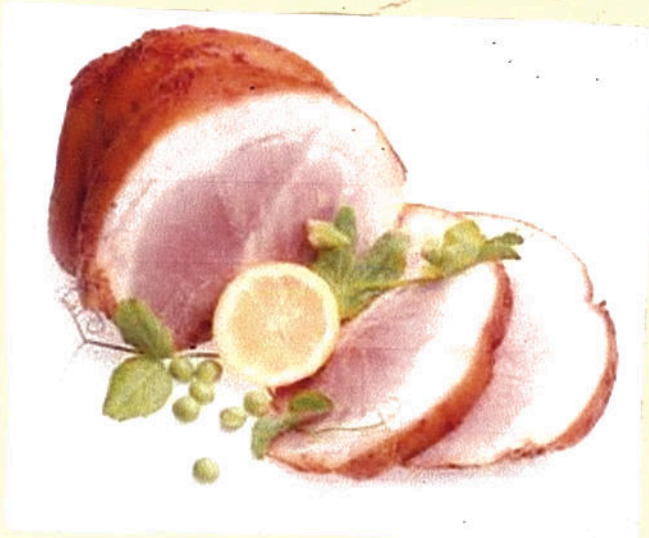


Boudicca, Celtic Queen led  
a violent revolt against the  
Roman, who occupied Britain.  
she was defeated by the  
Romans which ensured their  
presence on the island for  
for another 350 years. However  
she isn't forgotten the  
British remember her as the  
valiant uprising of the Native  
queen



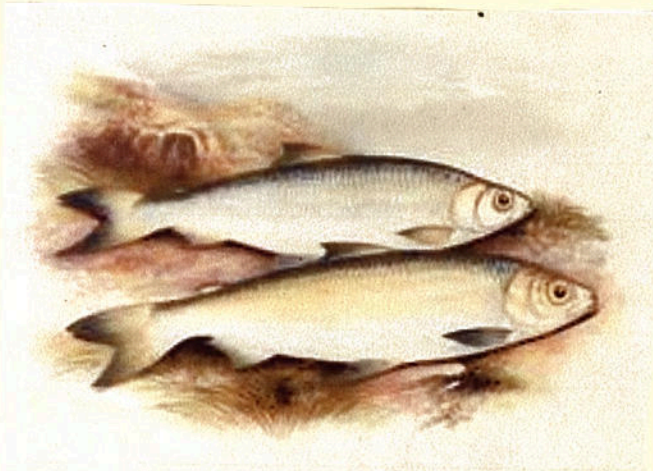
Cassivellaunus was a powerful  
British chieftain who was  
defeated by Julius  
Caesar during his second  
raiding. He led his tribe  
/ Catuvellani (Belgic people)  
against Roman invaders  
making use of guerrilla  
tactics and chariot warfare.

# Food



Celts utilized many types of animals such as sheep, pork, and beef. Red meat usually used in stews and soups. Both methods of cooking meat became easier when metal utensils were introduced.

Fire is ~~what~~ what the Celts used to cook their various meals. Just like other civilizations a fire made raw meat edible and also kept one warm.



The Celts caught fish with traps and cooked the fish over a fire. ~~However~~ The Celts probably ~~do~~ also but the Celts in stews



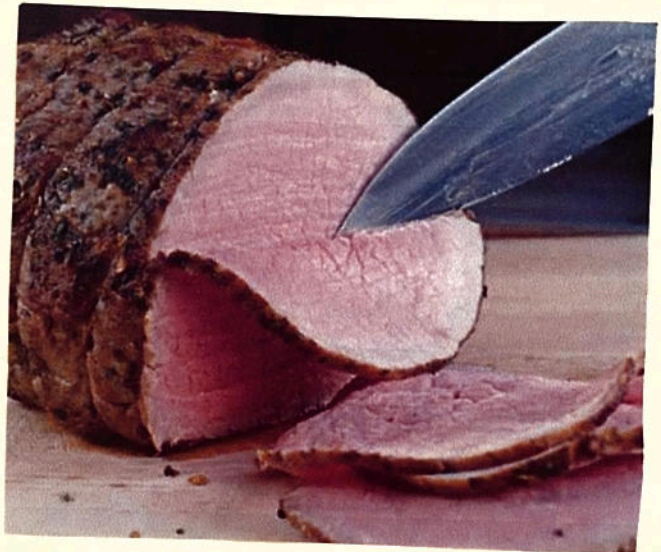
Celtic cheeses were made from livestock. It's to be believed that the Celts invented the milk chain. Cheese came from cows and the goat that the Celts had.

Celts also ate Potatoes. Potatoes are easy to grow in any season. The Celts that ate Potatoes were most likely farmers



~~Meat with the Celts~~

Meat with the Celts in Gaul sat on the ground on straw or hides and ate meat with their fingers, kind of like how the Vikings would eat.



# Inventions



Uilleann Pipes inspired by other types of bagpipes. These ~~pipes~~ musical pipes evolved from Irish War Pipes. However these pipes are different than normal bagpipes, the Uilleann pipes use a bag filled by bellows, not a blow pipe which gives it a two octave range.

Music is an important part of the early Celts. The Celtic Harp is also called the folk harp, level harp, or Irish Harp. Supposedly the harp was strung with either wire or guts. The wire made the music louder while the gut created more of a muted sound. These harps are still played today.







The Jig began with the early Celtic belief in polytheism, who were called Druids. As part of their religion they would perform a dance to the sun. The Jig grew in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century and were performed in the halls of new castles. Even now people still dance the Jig.

During the time of the Celts horses were the main use of transportation. According to archaeologists, the Celts were the first to make a form of horse shoes to protect ~~their~~ the horses feet. They used iron to make the shoes to prevent the hooves from wearing down.



Earliest forms of chain mail were found in Celtic graves. Chain mail is a protective covering consisting of thousand interlocking metal rings. As history went by more Celts used chain mail in battle and was adopted by the Romans.

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## Reflection

The Celts came from as far back as the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium and occupied much of Europe during their time. The Celts had many different groups, such as the La Tene, who dominated during the Iron age (450-50 BC) and occupied most of Western Europe. These Celts were culturally united but not politically, they were led by kings, but for religious and educational circumstances the people looked to the Druids. The La Tene's were more commonly known for their art, which consist of abstract swirls and geometric designs. The Celts expansion began the fifth and first century BC; during this the Celts migrated to the British Isles and Eastern Europe. In 390BC the Celts were able to advance to the Italian Peninsula sacking Rome. Celtic power began to fall when the Romans went through Italy and Spain conquering Gaul and pushing through Britain.

When looking for pictures for the postcard project I found that I used the databases provided for almost everything. When thinking about how my postcards should be organized, I wanted them to be unique; I wanted each of the postcards to have a different category. The postcards were sorted by, Religion, armor, lifestyle, money, and symbols. The pictures I used stood out to me in their own ways, by being different. I really liked the picture of the Horse carved onto the side of the hill. The first thing that popped into my mind seeing that photo was, "How did they do that?" The horse could only be seen from an aerial view, but back then the Celts didn't have technology to be able to see how precise they are, and yet the image looks just like a horse. The pictures I ended up for my Postcard project on the Celts represented the Celts in a distinctive way.

When I first got to Naples and was put into the honors program I was nervous because I was assigned a civilization, like everyone else in honors, but I didn't have any information on my civilization but everyone else in class had theirs because they were here for the beginning of the year. I got the Celts and I knew nothing about except for the fact that they originated from the United Kingdom. When I asked my dad about the Celts, he knew a lot more than I did. He told me that I could possibly be a descendent of them because I'm a quarter Scottish and that actually surprised me. Getting a culture that I didn't know anything about made me eager and upset. I was happy about getting the Celts

because then I could learn and become an expert on a civilization completely new to me, but I was upset because then I would have to do a bunch of research on the Celts, because I just got here and I had upcoming projects to complete on my civilization. Information that surprised me when doing research on the Celts was, that the Celts had been all over Europe owning an astonishing amount of land. I wish I could've experienced what a day as a Celt would be like, learning how difficult a women's life would be, what job a women must do in a tribe and how they were treated.