

These free resources enable KS2 teachers to link the Blackdown Hills' heritage of iron working to wider learning about British history, technology, science and geography and to use the topic as a cross-curricular theme, for example in English, maths and art.

The topic covers four key historical periods: Iron Age; Roman Britain; late Anglo-Saxon/early Medieval; and modern day archaeology. For each period we have suggested one way to plan a lesson and highlighted curriculum areas to which it could be linked.

The online resources include four short, light-hearted films to show in class. Each film was written, acted and produced by children at All Saints Primary School near Axminster as part of the Blackdowns Metal Makers project in 2015.

Lesson 4 – Archaeology today

Key learning

The evidence for iron working in the past is still there in the ground, waiting to be discovered.

The traces of iron working lay buried in the fields and woodlands of the Blackdown Hills. Archaeologists are starting to piece together the evidence, although we still have much to uncover. Evidence that we find today include hollows where there were once iron ore extraction pits, burnt earth patches, fragments of clay furnace and lumps of 'slag' – a glassy black rock formed as a waste product during the smelting process which farmers in the Blackdown Hills frequently find on their land and even use as a building material.

Background

For more in-depth information on the iron working process, see:

- Ancient iron working fact sheet <http://tinyurl.com/ktk8m56>
- Meeting the Blackdowns Metal Makers film <http://tinyurl.com/ksdu8xb>

Online film sketch

The Archaeology Show – a short sketch by children of a Time Team-style TV show where two archaeologists tell us all about their dig on an iron working site in the Blackdown Hills.

Meet The Metal Makers - a 10 minute documentary film about a real dig at a furnace site in the Blackdown Hills in 2014 (please find in the 'Archaeology' section of the Metal Makers website).

Lesson idea

Cross-curricular – English/history/geography/maths

Note that this lesson follows on from the learning earlier in the series, in particular Lesson 1 – Iron Age technology.

- Watch the *Archaeology Show* sketch and discuss what an archaeologist does. Highlight looking for evidence, and focus on human history (and difference from palaeontology).
- What tools does an archaeologist use? How many can you remember from the film?
- Explain that archaeologists spend a lot of time carefully recording what they find. In pairs or small groups give out small objects to record. These could be more or less challenging

depending on ability. You could use modern items such as packaging or empty bottles, mugs, cutlery, plastic jewellery etc. Or you could use older items such as horse shoes, pottery etc if you have them. To extend the activity, use objects with a range of ages.

- Get each pair/group to look carefully at their object and discuss the questions on the *Archaeologists are detectives!* sheet below, taking brief notes, and using a ruler to measure in cm. Tell the rest of the rest of the group about your object.
- Each write a short report about your object, practising giving descriptions.
- Explain that you are going to learn about a real dig in the Blackdown Hills. Watch *Meeting the Metal Makers* together, looking out for what they find.
- Complete the Meeting the Metal Makers sheet below.

You will need

- Internet access
- A range of objects to describe
- Copies of the sheets below

Curriculum areas

KS2 English

- Give structured descriptions
- Participate actively in conversation
- Use the perfect tense

KS2 History

- A local history study

KS2 Geography

- Human geography including the distribution of natural resources including minerals
- Basic geographical vocabulary and key physical features

KS2 Mathematics

- Measure with metric measures

Extension activities

- As a whole class, put the objects from the exercise above in age order. Explain that more recent objects nearer the surface and older objects will be lower down. Create a collaborative display using coloured paper to show layers of soil. Draw or paint pictures of each object and add them to the display in the right order. (Art & Design LKS2 - Improve mastery of techniques such as drawing, painting and sculpture with varied materials)
- Write a longer non-fiction, non-chronological report about the different objects found or the processes / steps involved in an archaeological dig, using sub headings and paragraphs as a key skill.

See our website for more lesson ideas in this series:

Iron Age technology / Roman-British iron trade / Medieval Blackdowns blacksmiths

www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/metal-makers

Useful contacts

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team

For information about all aspects of visiting and understanding the area.

See: www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

The Carousel Project

Exeter-based social enterprise bringing creative learning, new experiences and outdoor adventure to early years children & their families. See: www.thecarouselproject.org.uk

South West Heritage Trust learning team

Loans for Learning and other education services for schools. See: www.swheritage.org.uk

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**Archaeologists are detectives!
Look carefully at your object and
think about these questions:**

What does it look and feel like?

- What colour is it?
- What do you think it is made of?
- What shape is it?
- Is it hard or soft, warm or cold?
- Is it old or new?
- How big is it? (long/wide)
- Is heavy or light?

How was it made?

- Is it natural or did someone make it?
- How do you think someone made it?

What about the design?

- Is there a pattern? Can you describe it?
- How do you think it was decorated?

What was it used for?

- Would you put things in it?
- Would you use it as a tool?
- Would you wear it?

Who used it?

- Do you think they were young or old?
- Can you tell if it was a man or a woman?

Is it similar to anything that you use?

NOTES

A large empty rectangular box for taking notes, with the word 'NOTES' written at the top left corner.

Meeting the Metal Makers

Marc, Brian and Scruffy found all these things on their dig, but they've got mixed up!
Can you link up the labels and the descriptions?

Iron ore

Lump of slag

Orange soil

Piece of pottery

Charcoal

This changed colour because it got so hot! It shows us that a furnace was on this spot, heating ore to make metal.

A small piece, with straight sides, shaped like part of a dog bowl. We thought at first it was Saxon, but an expert has told us it is Roman.

Black, burned wood, used to heat the furnace. We know the trees used were young because the pieces are small and round.

Black, shiny material - this is the waste product from making iron. It shows us people were making iron here.

Natural rock found in the Blackdown Hills which turns to metal when heated enough

Finally, complete this sentence:

Marc thinks that archaeology is like figuring out a _____