



Ireland before the Vikings

W.A.L.T: understand what Ireland was like before the Vikings and who was living here

What do you think Ireland
looked like before the
Vikings arrived?

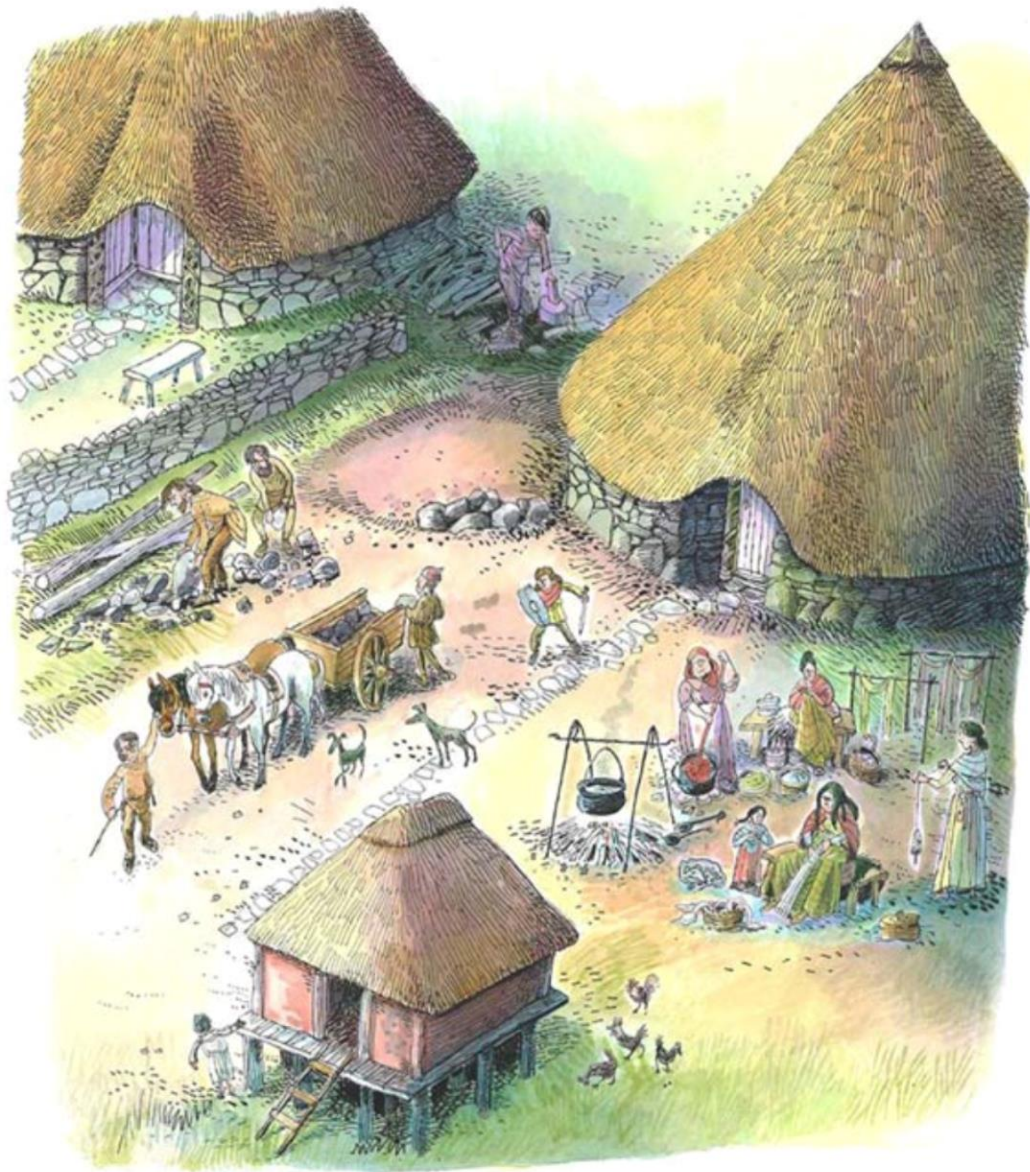
Think, Pair, Share.



Activity Time

On your piece of paper, draw a picture showing life in a normal village in Ireland at this time. Think of the jobs people would be doing. Think of the clothes people would wear and think of the technology they would have.





This is what a typical Irish village would have looked like before the Vikings arrived.

- What is **different** about this village and our life now?
- What is the **same** about this village and our life now?

Do you know what these
people who were living in
Ireland were called?

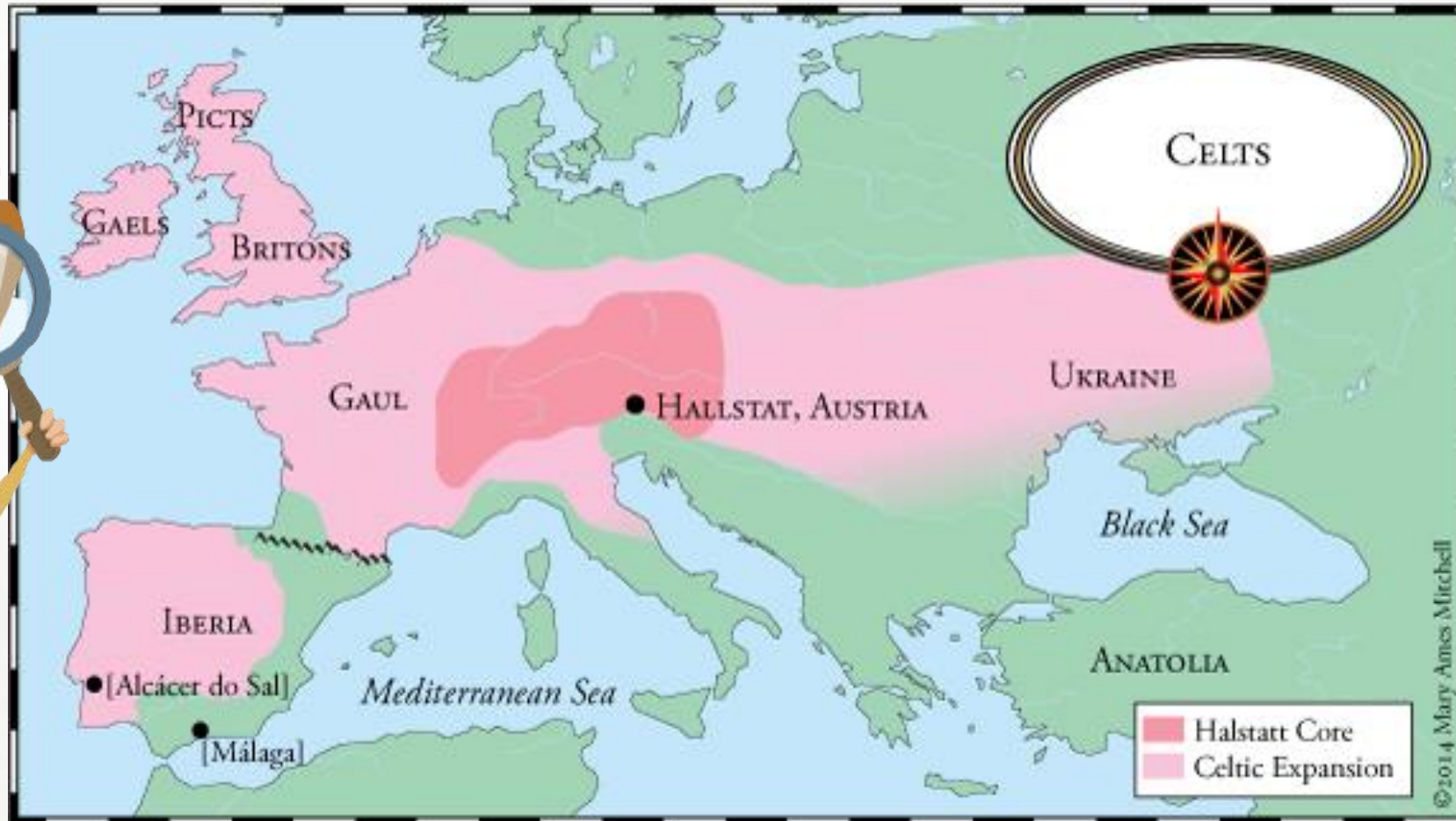
Think, Pair, Share.



The Celts!



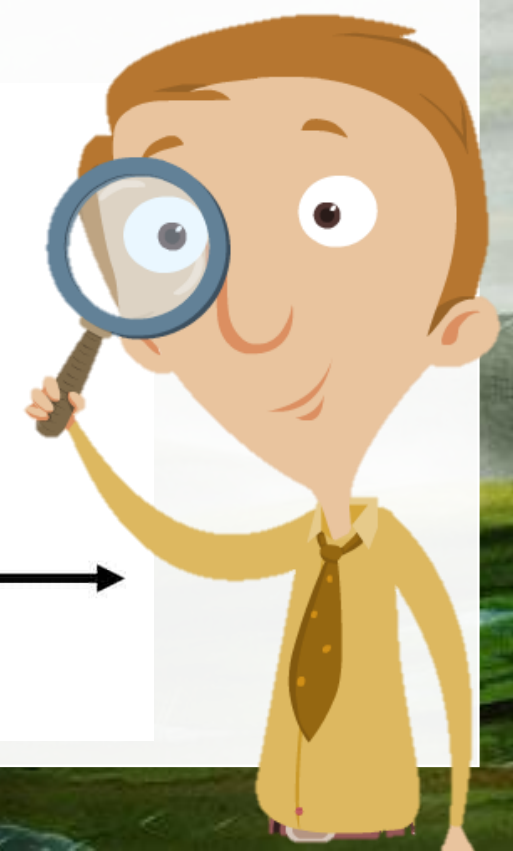
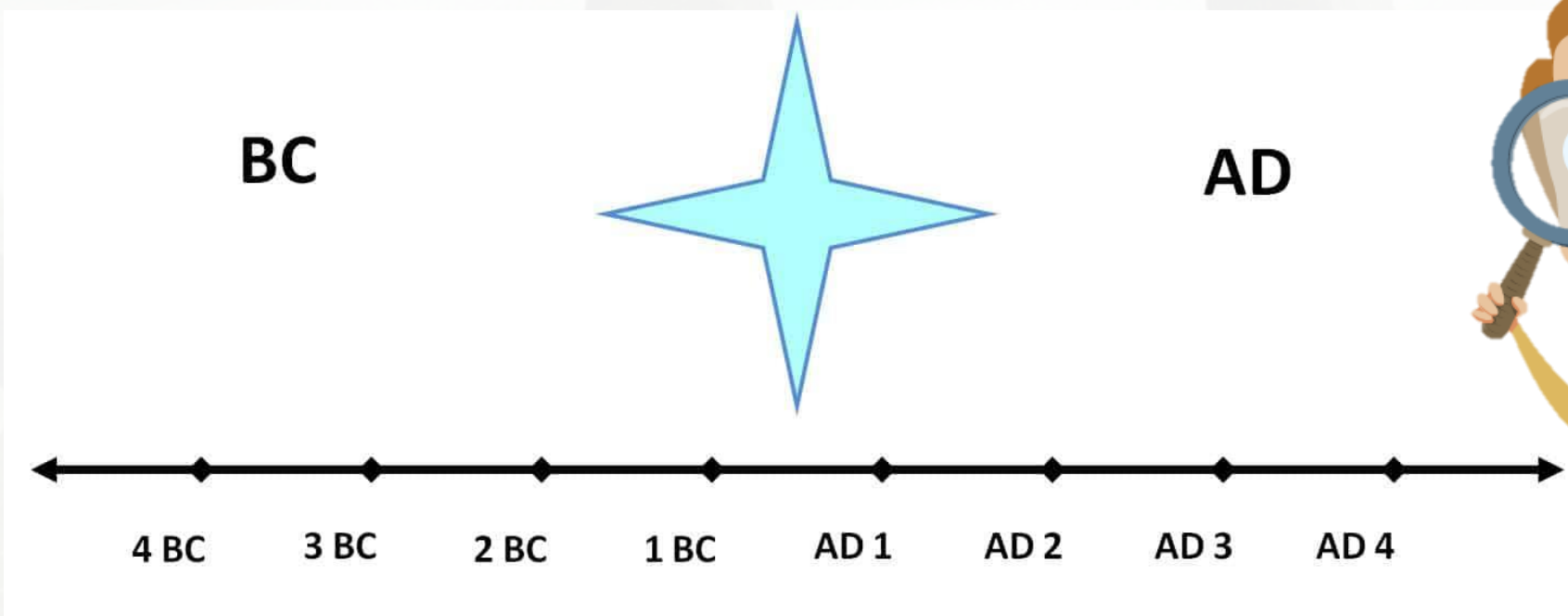
The Celts settled in Ireland a long time ago! They came from mainland Europe, from countries like Austria and Switzerland. They first appeared in Ireland in the year 600 B.C!



What does B.C mean?
How many years ago
would that have been?
Think, Pair, Share.



A lot of people use the term B.C when they are talking about things that happened before Jesus was born. So something that happened in 600 B.C happened 600 years before Jesus was born. Things that happened after Jesus was born are usually labelled A.D. So we are in the year 2021 A.D, 2021 years after Jesus was born.



The Celts lived in simple homes called **roundhouses**. These houses were made from a special mixture called **wattle and daub**. This was a mixture of hay, straw and mud. Sometimes even animal poo was used in the mixture!





The roundhouse was one big room with a fire in the middle. Everything happened in the same room! You ate, slept, changed, relaxed all in this same space with your whole family!

There were no windows and usually only a small door. There was a hole in the top of the roof to let the smoke from the fire out.

Close your eyes and imagine
you are in a Celt roundhouse.

What can you smell and
what can you hear?

Think, Pair, Share.



The Celts were mainly farmers. They grew a lot of their own food in their villages. However, there were a lot of wild animals living in Ireland at this time so there was plenty of meat to hunt!



What kind of food do you think
the Celts grew?

What kind of animals do you
think they hunted?

Think, Pair, Share



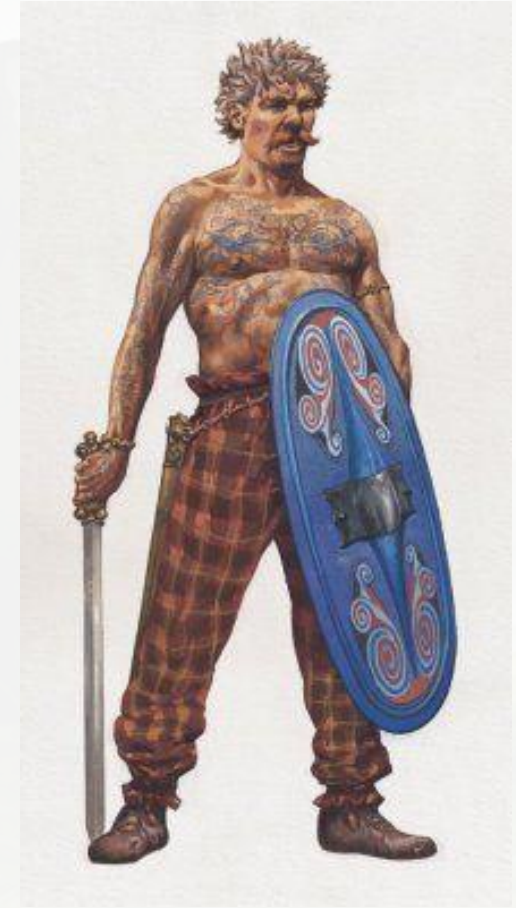
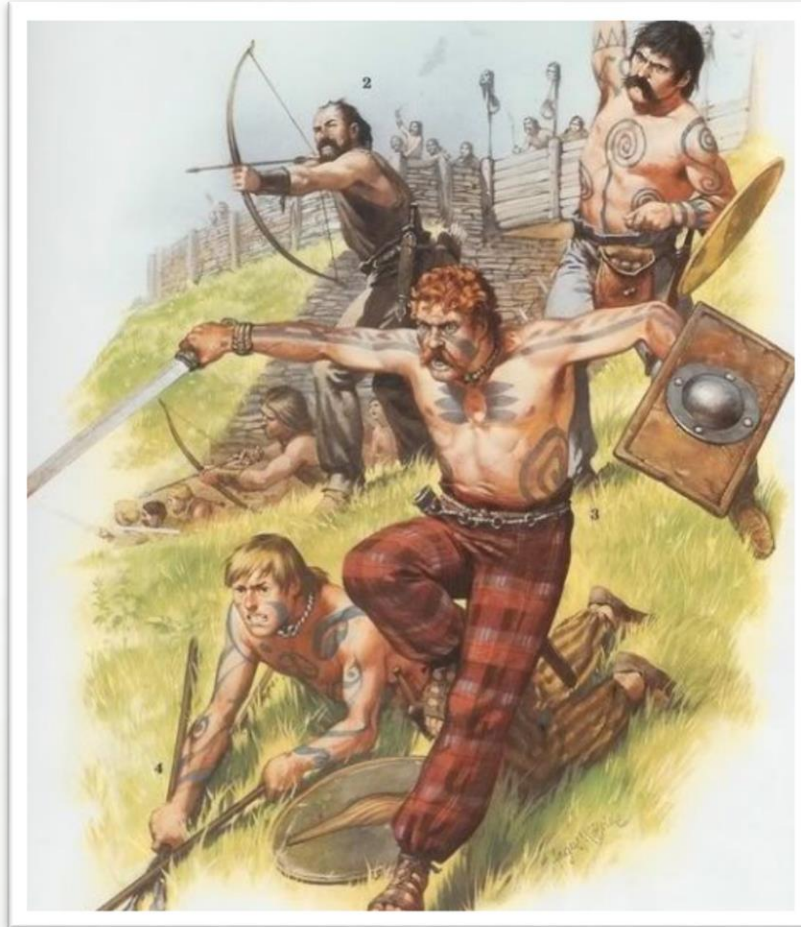
The Celts grew foods like carrots, corn, parsnips, onions, and blackberries.



The Celts hunted animals like deer, wild boar, foxes, fish and even bears!



The Celts were fierce warriors! They were known to run into battle wearing only war paint sometimes! They fought with iron weapons and shields that were covered in animal skins!



The only problem with all this fighting was that most of the time the Celts were fighting each other! There were lots of different tribes in Ireland. Each of these tribes, or clanns, had their own leader called the Rí. Neighbouring clanns would attack each other's villages to try and take control of each others land.



Activity Time

We're going to travel back in time to 600 BC to Celt Ireland. We are going to use what we've learned to create our own Celt tribes and try get a sense of what life was like for them back in pre-Viking Ireland.





It's Clann Time!

You've gathered a group of fierce looking warriors to join your new clann. You plan on taking over the land of the neighbouring tribes. However, any good Celt clann needs a few things to be taken seriously:

- An Irish name for you clan
- A crest that goes on your shields
- A warcry that you shout before battle
- A Rí, or chieftain, to leaed your clann.



Your Clann Name

Decide on your clann name. Your name should:

- Have at least 2 words in Gaeilge
- Have nothing to do with modern times
- Tell us something about your clan

Example:

- Na Fir Dearg (The Red Men)



Your Clann Crest

Decide on a design that will go on all of your shields.

This helps you not accidentally kill your own people during battle! It also tells us about your tribe and can scare the enemies away. Your crest should:

- Tell us about your tribe
- Have a motto or slogan about your house
- Be coloured in fully

Example:

Motto: We never fall!



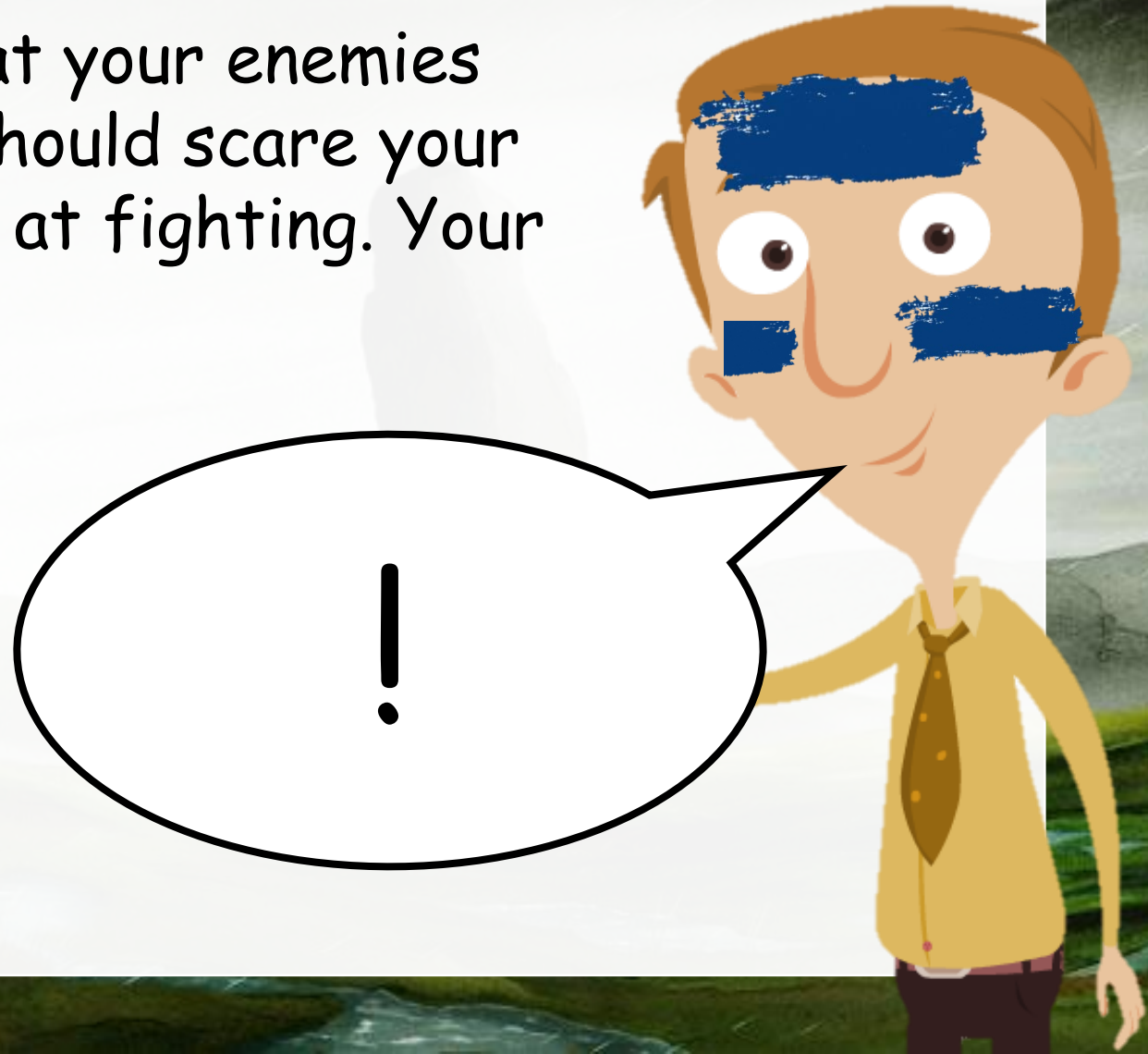
Your Clann Warcry

You need something to shout at your enemies before you enter battle. This should scare your enemies so they are not as good at fighting. Your warcry should:

- Be something everyone can say
- Be a sentence of just sounds
- Be loud and scary

Example:

Motto: FOR THE OLD GODS!



Your Clann's Rí

Finally, you need to elect your chieftan or Rí. This is the leader of the clan. If they fall in battle, the battle is lost instantly. The Rí should:

- Want to be a leader
- Be the bravest and strongest fighter in battle
- Be a good leader and organiser

Choose your Rí!

If more than one person wants to be Rí, both must perform a battle of strength. Arm wrestle!



Now that your clann is
ready...

It's time for battle!

