

1. Asterix the Gaul
  - B.D. Bdebs: Bandes dessinées Comic strips*
  - a. A comic rewriting the history
  - b. Asterix
    - i. Full of verbal humor (puns)
    - ii. Full of references (to history, culture, books, ...)
    - iii. A successful phenomenon in French
    - iv. Deeply rooted in the French National conscious

### The Gauls vs. The Romans

History: the Gauls

2. Modern France, Belgium, west Germany and northern Italy
3. Ancient name for the region
4. The Gauls : a Celtic people organized in tribes, led by chieftains.
  - a. Druids: ancient Celtic priests
  - b. Menhir < Breton dialect
    - i. -men = stone
    - ii. -hir=long
    - iii. Long stone placed vertically
  - c. A dolmen (stone table)
    - i. Dol = table
    - ii. Horizontal
  - d. The Alignments of Carnac, Brittany ( French: Bretagne)
    - i. Nearly 3000 menhirs
    - ii. Placed in parallel roads over a distance of 3-4 miles

The Gauls vs. the Romans

5. 390BC, The Sack of Rome
  - a. Romans realized that Gauls were dangerous
  - b. Romans started to colonized the Gaul gradually later
6. 58-50BC: Julius Caesar
  - a. Campaign in Gaul
  - b. 52BC: **Vercingetorix** led a major rebellion against the Roman



- i. Died 46 BC
- c. "De Bello Gallico" (On the Gallic Wars)
  - i. One of the unavoidable military textbook

Roman Province of Gallia

7. Give Latin name to places
  - a. Lutetia - Paris
  - b. Lugdunum - Lyon
  - c. Tolosa - Toulouse
  - d. Burdigala -Bordeaux
  - e. Massilia - Marseille
  - f. Germania - Germany
  - g. Britannia - England + Wales
  - h. Caledonia - Scotland

- i. Helvetia - roughly modern Switzerland
  - i. Use on Swiss stamps
  - ii. They use four languages: French, Italian, German, ???
  - iii. CH = Confedatio Helvetica (Car License Plate)
  - iv. )
- j. Hispania - Spain
- k. Lusitania - Portugal

### The Celtic Revival

- 8. A movement began at the late 19 century
- 9. People thought Gaul was barbarian before conquered by Romans
- 10. Some historians:
  - a. The Roman destroyed the Gaul civilization
  - b. A political and cultural identity
- 11. Late 19th century: historians examined the civilization of ancient Gauls
  - a. Vercingetorix : the new national hero
- 12. Napoleon III
  - a. Promoted the archaeological excavation of ancient Gallic sites
  - b. Encourage the creation of monuments
  - c. (Take his own face for the statue of Vercingetorix)
    - i. Want to gain some prestige by Vercingetorix
- 13. Continue to 20th century
  - a. Asterix is the expression of the revival in popular culture

### The comic book: Asterix the Gaul

Comic Book: Asterix the Gaul

- 14. A historical comic book (fiction)
- 15. Created by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo
  - a. Two sons of immigrant
  - b. Goscinny: wrote the text
  - c. Uderzo: drawing
- 16. 1961: First publication (6000 copies)
  - a. So far, 21 volumes published
  - b. 290 million copies sold world wide
  - c. Translated into 85 languages: Hebrew, Italian, Swedish...
- 17. Stories set in 50 BC
  - a. When Roman conquered Gaul
  - b. A small village
  - c. Asterix
- 18. A few of the Gauls
  - a. Asterix: a shrewd --- asterix
  - b. Obelix: a menhir delivery-man by trade
  - c. Getafix : village druid (brews magic potions)
  - d. Cacophonix
  - e. Vitalstistix
  - f. Idefix (idee fixe)
    - i. In English ( Dogmatix (dogmatic))
  - g. Women: aspirin, nicotine, ielosubmarine
  - h. Romans: Julius Pompilius
  - i. Roman fortify camps: Aquarium, Totorum, Laudanum, Compendium, Geranium  
Welcum, Chewinggum
- 19. Succeed for
  - a. Historical and cultural references
    - i. Famous quotes
    - ii. Playful anachronisms
    - iii. Parody
  - b. Collaborate use of language
    - i. Translated into many kinds of language
  - c. Egyptian
    - i. My dear old Getafix, I hope I find you well  
--He's an Alexandrian (It's an alexandrine)
  - d. Inserted many caricatures of French famous people
    - i. Annie Cordy --
    - ii. Raimu --- Dans Asterix

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  - iii. Jacques Chirac --
  - iv. Sean Connery --- A Celtic spy working for the Romans (Zerozerosix)
  - v. Helmet
  - e. I came, I saw, I conquered. (Veni, Vidi, vici)
  - f. Quo Vadis, "Henryk Sienkiewicz"
  - g. "He who is without sine among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (Bible)
  - h. "Let's have a race!" "Never on Sunday." (Greek)
  - i. Illusion to movie, Bible, famous people
  - j. Roman driver: "Barbarian"  
Gallic driver: "Who do you think you are, Ben-Hur?"
  - k. Gallo-Roman culture
    - i. Combination of native Gallic culture and new Roman culture
  - l. The fondue (Helvetia)
    - i. Fondue: Swiss dish with melted cheese
    - ii. Swiss national character
  - m. The inviolable Swiss bank account
  - n. William Pell
  - o. Hispania: Don Quixote
  - p. Britannia and Londinium
    - i. Somebody dig a tunnel
    - ii. The tower of Londinium
    - iii. The four bards (The Fab Four)
    - iv. Red double deckers
      - 1) Typical culture myths
  - q. North America
    - i. The Statue of Liberty
  - r. Corsica
    - i. The battle of Osterlix (Austerlitz)
      - 1) Infer to Napoleon
      - 2) Napoleon's hand in shirt
  - s. Rembrandt "The Anatomy Lecture of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp"
    - i. Pun on painting
    - ii. No footnotes
  - t. Parody of "the draft of Medusa"
  - u. [Cyrano de Bergerac](#)
  - v. Zolo
  - w. Asterix: Culture Map
    - i. The sign of present and past are mixed
    - ii. A comical rewriting of history
    - iii. Asterix is always the winner in the battle against Romans
    - iv. A popular counterpart to Vercingetorix
    - v. Short and smart: similar to napoleon
    - vi. Get his strength from --- like Pop pipe from his spinich
    - vii. Also has influence in society
      - 1) Political cartoon
    - viii. Asterix I : the name of first French Satellite
    - ix. North Paris: Asterix Theme Book
- French High culture and Pop culture from mid 18 century to mid 20 century**