Timeline of the different tribes that invaded France

Neanderthal man (80,000 years ago)

↓

Cro-Magnon man (30,000 years ago)

↓

Neolithic man (4,500/4,000 years ago)
Constructs dwellings: allows for settlement; animals are reared for food; crops are grown

↓

The Celts (6th century BC)
Tribes from Central Europe invade large parts of France: they bring the Iron Age

↓

Tribes from the Mediterranean conquer the coast of France (6th century BC)

↓

Roman invasions (58-50 BC)
Julius Caesar successively invades different parts of France (see map)
Roman control of Gaul will last for 5 centuries, until 486 AD
Latin was adopted by the Gauls
Gaul was absorbed in the Roman Empire
Gauls became Roman citizens

↓

Visigothic kingdoms/The Merovingians (5th-8th century AD)
The Visigoths ruled a large part of southern France, but gradually lost it
In 486 AD, Gaul came under the rule of the Merovingians, the first kings of France
**Important names in the history of the French territory**

**Clovis** (466-511)
Played a significant part in European history
Extended power of the Frankish tribes
Makes his capital in Paris
After his death, his territories are divided between his four sons
Three separate kingdoms emerge

- Austrasia
- Neustria
- Burgundy

**Pepin II** (635-714)
Controls all three kingdoms in 687
His illegitimate son, Charles, becomes his successor

**Charles Martel** (≈688-741)
Fights German invasions

**Charles the Great (Charlemagne)** (≈742-814)
Grandson of Charles the Great and son of Pepin III
Only empire that united France and Germany
Wants to leave the kingdom to his three sons; only one of them survives: Louis the Pious

**Louis the Pious** (778-840)
At his death in 840: was between his three sons over their share of the kingdom
The three sons agree on a division in 843
This division will have lasting effects in the history of Europe