

Gauls vs. Romans, Scots vs. Invaders: An Asterix Adventure in History!

Introduction (10 mins): By Toutatis! Let's Talk Asterix!

Begin by looking at some Asterix comics together. Ask your student:

- What do you love about Asterix?
- Who are the main heroes? (Asterix, Obelix) What makes them special? (Magic potion!)
- Who are they always fighting? (The Romans!)
- Where does Asterix live? (A small village in Gaul - point to Gaul on the map).

Explain that while Asterix is a super fun cartoon, it's based on real history! The Romans really did conquer a land called Gaul, where people lived in tribes, similar (but not identical!) to how Asterix shows them.

Activity 1: Exploring Gaul (15 mins)

Look at the map together. Find Gaul (roughly modern-day France). Discuss:

- The Romans were a huge, powerful empire. Look how much land they controlled!
- The Gauls were made up of many different tribes. Asterix's village is special because it *resists* the Romans, but historically, most of Gaul was conquered.
- What kind of things do the Gauls in Asterix wear or use? (Helmets with wings, swords, striped trousers - mention these are creative interpretations).

Briefly look up some simple facts about real Gauls using a kid-friendly website (like BBC Bitesize or Kiddle).

Activity 2: North to Caledonia! Meet the Ancient Scots/Picts (15 mins)

Say: "Asterix and Obelix sometimes travel. They even went to Britain! North of Roman Britain was a land the Romans called Caledonia (find it on the map - modern-day Scotland). The people who lived there, like the Picts, were also known for resisting invaders."

- Discuss the Picts (known for their symbol stones and perhaps painted bodies - 'Pict' might mean 'painted people').
- Explain that the Romans built walls (like Hadrian's Wall) to try and keep the northern tribes out. They found Caledonia hard to conquer, just like Asterix's village!
- Mention that later, Scotland faced other invaders like the Vikings and fought for independence against England, showing a long history of resilience, much like Asterix's Gauls.

Look up some images of Pictish stones or reconstructions of Hadrian's Wall online.

Activity 3: Gauls & Scots: Similar but Different (15 mins)

Let's compare! Use a whiteboard, chart paper, or just talk it through. Ask:

- How were the Gauls (like in Asterix) and the early Scots/Picts SIMILAR? (Lived in tribes, resisted a larger empire/invaders, fierce fighters, distinct culture/clothing/art, lived long ago in Europe).
- How were they DIFFERENT? (Location - Gaul vs. Caledonia, Different specific enemies - mainly Romans for Gauls, Romans/Angles/Vikings/English later for Scots, Different symbols - magic potion vs. Pictish stones, Different languages).

Emphasize that both groups valued their freedom and independence.

Activity 4: Creative History! (20 mins)

Choose one activity:

- **Comic Strip:** Draw a short comic strip (2-4 panels) where Asterix meets a Pictish warrior. What would they say? What might happen?
- **Design a Shield:** Draw and decorate a shield. Combine elements from Gaulish designs (maybe based on Asterix) and Pictish symbols (like spirals or animal carvings).
- **Build a Landmark:** Use blocks or craft supplies to build a mini version of a Roman watchtower, a section of Hadrian's Wall, or a Gaulish hut.

Wrap-up & Review (5 mins):

Have the student share their creative work and explain their choices. Review the map one last time, pointing to Gaul and Caledonia. Ask:

- What was one interesting thing you learned about the Gauls?
- What was one interesting thing about the ancient Scots/Picts?
- How are Asterix comics like real history? How are they different? (Fun way to learn, but takes liberties with facts like magic potions!)

Praise their effort and curiosity about history!