

**LONGMANS' MODERN  
SERIES. THE ILLUSTRATED  
READERS. SECOND BOOK**

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Longmans' Modern Series. The Illustrated Readers. Second Book by Anonymous

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Longmans' Modern Series

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THE  
ILLUSTRATED READERS

SECOND BOOK



LONDON  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.  
1881

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THE  
ILLUSTRATED READERS.

SECOND BOOK.

THE ANCIENT BRITONS.

wav-ing	nei-ther	chim-neys
fruits	o-pen-ing	pro-tect
be-lieve	paint-ed	peo-ple
wolves	cov-er-ed	leath-er

1. A long time ago the country now called England was covered with thick forests. When you look around and see fields waving with yellow corn, and gardens full of fruits and flowers, you will find it hard to believe that the same place was perhaps once a dark forest, with bears and wolves running wild in it.

2. In those days, too, there were neither roads nor bridges, and hardly any corn was grown in the whole country.

3. But it is about the people called Britons—who lived in this land nineteen hundred years ago—that I wish to speak.

4. They were good-looking, and their long dark hair hung loosely about their necks. If they wore any dress at all, it was



made from the skins of wild beasts. Some of them painted their bodies.

5. At first they lived in caves; but, in course of time, they made huts of basket-work—of a round form—somewhat like a bee-hive. These were without windows or chimneys, but an opening was left at the

top through which light and air were let in the room, and smoke got away.

6. The huts were covered over with mud to keep out the wind and rain, and were placed in the middle of woods, or on high hills, where the people could best protect themselves from their foes and wild beasts.

7. A good many huts were put near each other, around which the Britons dug a ditch, and made a wall of the trunks of trees, so as to be safer from harm.

8. They slept upon beds made of grass or heather, which in winter were covered with skins. For food they gathered roots, berries, and acorns. Flocks of sheep and herds of cattle were also kept in some parts, and they added to their stores of meat and clothing by hunting the wild animals with which the woods abounded.

9. The Britons could make a strange kind of boat, which was covered with leather; they also made bows, arrows, and even swords.

**dark forest** : where a large number of trees grew very close together.

**caves** : hollows in the side of a hill or mountain.

**foes** : those who would harm them.

**heather** : a small shrub which grows on a heath.

**acorns** : the fruit of the oak-tree.

**trunks** : stems of trees.

**abounded** : were filled.