

What do archaeologists study?

Watch the video: Draw and label a tool that an archaeologist might use.

What scientific methods do archaeologists use?

What is the difference between organic and inorganic materials?

How many years of human activity have been found at The Chester House Estate?

Why do archaeologists carry out excavations?

Where will the artefacts discovered be stored?

Which period came between the Neolithic and Iron Ages?

What pottery artefacts have been found at The Chester House Estate?

What is flint knapping?

When were coins first used in Britain?

Sketch a picture of an object from the Bronze Age

Object name:

I picked this because...

Adult-led activities

Use these activities to deepen understanding with your students.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think people settled on the land at The Chester House Estate?
- Would the natural resources available on The Chester House Estate in Roman times be beneficial to a community today? Why?
- Which period came between the Neolithic and Iron Ages?
- What does pollen evidence tell us?
- Why do you think that turning copper and tin into bronze was so important?
- What was the biggest change from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age?
- Find out about tools developed in the Neolithic period. Are any of these ideas still used today?

Activities

- Have a go at some of the activity sheets in the galleries
- Object spotting can you find:
 - The oldest object in the gallery
 - The youngest object in the gallery
 - The biggest object in the gallery
 - The smallest object in the gallery

How do archaeologists know that there was a farm here during the Iron Age?

What Iron Age technological advance do we have evidence of?

How do we know that there was long distance trade with the continent?

When did coins arrive in Britain?

How many times bigger is the modern £1 coin than the Catuvellauni coin?

When were coins first used in Britain?

How many nummi in a solidus? How many radiates in an argenteus?

List 3 things that the army would need to function.

What was the name of the Roman road from Colchester via the Welland Valley to Leicester?

Why do archaeologists know more about pottery than other artefacts?

Why did small towns have defensive features?

Which buildings suggest that this was a town?

How far is The Chester House Estate from....

Londinium?

Verulamium?

How do we know that people could read and write?

What jewellery items have been found?

What meat and fish did Roman Britons eat?

Draw a sketch of your favourite object from either the late Iron Age or Roman era.

Object name:

I picked this because...

Adult-led activities

Use these activities to deepen understanding with your students.

Discussion Questions

- What is an Oppida? Why do you think they were better than hillforts? **Easier to farm the land and more space for people to live**
- Did lifestyles in Northamptonshire change dramatically with the Roman invasion? How do we know? **Although lifestyles changed gradually to incorporate Roman culture they still maintained traditions and links important to them before the invasion?**
- Would you have preferred to live inside or outside the enclosed settlement? Why?
- Where do you think wealthy people would have lived? Why? **Safer inside, better houses, evidence from the buildings on the map**
- How do we know that some soldiers had families even though they weren't allowed to marry? **Evidence of women and children living near forts**
- Why did Irchester change after the Roman invasion? **Became a trading centre as it was close to the trading and communication routes. Messengers and officials could change horses and stay overnight**
- How do we know that The Chester Estate was a settlement and not a military camp? **Geophysical survey shows roads and numerous buildings**
- Why did small towns have defensive features? **Probably had some official function maybe for tax collection or management of regional resources**
- Which buildings suggest that this was a town? **Mansio (hostel) and bathhouse**
- What was the job of the Strator whose tombstone has been found? **Buying horses for the Imperial mail system**
- Why do you think the pottery, leather tanning, metalworking and malting house industries were sited in the suburbs and not in the town? **Noise, smell, dirt, smoke**
- How do we know that people could read and write? **There is evidence of writing on the bones used for gaming counters and pottery fragments with figures and letters**
- Why is the study of ancient pottery important? **It tells us about the tastes and dining habits, the social and cultural backgrounds of the inhabitants as well as their relationship with the rest of the Roman world**
- Why do archaeologists know more about pottery than anything else? **Pottery is more durable than other items and survived in great quantities**
- Why is it important for archaeologists to investigate cemeteries? **Valuable insight into diet, disease, lifestyle and demographics.**
- Which was becoming more popular cremation or burial? **burial**
- How do we know that people travelled extensively? **Scientists have used stable isotope analysis identifying people with African ancestry in Roman Britain.**

ON GALLERY ACTIVITIES

Keyword Taboo

Choose one of the underlined words and describe it to your group without using any of the words beneath it. Can your group work out what word you are trying to describe?

Archaeologist

Archaeology
Trowel
Lara Croft
Indiana Jones
The definition of
archaeologist/archaeology
Archaic

Iron age

Iron
Metal
Era
Celts
Roundhouse

Temple

House of worship
Church
Temple
Religion

Coin

Money
Coin
Piece
Coinage
Exchange

Gladiator

Coliseum
Russel Crowe
Arena
Lion

Farm

Farm, Farmer,
Farming, Farmed
Plant
Field

Excavation

Digging
Burial
Trowel

Mansio

Hotel
Sleeping
Travel