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Picture research by Cecilia Mackay, with the kind assistance of Helen Nicoll at the National Museums of Scotland.
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The recorded history of Scotland begins with the arrival of the Roman Empire in the 1st century, when the province of Britannia reached as far north as the Antonine Wall. North of this was Caledonia, inhabited by the Picts, whose uprisings forced Rome’s legions back to Hadrian’s Wall. As Rome finally withdrew from Britain, Gaelic raiders called the Scoti began colonising Western Scotland and Wales. Prior to Roman times, prehistoric Scotland entered the Neolithic Era about 4000 BC, the Bronze Age about 2500 BC.

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