**THE CELTS**

The Celts were tribes of warriors who shared a similar language, religion and culture. They gradually settled in Britain between about 500 and 100 B.C. They brought ironworking to the British Isles. It affected trade and helped develop local independence. The basic unit of Celtic life was the clan (like today’s extended family) and clans were joined together with other clans to form tribes. The tribes lived in huts made of timber and practiced agriculture when they were not fighting in wars. In the society women were almost equal to men: they could choose who they wanted to marry and lead other warriors in war. The Celts didn’t write literature, in fact they relied on the oral transmission of culture. In the end they worshipped the natural elements (for example the sun, the moon) and they held their religious rites in the woods.