

Iron Age Archaeo-Box (HI10017)

This collection contains a variety of Iron Age replica artefacts ideal for investigating evidence, encouraging historical enquiry and role-play of an archaeological dig.



Contents: -

1. 1 x Clay Pot
2. 1 x Iron Age Brooch
3. 1 x Iron Age Scissors
4. 1 x Haematite
5. 1 x Iron Age Timeline
1x Archaeology CD

(Contents may vary)

Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in the Iron Age?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Artefacts

1. Clay Pot

People would have made and decorated pots by hand. Used for cooking, storage and even rituals. Examine pots and pottery shards to learn about the uses and see examples of early art.

Make simple pieces of pottery from clay and use hand-building techniques. Ask the children think about the types of utensils that might be needed for everyday life in the various ages.

2. Iron Age Brooch

Following the Bronze Age iron was used to make various tools, weapons and jewellery. The use of iron became more widespread after people learned how to make steel, a much harder metal, by heating iron with carbon. Here is an example of an early iron Age brooch formed from two pieces of shaped steel used to fasten cloaks or other items of clothing.

3. Iron Age Scissors

The Iron Age marked a significant leap in technology with more widely used materials and tools. Scissors were used for tasks such as needlework and cutting cloth and shears would have been used by farmers to make farming easier.

Compare Iron Age tools to earlier tools from the Bronze and Stone Age.

4. Haematite

Haematite (also spelled as hematite) is a common iron oxide compound with the formula, Fe_2O_3 and is widely found in rocks and soils. Haematite signals the transition from the Stone and Bronze Ages to the new Iron Age – when tools, weapons, and jewellery were made from hard metal. Haematite would have involved the extraction of iron by crushing the rocks to a powder and then by ‘smelting’ in a very hot fire or furnace; the iron would have then been broken up into small pieces and re-fired to remove any impurities before being forged it shape.

Hematite is the key ingredient for iron production and played a pivotal role in during the iron age that shaped the course of human history.

Hematite is found in Igneous rocks, Sedimentary rocks and Metamorphic rocks, it is typically formed by the dehydration of hydrous iron oxide minerals.

Uses of hematite include the following:

- It is used to produce iron and steel.
- The pigment is used in paints, inks, and cosmetics. It is also used to produce red glass and ceramics.
- Hematite is used to make carvings and sculptures and in jewellery.

It is also used in welding rods, catalysts, and magnetic recording tapes.

5. Iron Age Timeline and Archaeology CD

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age: 450,000-10,000BC - stone tools, woolly mammoths)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age: 10,000-4,500BC - stone tools, temporary camps)
- Neolithic (New Stone Age: 4,500-2,300BC - more advanced stone tools, pottery, settlements)
- Bronze Age (4,500-700BC - bronze weapons, first roundhouses)
- Iron Age (700BC-AD43 - iron tools & weapons, gold jewellery, roundhouse settlements)

Turn your class into an archaeological dig and encourage questioning and historical research. Uncover physical evidence to learn about the Iron Age. By carefully examining the artefacts you can piece together a more complete picture of the tribal kingdoms, farming and art and culture. Create a mock dig site and learn excavation techniques. When they have found their artefact task them to fill out an 'artefact report' where they draw the artefact and describe its features and likely uses. Encourage them to do further research and then report back what they have found out, labelling and displaying their artefact to create a classroom museum of finds.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-britain>