

Prof. Antoneta-Gabriela Pușcălău

Colegiul Național „Calistrat Hogaș” Piatra-Neamț

ISTORIA MARIII BRITANII - Clasa a X-a, clase cu program bilingv-limba engleză

WORKSHEET: THE CELTS IN BRITAIN

The Celts were a group of tribal peoples who lived across much of Europe during the Iron Age, which began around 800 BC. In Britain, they arrived around 700 BC and became the dominant culture before the Roman conquest. Rather than being one united group, the Celts were made up of many tribes who shared similar languages, religious beliefs, customs, and artistic styles.

Celtic tribes in Britain lived in small farming communities, often located near hill forts which provided protection during times of conflict. Their homes were usually roundhouses made of wood, wattle, and daub, with thatched roofs. Society was organized into clans, each led by a chief or warrior king. These leaders were supported by nobles and warriors, while the rest of the tribe included craftsmen, farmers, and servants.

The Celts were highly skilled in metalworking, especially with iron, which they used to make tools, weapons, and decorative items. Trade between tribes and other regions was common, and Celtic goods have been found as far away as the Mediterranean.

Religion played a central role in Celtic life. Druids, the priestly class, were influential figures who acted as spiritual leaders, judges, and educators. The Celts believed in many gods linked to nature and the elements, and they performed rituals in sacred outdoor places such as forests, rivers, and stone circles.

The Roman invasion in 43 A.D. gradually led to the decline of Celtic power in Britain, although resistance continued in some areas for decades. Despite this, Celtic culture did not disappear entirely. Today, elements of it survive in the languages, traditions, and folklore of Wales, Scotland, and Ireland—regions where Celtic heritage remains strong and proudly celebrated.

I. Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1. When did the Celts arrive in Britain?
2. How was Celtic society organized?
3. What were hill forts used for?
4. Describe the role of Druids in Celtic culture.
5. How did the Romans affect Celtic Britain?

II. Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions:

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Clan | a. Religious leader or priest in Celtic society |
| 2. Roundhouse | b. An ancient outdoor place of worship or meeting |
| 3. Druid | c. A family group or tribe |
| 4. Hill fort | d. A round wooden house with a thatched roof |
| 5. Ritual | e. A religious ceremony or tradition |

III. True or False

Circle the correct answer:

1. The Celts were one united kingdom.
True / False
2. The Celts used iron for tools and weapons.
True / False
3. Druids were only warriors.
True / False
4. The Celts lived in large stone castles.
True / False
5. Celtic culture completely disappeared after the Roman conquest.
True / False

IV. Writing task

In 4–5 sentences, explain why you think Celtic culture is still important in some parts of Britain and Ireland today.

THE CELTS IN BRITAIN – ANSWER KEY

I. Reading Comprehension – suggested answers:

1. Around 700 BC.
2. Into clans led by a chief or warrior king, with nobles, warriors, craftsmen, farmers, and servants.
3. For protection during times of conflict
4. Druids were spiritual leaders, judges, and educators who performed religious rituals.
5. The Roman invasion led to the decline of Celtic power, but some cultural elements survived in certain regions.

II. Match the words with their definitions

| WORD | DEFINITION |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Clan | c. A family group or tribe |
| 2. Roundhouse | d. A round wooden house with a thatched roof |
| 3. Druid | a. Religious leader or priest in Celtic society |
| 4. Hill fort | b. An ancient outdoor place of worship or meeting |
| 5. Ritual | e. A religious ceremony or tradition |

III. True or False

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False

IV. Students' own answers

Bibliography

1. Cunliffe, Barry. *The Ancient Celts*. Oxford University Press, 1997.
2. Koch, John T. *Celtic Culture: A Historical Encyclopedia*. ABC-CLIO, 2006.
3. Laing, Lloyd and Jennifer. *Celtic Britain and Ireland: Art and Society*. Herbert Press, 1995.
4. Green, Miranda. *The World of the Druids*. Thames & Hudson, 1997.
5. BBC Bitesize – KS3 History. *The Iron Age and the Celts in Britain*.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
6. English Heritage. *Life in Iron Age Britain*. <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk>