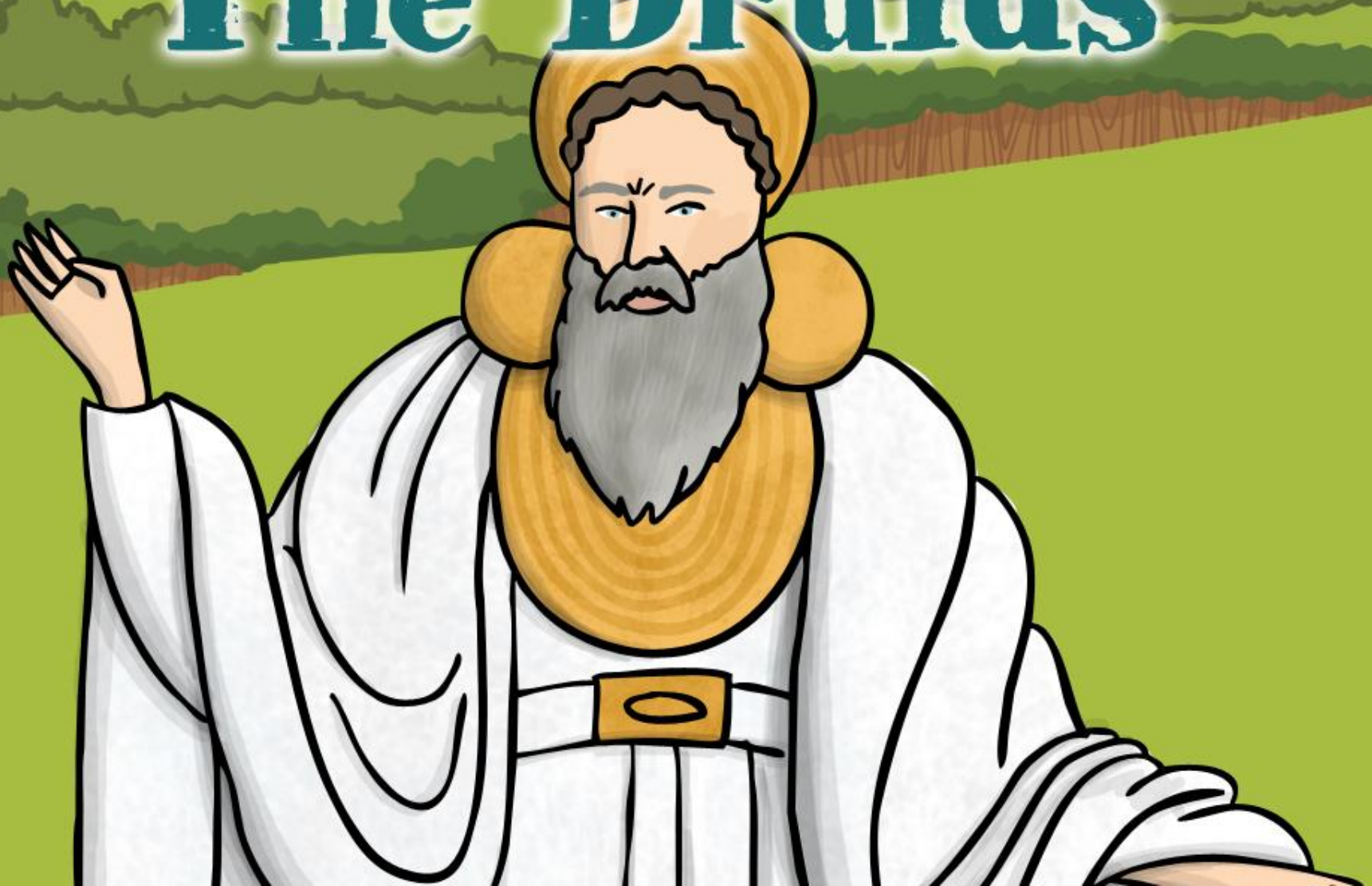


The Druids



Aim

- I can understand how evidence about the Druids can give us different answers about the past.

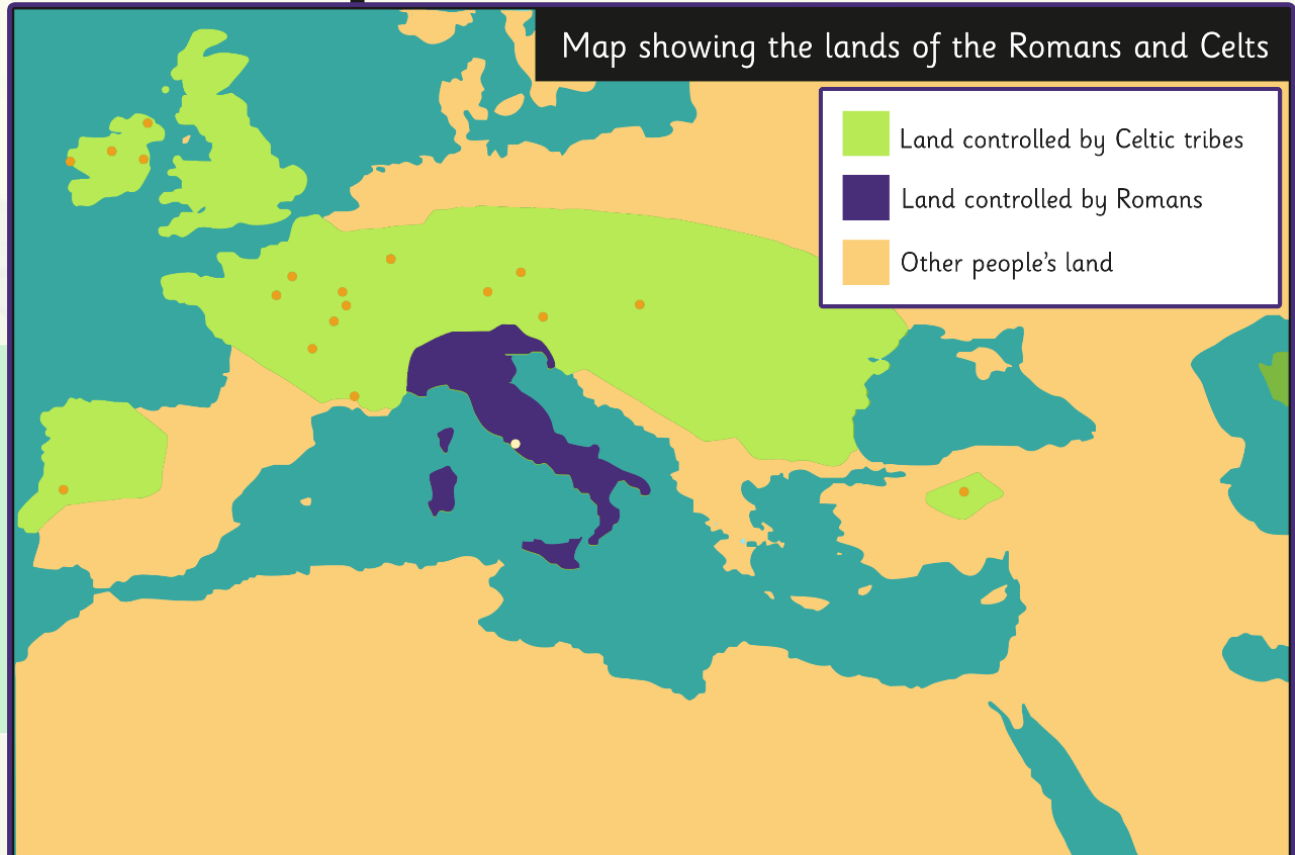
Success Criteria

- I can name two of the roles of Druids in Iron Age tribes.
- I can name an important festival in the Druid calendar.
- I can explain why the evidence we have from the Romans about Iron Age Druids might be unreliable.
- I can explain what archaeologists now think about the Druids.

Map Skills

Map showing the lands of the Romans and Celts

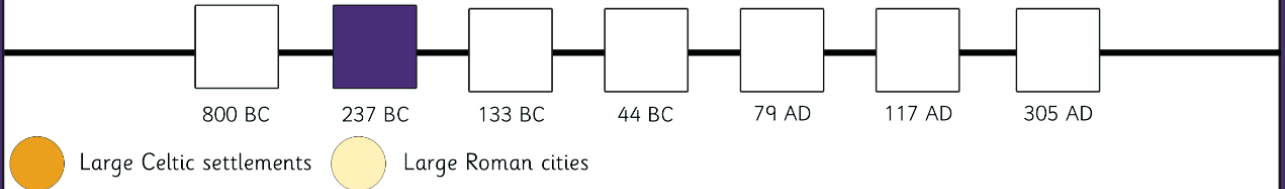
- Land controlled by Celtic tribes
- Land controlled by Romans
- Other people's land



Read the map.

Write two sentences about what you understand from the picture.

Timeline:



Who Were the Druids?

Druids were the priests of the Celts. The Celts were a group of the most powerful tribes in Europe during the Iron Age.

The Celts believed in over 400 gods and goddesses that lived in rivers, cliffs, springs, lakes, bushes and other natural places. The **only people** who could communicate with the gods were the Druids.



Who Were the Druids?

The main religious festivals for the Celts were based around important times in the farming year:

- **Imbolc:** 1st February
- **Beltane:** 1st May, the beginning of warm weather
- **Lughnasadh:** 1st August, the time for harvesting.
- **Samhain:** 1st November

The Druids sacrificed food, precious objects and even humans to the gods, to keep them happy.



Who Could Become a Druid?

No one really knows the answer to this.

However, we do know that it took at least twenty years to train to be a Druid.

Druids were not just priests

Medicine: they were also like doctors, finding cures in plants.

Law: they sorted out problems in the tribe if there was a disagreement, a bit like a judge.

Clairvoyant: they tried to predict the future by studying nature.

Power: their opinions were more important than the opinions of the king.



A Guide to Being a Druid

- Complete the worksheet 'A Guide to Being a Druid'
- Use slides 4, 5 and 6 to help you answer the worksheet.



How Do We Know About the Druids?

This is the problem. The early Celts **did not read or write**. We only know about Druids from the **writings of people who had met them**. Some of the Romans met the Druids. Information provided by the Romans has been useful for understanding who the Druids were and what they did.

However, Roman information only gives us **some** idea about this group of religious people who were considered as scary and strange (according to Tacitus). Archaeologists suggest that Roman descriptions of Druids **didn't quite tell the whole truth** about these men.

Can you think of a time with your friends on the playground, when something had happened, but people tell different versions of the same story?
Why do you think this is?

A Letter from Tacitus

- Complete the worksheet 'A Letter from Tacitus'



Timeline Ordering Activity

Test your knowledge of the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Stone Age to the Iron Age Timeline Cards

13000 BC



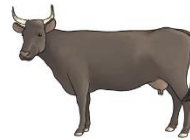
People make cave paintings.

800 - 700 BC



The first hillforts are made.

4500 - 3500 BC



Farming starts and begins to spread.

100 BC



Coins are made and used for the first time.

2500 BC



Metal starts to be used.

1800 BC



The first copper mines are dug.

1200 - 800 BC



Metal tools are made and used.

1200 - 800 BC



Tribal kingdoms and Celtic culture arrives in Britain.

Druid Crowns

Today you are going to make a crown fit for a Druid.

Remember: Druids were probably the most important people to the Celts, so your crown needs to be magnificent!

Use natural materials to decorate your crown, as the Celtic gods and goddesses were always found in nature. The Druids were the only humans who could communicate with these spirits, according to the Celts.

