

WINTRINGHAM
ST NEOTS



Archaeology

Activity Booklet



The new residents at Wintringham are not the first people to live here. Nearly two and a half thousand years ago people lived and farmed in this area, long before the Romans arrived in Britain.

This was the **Iron Age**, when people first started to make and use iron tools and weapons and belonged to regional tribes, such as the *Catuvellauni* who lived across Cambridgeshire at the time.

Before the Romans arrived in Britain, people lived in circular wooden houses with thatched roofs called 'roundhouses'. The Roundhouse Primary Academy at Love's Farm is named after these Iron Age homes. Have you seen the conical roof there?



Catuvellauni means 'chiefs of war' in Gaulish, a language spoken in Europe in the Iron Age



Archaeologists excavating a trench at Wintringham



At Wintringham, families lived in round wooden houses, grew their own crops, and kept animals such as cows and sheep. We know about this thanks to the archaeologists who worked here before Wintringham was built. It's their job to dig for clues left in the ground which tell us about where, how and when people lived in the past.

In this activity pack, you will use your imagination and detective skills to learn about life in the Iron Age and what makes the prehistory of Wintringham so interesting.

Iron Age Wintringham



← St Neots

Love's Farm

Three Fishes pond

Bret Pond

Wintringham Now

Wintringham Primary Academy

School Plaza

Bret Play Park

Ripple Play Park

WYRE CRESCENT

CAMBRIDGE ROAD

RAILWAY

Western settlement

Possible shrine

Future Phases

Eastern settlement

Wintringham Then

Long-lived boundary

Southern settlement

Ridgeway track

Archaeologists found signs of two settlements – a place where people used to live – during excavations at Wintringham. The Eastern and Western settlements would have included homes for people during the Iron Age.

A long-lived boundary was also found which continued northwards. This ancient boundary may have been in use for nearly 2,500 years!

Spot the difference



This is one of the new homes being built at Wintringham...



...and this is a roundhouse, similar to the ones people lived in during the Iron Age

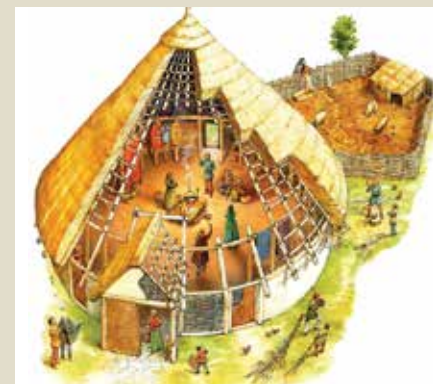
| Questions | Iron Age house | Modern house |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| What is the roof made of? | | |
| How many rooms do you think it has? | | |
| How many windows can you see? | | |
| How do you think it is heated? | | |

Selling a roundhouse

Here is a picture to show what the inside of a roundhouse might have looked like.

Where do you think people cooked, ate and slept?

There were no estate agents in the Iron Age (at least, we don't think there were!) but imagine it's your job to advertise this roundhouse to new families who want to move to Wintringham. Use the template below to create an advert.



Roundhouse for sale



ENTRANCE

FOR SALE



Number of rooms:

Detached/Semi-detached/terraced:

House description*:

*Top tip: Take a look at the adverts for the houses for sale at Wintringham. What information do the estate agents include?

Quiz

- 1 When did the Iron Age begin? 1200 BC or 2,500 years ago?
- 2 Fill in the missing letters: R _ _ _ D _ _ U S _
- 3 What three things was *daub* made from?
- 4 What language did people speak in the Iron Age?
- 5 Dinosaurs existed in the Iron Age: true or false?



Reconstruction of Iron Age iron working

Build a roundhouse

In the Iron Age, people built their own homes with materials from the local area. These roundhouses would usually last for as long as one family generation lived and grew up, and were then rebuilt.

Below is a list of steps to build a roundhouse, but they're all mixed up. Can you get them in the right order?

Top tip: You want the roof on the house as quickly as possible to create shelter.

A Fill the gaps between the wattle with a mixture of straw, clay and animal dung, known as 'daub'.

B Build wooden benches for sitting and sleeping, and a central fireplace.

C Cover the roof with layers of dried plant material like straw or reeds, known as 'thatch'.

D Mark a circle on the ground. Dig holes and place tall wooden posts into the ground around the circle.

E Weave long thin branches between the wooden posts. This is known as 'wattle'.

F Use long poles to create a conical support for the roof.

Correct order

Now you can do it for real...

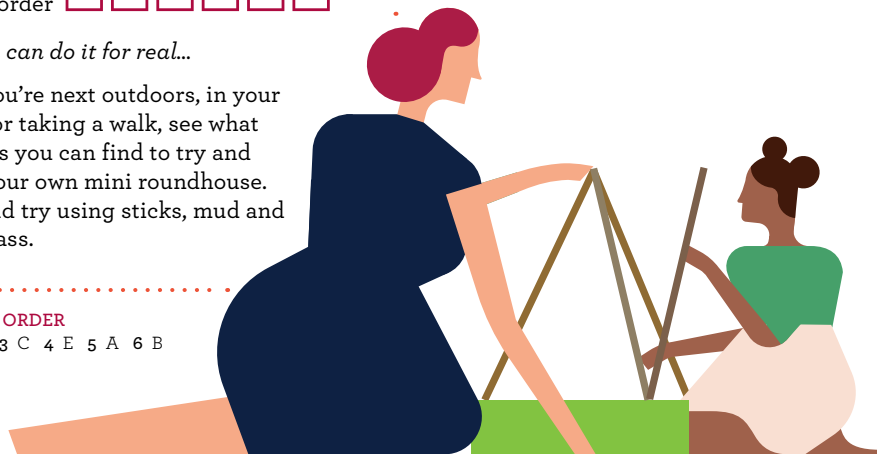
When you're next outdoors, in your garden or taking a walk, see what materials you can find to try and create your own mini roundhouse. You could try using sticks, mud and dried grass.

CORRECT ORDER

1 D 2 F 3 C 4 E 5 A 6 B



The next play area at Wintringham is going to be called The Fort: this is inspired by the Iron Age forts, usually built on hilltops for communities to defend themselves from attack from other tribes. The forts were defended by building high banks of earth surrounded by deep ditches and tall wooden walls.



Iron Age wordsearch

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

Can you find the Iron Age words hidden in the word grid above? Good luck!

TUNIC
 PLOUGH
 AXES
 IRONAGE
 ROUNDHOUSE
 TOOLS
 BLACKSMITH

SHIELD
 SWORDS
 BERRIES
 FORT
 LAND
 WARRIOR



Did you know?

Coins were first used in Britain during the Iron Age? The first coins were probably used as gifts between rulers rather than as currency to pay for goods. The designs often copied earlier Greek coins, and the inscriptions are the earliest evidence of writing in Britain.



Explore the past

Visit these places with your family

- See a hoard of coins found near Kimbolton is on display at *St Neots Museum*.
- See the remains of Iron Age hillforts at *Moswbury Hill* and at *Sandy Lodge RSPB*.
- Visit the Iron Age hillfort at *Wandlebury Country Park*.
- Explore replica roundhouses – like the ones found at *Wintringham* – at *Flag Fen Archaeological Park* in Peterborough.



Did you know?

There are over 4,000 Iron Age hillforts in Britain and Ireland? You can explore a map of them online: hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk



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