Frida Kahlo

Painter

1907–1954

"My painting carries with it the message of pain."



Frida Kahlo was born in Coyoacán, Mexico on 6 July 1907. She had five sisters and lived in a house called the Blue House with her German father and her Spanish-Mexican mother.

Frida lived and died in the Blue House.



When Frida was six years old, she caught a disease called polio that left her right leg damaged for life.

Frida's father encouraged her to get an education.



Then, when Frida was eighteen, she suffered life-changing injuries in a bus accident.



Frida had to stay in bed for months. Her parents encouraged her to take up painting – they built her a special easel so that she could paint while lying on her back. She painted herself and her school friends.

Her mother wanted her to learn to cook and get married!



Frida was never really strong again. She gave up her dream of becoming a doctor, but continued to paint. Frida started to paint self-portraits that reflected the pain caused by her accident and were influenced by Mexican folk art.

Frida's self-portraits were always honest.

Frida's art has inspired other artists to reveal their emotions.



Frida supported the Mexican revolutionaries who wanted political change. She was never afraid to attend rallies and spoke out against social injustice.



In 1929, Frida married Diego Rivera, a famous muralist. They went to live in America and Frida started to exhibit her work. It received a mixed reception.

Diego and Frida got divorced and then remarried.



Eventually, the couple returned to Mexico, but they had a very difficult relationship and lived separately for long periods.



Frida's work was getting more recognition, but her health was getting worse. In 1950 she spent nine months in hospital, but she never stopped painting.

Frida adapted native Mexican fashion to hide her scars.



In 1953 she had her first solo exhibition in Mexico. She was very ill, so she arrived by ambulance and then held court from a four-poster bed in the gallery!



Frida Kahlo died on 13 July 1954, just after her 47th birthday. Even though she struggled with pain and unhappiness throughout her life, Frida remained strong, determined and honest. We can still see this today in the colourful and beautiful paintings that she left behind to inspire us.

Frida went on her last protest march ten days before her death.

Frida is still seen by many as an icon of female creativity.



Boudicca

Warrior Queen of the Iceni

c. AD 25–61

Like me, Boudicca had royal blood.

Stop fighting, Boudicca, and feed the chickens!

Ouch!

She's a warrior through and through!

Boudicca was born in south-east Britain. She lived with her parents until they died when Boudicca was only seven.

Boudicca was a Celt – one of the people who lived in Britain before the Romans arrived.

We'll teach you how to weave.

Luckily, Boudicca was then adopted by another family.

I'm a warrior not a weaver!

So I see!

They sent her to warrior school where she learned to fight.

She was fearless and had fierce eyes that made enemies tremble!

She always seemed destined for greatness.

I think I've taught you all I can.

Boudicca grew to be very tall and had beautiful, flowing red hair.

My little wild cat!

She married Prasutagus, king of the Iceni tribe of eastern England.

I think they take after you, Bonds.

They had two daughters together and life was good.

Not wise to steal from a warrior queen!

Last week they took slaves, this week it's the chickens!

Now what'll I have for tea?

Roman ham!

At the time, Britain was under Roman power. They let Prasutagus rule his kingdom but charged taxes.

Those Romans have to go!

Then in AD 60 Prasutagus died and the Romans seized his wealth, leaving his family with nothing!

I thought all warriors were men!

Well, you were wrong!

Boudicca is scarily fierce!

Out with the Romans!

No chance!

The Iceni people rebelled, but the Romans were too strong for them. Some Iceni had their homes burned to the ground and others were taken into slavery. Boudicca and her daughters were captured.

Boudicca was determined to protect her people from the Romans.

"In this battle you must conquer or die. This is a woman's resolve; as for men, they may live and be slaves."

Boudicca is also known as Boudicca, Boudicca and Buddug!

Boudicca was outraged! When she was released she rallied other tribes and together they captured three Roman cities. Then they were attacked by the Roman governor and his army of 10,000 men. Boudicca was now leading about 100,000 men, so it seemed as though she would win, but her men weren't trained, and they were already tired and hungry after their recent battles. Boudicca's army was defeated. Boudicca and her daughters poisoned themselves to avoid being captured again. Her rebellion had not succeeded in chasing the Romans from Britain but it did eventually lead to all Celtic tribes getting a fairer deal from the Romans. Boudicca never let the Romans conquer her and she became a symbol to freedom fighters everywhere.

Boudicca was defeated by governor Gaius Suetonius Paullinus in AD 60 or 61.

Boudicca was given a brutal fit for a hero!

She was trying to protect her people.

And her daughters!

Yes, never stand between a mum and her cubs...