

Who were the Celts?

The Celts were the native people of Britain before the Romans arrived. Celts lived in tribes. Each tribe had its own king or sometimes a queen. Celts not only lived in Britain but also in countries like France, Switzerland and Belgium.

Where did the Celts live?

The Celts lived in roundhouses made from wattle and daub. Wattle was branches woven together and daub was a mixture of mud, clay and straw. They would also build fences around their homes and farms. Most Celts lived in small villages. They didn't have big towns or cities like the Romans did.



What did Celts do?

Most Celts were farmers and even the Romans admitted that they were very good at farming. They used iron tools that helped them to work heavier soils and grow better crops. They were also the first ones to sow their crops and spread their fields with manure to fertilise it. They grew parsnips, cabbages, wheat, barley and beans. They also kept cows, goats and sheep for milk, meat, leather and wool. Lots of Celts were also skilled craftsmen like blacksmiths, spinners or boat builders. Blacksmiths made tools and horseshoes, as well as weapons, helmets and shields.

What did the Celts wear?

Celts loved to wear brightly coloured clothes with stripes or checks. They would use plant dyes to dye the fabric. Looms were used to weave wool into fabric which was then sewn together. Men would wear trousers, a tunic and a long woollen cloak. Women would wear long dresses down to their ankles. Both men and women would have worn shoes made from leather. Socks hadn't been invented yet.

What were the Celts like?

Celts loved feasting, singing and story-telling. They were very proud people who were fiercely loyal to their tribe. They liked to be clean and look nice. Important people wore jewellery which was intricately decorated. They worshipped many gods and had Druids (or priests) as the tribal wise men. They believed in an after-life and buried their dead with objects they might want there.