

See inside The Stone Age to Iron Age Resource Pack



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A full unit of
history work
for **KS2**
covering the
changes in
Britain from
the Stone
Age to the
Iron Age

10 full lessons with
Powerpoints

Detailed
plans for
each lesson

Ready to
pick up and
teach

Differentiated
activities to
adapt for your
pupil needs

Assessment
opportunities

Fully
resourced
lessons

Extension
ideas

Further thinking
and discussion
ideas

Pupil activity
sheets

Stone Age to Iron Age
Lesson 8: What do 'grave goods' tell us about the Bronze Age?

Non Objectives

- To understand how grave goods can give us information about the past
- To think about what type of objects survive over time

Resources:

- Slides Lesson 8
- Resource 8a
- Resource 8a pre-cut into separate cards (one per small group)
- Post-it notes

Starter

Explain that when people in the Bronze Age died, they were often buried in round barrows. Archaeologists have dug up a number of these graves in Britain and they have found that the bodies were sometimes buried with a selection of grave goods, which are objects or artefacts that were buried alongside the person in the grave. These items can allow us to deduce information about who the person was, such as how powerful or wealthy they were. They can also tell us more about life in the Bronze Age. As a starter discussion, ask the pupils to choose five personal items that they would choose to put in a round barrow to represent themselves to future generations. Pupils should draw around one of their hands and record their five items by writing or drawing one on each finger or thumb.

Main Input

Explain to the pupils that not all objects survive over thousands of years. Some materials decompose, rust or deteriorate more quickly than others, especially organic materials like food, animal skins or textiles. Ask pupils to think about the five objects that they chose and to number them in order of how long they would survive if we tried to preserve them for thousands of years. Show pupils the second *Main Input* slide and ask them to discuss which of the objects shown would survive over thousands of years. Then hand out copies of Resource 8a and challenge the pupils to sort out the items by whether or not they would survive over time using the table on the sheet.

Ask pupils to reflect on what kind of items from the Stone and Bronze Ages might have not survived over time. Draw out that we would have more evidence of what life was like if everything was able to be preserved.

Activity

Tell the pupils that they are going to look at some of the Bronze Age items that would have survived over time and that they are going to work out what the items might tell us about the person with which they were buried.

First give each small group of pupils the image cards from Resource 8b and ask them to write ideas on post-it notes about what information the object might give us. Then give out the statement cards and ask pupils to match them to the images.

More Support: Work with pupils who struggle to make sensible deductions about what the objects can tell us about the person to whom they might have belonged.

More Challenge: As an extension challenge or homework task, ask pupils to design a Bronze Age round barrow with a mystery character buried inside. Choose 5 Bronze Age burial objects to go inside and then write a paragraph to explain what the objects tell them about what the person inside was like. Pupils might like to turn their designs into a model based in a shoebox.

Spot check

Use the *Spot Check* slide to make sure that pupils can give examples of Bronze Age grave goods and suggest what each one might tell us about life in the Bronze Age.

Plenary

Use the *Plenary* slide to introduce pupils to the Amesbury Archer. Then connect to https://www.bbc.com/history/ancient/stone_age/14_01_14_amesbury_archer and scroll down to the Amesbury Archer's interactive grave image near the bottom of the page. Click on each item to find out what the grave goods might tell us about the man buried in the grave. Pupils could do this on individual iPads or you could look together as a class using the interactive whiteboard.

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