

Comment aborder le chapitre sur "naissance et diffusion du Christianisme" dans le cours de DNL

Place dans le programme:

Ayant choisi de travailler sur Le citoyen à Athènes, la méditerranée au 12^{ème} et Humanisme et Renaissance, mes élèves de seconde n'ont pas de cours précis sur les débuts du christianisme ; Je choisis donc d'évoquer ce thème dans les heures de DNL en étudiant :

- La conquête et la romanisation de la Grande-Bretagne
- L'Angleterre comme puissance importante de l'Occident chrétien au 12^{ème} siècle.

Objectifs pédagogiques :

Histoire

- Donner aux élèves des éléments pour comprendre dans quel contexte politique et religieux le christianisme s'est diffusé dans l'Empire romain
- Rappeler quelques éléments fondamentaux des croyances chrétiennes et leur origine

Anglais

- Vocabulaire de la religion
- Vocabulaire de la conquête, de l'affrontement militaire
- Description de cartes

Voyage

- préparer les visites des thermes de Bath et de la cathédrale de Canterbury prévues dans le voyage en GB organisé pour les élèves de la section

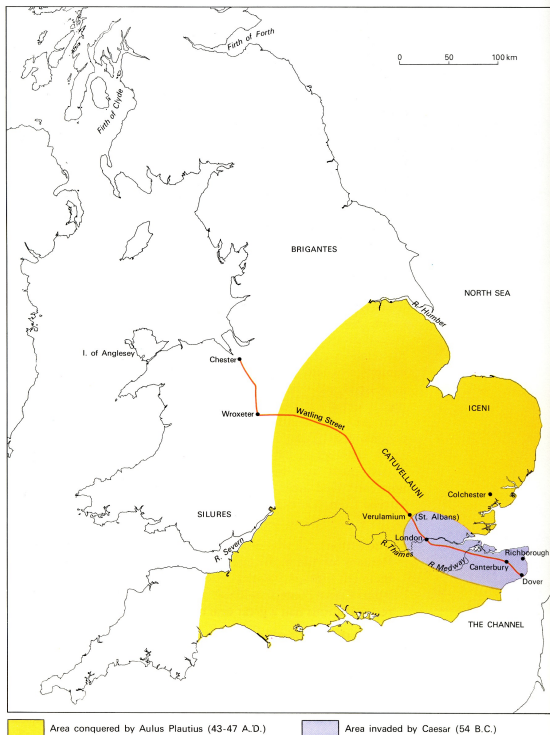
1) **première entrée : Roman Britain : In what political and religious context did the Christian faith spread ?**

I. How did the Romans conquer Britain? 2h dont une en ½ groupe

a) The several different stages of the conquest

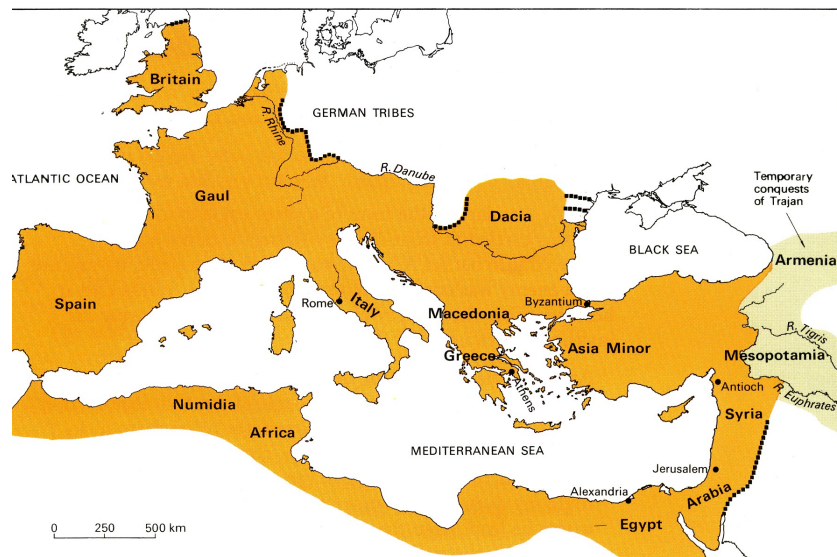
Comment on maps + note taking

Source 1 : The Roman conquest of Britain to AD47



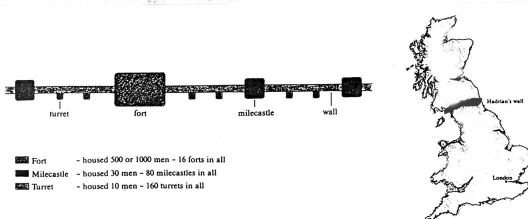
Source 2: The Roman Empire in AD 117

■■■■ = main walls and fortifications

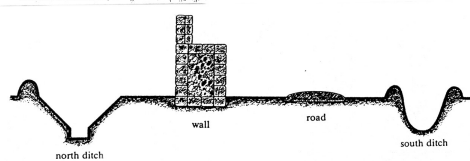


Source 3: Hadrian's wall, north of Once Brewed, Northumberland

1. Map and plan of Hadrian's wall



2. Cross-section of Hadrian's wall



1. Using sources 1 and 2, describe the spread of the Roman influence in Britain
2. Describe the general pattern of the Roman Empire in the 2nd century
3. What are the main cities of the Empire located on the map? What were they known for?
4. Describe the border between Roman Britain and the rest of the island. What was the wall aimed at?

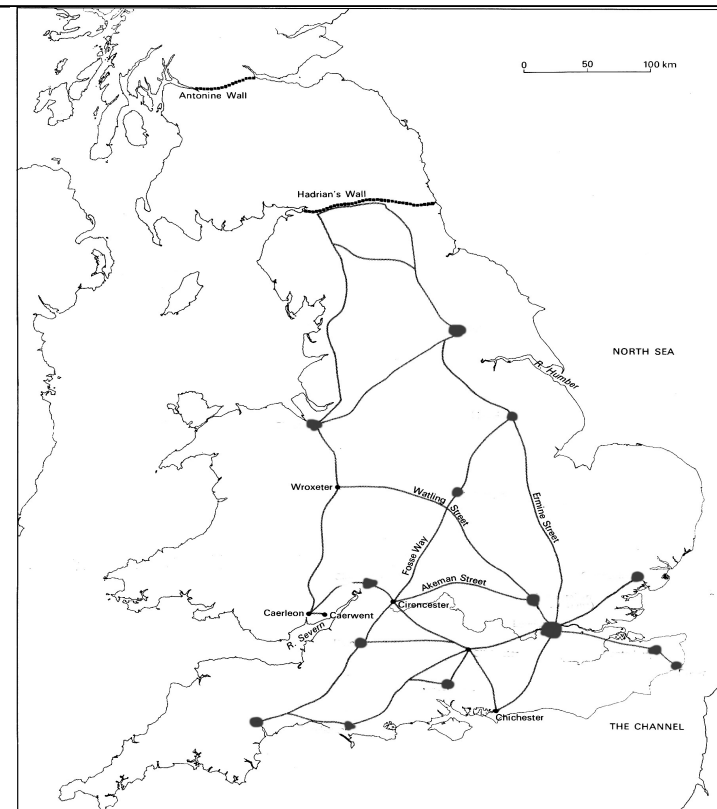
b) the Romanization of Britain:

❖ -roman roads and cities in Britain

« In order that people who were scattered, uncivilised and fond of fighting would learn to enjoy the comforts of peace, Agricola personally encouraged the building of temples, public squares and private houses. Furthermore he provided education for the sons of the chiefs with the result that instead of disliking the Latin language they now became keen to master it. In the same way, our style of dress became fashionable and the toga was seen everywhere.(...) The Britons themselves cheerfully accept taxes and other charges imposed upon them by the Empire, so long as they are properly treated(...)”

Tacitus, Agricola

Cornelius Tacitus (56 – 117) was a senator and a historian of the Roman Empire. The surviving portions of his two major works—the *Annals* and the *Histories*—span the history of the Roman Empire from the death of Augustus in 14 AD to (presumably) the death of emperor Domitian in 96 AD. Tacitus's *Agricola*, written in about A.D. 98. In the process of writing about his father-in-law, Tacitus provided a history and description of Britain.



B	R	U	E	X	E	T	E	R	T
A	Z	P	R	A	A	L	C	D	R
Y	W	R	E	T	S	I	A	C	D
O	R	H	T	L	O	N	M	D	F
R	E	T	S	E	H	C	L	O	C
K	W	A	E	H	C	O	M	V	K
I	C	B	H	L	N	L	J	E	Y
F	Y	V	C	D	E	N	I	R	M
K	B	G	O	Y	G	F	A	L	V
R	S	N	A	B	L	A	T	S	H

Questions:

- 1) According to Tacitus, what does romanization mean?
- 2) How far can we rely on what Tacitus says about Agricola?
- 3) How did Agricola achieve the romanization of Britain?

Exercise:

1. The square contains the names of some towns in Roman Britain. Find as many as you can and try to locate them on the map

❖ **-Webquests:** the example of the Roman Baths www.romanbaths.co.uk/
main ideas and questions: the Romans were polytheist, they worshipped several different Gods and Goddesses

- When did the Romans first arrive in Bath?
- What were bath-houses like in Roman times?

● **What is the Sacred Spring?**

- How did the Romans use the Spring water?
- Who is Minerva? Where was Minerva's Head?

- How did the Romans speak to the goddess?
- What did the temple look like?

II. the rise of Christianity in Roman Britain

a) The Christians had made themselves unpopular:

- the students listen to a brief account of the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire and have to **take notes**
- they **comment on the following documents**, with a special focus on the sources which date back to the 8th and 13th century

Saint Alban was a pagan soldier in the Roman Army stationed in Britain. His exact background is unknown, but popular tradition declares him a native Briton. Bede says he lived during the religious persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian (c.AD 304), though modern historians have argued for similar circumstances which arose some years earlier, during the reigns of Decius (c.254) or Septimus Severus (c.209). **Bede** (672-735) was a Benedictine monk in Northumbria; He is well known as an author and scholar, The most important and best known of his works is the, The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, about the history of England, ecclesiastical and political, from the time of Caesar to the date of its completion (731).

Source 1:

"During these dangerous times, Alban received into his house and sheltered a Christian priest, named Amphibalus, and was so struck by the devotion to God and blameless life of this man whom he protected, that he placed himself under his instruction and was baptised a Christian.

A rumour having reached the governor of Verulamium, that the priest was hiding in the house of Alban, he sent soldiers to search it. Alban, seeing them arrive, quickly threw the long cloak of the priest over his own head and shoulders and presented himself to the soldiers as the man whom they sought. He was immediately bound and brought before the governor who, at that moment, was standing at one of the civic altars, offering up a sacrifice.

When the cloak, which had concealed Alban's face, was removed, it was immediately revealed that he was not the priest whose arrest the governor had ordered. The governor's anger flamed hot and he ordered Alban, immediately, to sacrifice to the gods or to suffer death.

St. Alban firmly refused to offer to idols. Then the magistrate asked, "Of what family and race are you?"

"How can it concern you to know of what stock I am?" answered Alban. "If you desire to know what is my religion, I will tell you - I am a Christian and am bound by Christian obligations."

"I ask your name, tell it me immediately."

"I am called Albanus by my parents," he replied, "and I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." Then the governor said,

"If you will enjoy eternal life, delay not to sacrifice to the great gods." Alban rejoined,

"These sacrifices which are offered to devils are to no avail¹. Hell is the reward of those who offer them." The governor ordered St. Alban to be scourged², hoping to shake his constancy by pain. But the martyr bore³ the stripes⁴ patiently and even joyously, for our Lord's sake.

When the judge saw that he could not make him submit, he ordered Alban to be put to death. On his way to execution, on 20th June, the martyr had to cross a river. Such a huge crowd had gathered that he could have hardly crossed, as he raised his eyes to Heaven in prayer, the river ran dry and left him a way to cross. Then the martyr ascended the hill above Verulamium (...) However, the executioner was so moved that he refused to perform his office and, throwing down his sword, confessed himself a Christian also. Another man was detailed to deal the blow and both Alban and the executioner, who had refused to strike, were decapitated together"

Adapted from *Venerable Bede, The Ecclesiastical History of the English People, 731*

¹ to no avail= useless

² scourged= whipped

³ to bear= to endure, to stand

⁴ stripes= the leather stripes of the whip

- 1) list the various words which refer to religion
- 2) Describe the pictures as fully as possible (you may use the vocabulary in the left column)
- 3) Try to match each picture with one passage of the text (source 1) and put them in a logical time-sequence.

The illuminations below were made in **the 13th century** by a monk in St-Alban's abbey called **Matthew Paris**. His aim was to illustrate Bede's life of St-Alban.



To have one's head chopped off/to be beheaded a martyr/ to witness the execution/ to perform the execution



A trial/ to submit to the Roman authorities/ To abjure, to recant one's faith/ a pagan/ a christian



To baptise/the holy cross/ to kneel/ to pray/to clasp one's hand

- 4) When did Alban's martyrdom occur? How long after Alban's death did Bede write about it? How might Bede have found out about it after all that time?
- 5) Was Bede biased for or against Alban? Give examples to support your decision.
- 6) What part(s) of the text, do you think are a bit far-fetched? How can you account for that?
- 7) What is the main problem between the Christians and the Roman authorities? Quote the text to justify your answer.

b) The acceptance of Christianity

Exercise: **note taking** on my account of the different councils which were held during the 3rd and 4th centuries and the official end of pagan worship.

2) **deuxième entrée : la méditerranée au 12^{ème} siècle :**

Parallèlement au cours sur la méditerranée, carrefour de civilisations, j'organise le cours de DNL en deux parties : une première où il s'agit de montrer le rôle essentiel de l'Eglise dans l'Occident chrétien au 12^{ème} à partir des rapports entre Thomas Becket et Henri II ; une seconde consacrée aux croisades.

I **The part played by the Church in medieval Britain : Thomas Becket and Canterbury cathedral**

a- Why is Canterbury so important for the Christians in Britain?

Note taking

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Christians in Britain lost touch with the Christian Church in Rome. But in 596, the Pope sent one of his best **monks** to Britain to try to convert the pagans; his name was Augustine. He established **his seat** in Canterbury.

Augustine was given a church at Canterbury by the local King, Ethelbert whose Queen, Bertha, a French Princess was already a Christian. This building had been a place of worship during the Roman occupation of Britain and is the oldest church in England still in use.

Augustine had been consecrated a **bishop** in France and was later made an archbishop by the Pope. He established his seat within the Roman city walls (the Latin word for a seat is *cathedra*, from which the word cathedral is derived) and built the first cathedral there, becoming the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

Powerpoint sur la cathédrale: so as to help them locate Canterbury in Britain, to introduce the vocabulary of both Romanesque(*rounded arches, barrel vault, wall painting*) and Gothic (*groin vault, pointed arches, flying buttress, stained glass windows*) art + Elements of a cathedral (*nave, transept, choir, altar, apse, radiating chapels*)

b- Thomas Becket, the conflict between the King and the Church

Webquest: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/becket_01.shtml
<http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/>

- 1) How and when did Thomas become the archbishop of Canterbury?
- 2) What is the main bone of contention between Thomas and Henry?
- 3) What happened to Thomas in December 1170?

Assessment:

The best known event in the Cathedral's history was the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170. Thomas had been one of Henry II's chief advisers and one of his best friends. Henry made Thomas his archbishop of Canterbury. He thought that Thomas would make the church obey the king. But he was wrong: Thomas changed his total allegiance from the King to the Pope and the Church. Henry had expected his full support, and there were many conflicts between them. The last one occurred when the King said that **priests** who had done wrong must be tried in the King's court. Thomas refused it because the Church had its own courts. The King and the Church had **competing authorities**

So Henry was furious and asked: "Who will rid me of this meddlesome priest?" Four of Henry's knights overheard the King's rage and took it seriously. On 29 December 1170, they travelled to Canterbury, the **Archbishop** was murdered in his cathedral while he was kneeling at **the altar**.

In 1173, Becket was canonized by Pope Alexander III. Pilgrims began to flock to Thomas' **shrine** in the Cathedral; a year later Henry, in sackcloth, walking barefoot, was among them. He took all the blame for the murder, he made the monks whip his bare back and spent the night lying on the stone floor near Thomas's tomb.

Canterbury, always on the medieval **pilgrim** route to Rome, became an end in itself, as thousands came to worship at Becket's tomb, especially after his canonization in 1173.

II. England in the third crusade

ENGLAND IN THE THIRD CRUSADE

1) Background to the third crusade

Fill in the blanks

In the middle-ages, Christians thought that the most important city was Jerusalem ; the city is considered as the birthplace of Christianity, indeed according to the New Testament Jerusalem is the location of the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every year, many Christians went there as pilgrims: they made special visits to the holy places where Jesus had lived and died.

Jerusalem was also very important to the followers of the Muslim religion: their great leader had been Mohammed and it was from Jerusalem that he had gone up to Heaven. So the problem was that both the Christians and the Muslims wanted Jerusalem to belong to them. Arab Muslims had captured it in the 12th century but they had let the Christians carry on visiting the Holy places and pilgrims were not badly treated.

Things changed in the 11th century when the Turks overran the lands to the east of the Mediterranean Sea. In 1095, the head of the Catholic Church, the pope called the Christian knights together and told them it was their duty to go and fight the Turks to win back the Holy places. The pope told them to sew cross on their clothes to show they were fighting for God.

In 1099, the knights besieged Jerusalem; it took them two weeks but they captured the city. The crusaders shared out the land and built forts and castles, some stayed there to make sure the Turks didn't win it back.

In 1187, a new Turkish leader appeared his name was Saladin; thanks to him the Turks took over Jerusalem once again.

2) The Turks captured Jerusalem

Comment on : The storming of Jerusalem: **Ridley Scott, Kingdom of Heaven, 2005**

- 1) *List the different Holy Places you can catch sight of. Why are they so important for the Christians? For the Muslims?*
- 2) *Which different weapons can you see being used?*
- 3) *Describe the way the knights are dressed.*
- 4) *How did Saladin impose his terms? Why did Balian accept to surrender?*
- 5) *Who is the character Balian meets at the end of the movie? What/who is he looking for?*
- 6) *According to Ridley Scott, what did Saladin do when entering Jerusalem? Do you find it believable? If not, what could be the purpose of the director?*

3) Richard on the road to the Holy Land

In 1189, the kings of France and England both set out for the holy land from Vezelay in France. They were joined by the emperor Frederic Barbarossa of Germany, but the latter never got to the Holy land because he was drowned in a river on the way. The other two kings landed in the Holy Land and besieged the town of Acre. After the capture of Acre, Philip went back to France while Richard, left alone kept on fighting for Jerusalem.

During the winter months of 1192 Richard's men occupied and refortified several different cities, hoping to use them as the base of operations to reconquer Jerusalem. But Richard began to receive disturbing news of the activities of his brother John and of Philip Augustus, and as the spring gave way to summer it became evident that Richard must soon return to Europe to safeguard his own interests there.

Richard the lionheart makes peace with Saladin

Itinerarium Peregrinorum et Gesta Regis Ricardi, translated by James Brundage, *The Crusades: A Documentary History*,

“As his illness became very grave, the King despaired of recovering his health he chose to seek to make a truce rather than to desert the depopulated land altogether and to leave the business unfinished (...) He demanded of Saif adDin, Saladin's brother, that he act as go-between and seek the best conditions he could get for a truce between them. (...) Saladin agreed to confirm an inviolate peace between Christians and Saracens, guaranteeing for both free passage and access to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord without the exaction of any tribute and with the freedom of bringing objects for sale and of exercising a free commerce.

When these conditions of peace had been reduced to writing and read to him, King Richard agreed to observe them, for he could not hope for anything much better, especially since he was sick, (...)The King, sent legates to Saladin. The legates informed Saladin that Richard had in fact sought this truce for a three year period so that he could go back to visit his country and so that, when he had augmented his money and his men, he could return and wrest the whole territory of Jerusalem from Saladin's grasp if, indeed, Saladin were even to consider putting up resistance.”

- 1) According to the author, why did Richard decide to leave? Quote the text to justify
- 2) Weren't there any other motives for him to quit the holy land?
- 3) What does he mean by "leaving the business undone"?
- 4) How are the muslims referred to in this passage?
- 5) What is the Holy Sepulchre?
- 6) What does Saladin offer the Christians?
- 7) How does Richard react? What are his plans for the future? Did he eventually achieve his goals?

Assessment:

Richard negotiated a truce with Saladin obtaining free passage for Christian pilgrims. The Turks kept Jerusalem, but Christian pilgrims could visit it. The departure of Richard the LionHearted from the Holy Land in October 1192 ended the third major Western invasion of the East. On this expedition three great armies had toiled to conquer Jerusalem and the whole of Palestine for the West. But, in 1192, Jerusalem was still in Saladin's hands and the deliverance of the East from the Moslems was still a pious hope

After the crusade, Richard sailed home but he was shipwrecked near Venice and decided to return home overland in disguise because of French hostility: he was discovered near Vienna and handed over to Duke Leopold of Austria, keen to avenge the insult of the crusade (after taking Acre, English soldiers had thrown his banner into a moat).

The King of England was handed over to Emperor Henry VI of Germany and was imprisoned in various castles. Richard had to pay a colossal ransom. The English had to pay a ransom to buy freedom for their King. The ransom was eventually paid and Richard was released in 1194 and went back to England.