

Learning outcomes:**Ancient Art**

- I know how ancient people told stories through art
- I know why ancient people told stories through art
- I have used planning and creative skills to create cave art
- I have worked collaboratively with my classmates to create cave art

Stone Circles

- I know what an ancient stone circle is
- I know what stone circles may have been used for in the ancient world
- I know the names of three stone circles
- I have used planning and creative skills to create a stone circle
- I have worked collaboratively with my classmates to create a stone circle

Curriculum links

The activities within this set of lesson plans have been designed to offer a cross-curricular approach. They support the following areas of the curriculum across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales:

England	Activity
History	All Activities
English - Speaking, Writing and Listening	Ancient Art, Activity 1,2 and 3
English (Drama)	Ancient Art, Activity 1
Art and Design	All Activities
Design and Technology	Build a Stone Circle
Geography	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
Citizenship	All Activities
Personal, Social and Health Education	All Activities
Science	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
Northern Ireland	
The World Around Us – History	All Activities
The World Around Us – Science and Technology	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
The World Around Us – Geography	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
Language and Literacy	Ancient Art, Activity 1,2 and 3
The Arts – Drama, Art and design	All Activities
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	All Activities
Scotland	
Social Studies	All Activities
Languages: Literacy and English and/or Literacy and Gaidhlig	All Activities
Sciences	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
Expressive Arts	All Activities
Technologies – ICT and Computing Science, Engineering, Design and Graphics	All Activities
Health and Well Being – Planning for Choices and Changes and Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical Well Being	All Activities
Wales	
History	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
English and/or Welsh	Ancient Art, Activity 1,2 and 3
Art	Ancient Art, Activity 1,2 and 3
Design and Technology	Build a stone circle
Geography	Ancient Art, Activity 1 and Build a Stone Circle
Personal and Social Education	All Activities

**For Groups
and Schools**

BBC

HANDS ON HISTORY THE ANCIENTS

Use these ancient-themed workshops with groups of kids, families or communities.

The activities are creative, hands-on ways to step back in time and meet our ancient ancestors.

Hands on History is a two-year campaign from BBC Learning. Visit the website for more ideas and resources for inspiring groups and schools to get hands on with history. You can also find historic sites to visit using our online map and watch animations with Eric as he travels through time.
bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory



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1. CREATE SOME ANCIENT ART

Use Introductory activity 1 to set the scene, then choose either activity 2 or 3 to create some ancient art together.

- Tell a story without words (10 minutes)

You will need:

- A large piece of paper on the wall OR a black/whiteboard
- Pens

You can play this quick and simple game to help your participants get into the mind of their ancient ancestors and think about what life must have been like before written language developed.

Explain to the group that they are now entering the ancient world. It is 12000BC and Britain is beginning to warm after the Ice Age. They live a hunter-gatherer life, hunting mammals such as reindeer and Arctic hare.

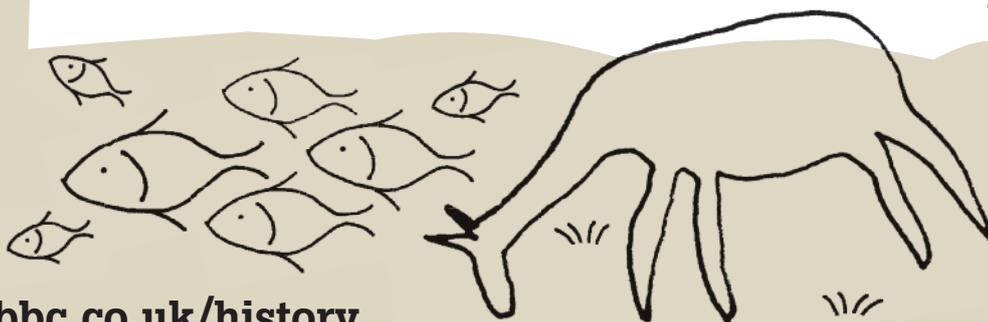
Choose one member of the group and give them a message to share with the rest of the group without using speech. You can make up your own ancient message, or use one of ours:

- I have had a successful hunt today and killed a deer.
- There are many fish in the river over the big hill.
- I have found a new cave that we could shelter in to keep dry.
- Has anyone seen my cutting stone?

The messenger has to draw their message onto the paper or black/whiteboard for the group to guess.

Give the group three minutes to work out what the message is by calling out their suggestions based on the drawings.

If you have a very strong group, they may work out the message completely. But don't worry if they don't, explain that the point of the game is to show just how tricky it must have been to communicate and share stories without written language. This may be why some ancient people began to use art to describe the world around them.



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HISTORY
THE ANCIENTS

2. CREATE A CAVE CARVING

(45 minutes)

You will need:

- Modelling clay (a piece the size of a fist for each carver)
- Rolling pins
- Optional - 'Tools' for carving

Explain to the group that ancient people carved the animals and birds that they saw around them into the walls of caves. They often started with a natural feature in the rock face and carved around it, using the shapes they saw to inspire them.

Your group can get inspiration for their cave art by looking at the carvings found at Cresswell Crags in Derbyshire – the oldest art in Britain!

Top tips

You can also run this activity using Play Dough or similar, but remember the participants won't be able to take their artwork home.

Make your cave wall

1. Give each participant a piece of clay and ask them to roll it out to create a smooth, flat surface around 1cm thick. This is their cave wall.
2. Ask the group to swap sheets of clay with someone else.
3. Using modelling tools or their hands, ask each participant to create a rough surface on the piece of clay.

Be inspired

1. Now ask the group to hand back the sheets of clay and take a look at the random shapes that have now appeared.
2. Ask the group to imagine they are a Stone Age person looking at their own cave wall for inspiration. (This is a bit like seeing shapes in the clouds!) What shapes do they see? They might just use a line or a couple of bumps on the clay as inspiration.
3. Here are some ideas to get started:
 - A hunting scene, with men following a deer
 - The night sky with the moon and stars shining brightly
 - A bird by a lake or river



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Get Carving

1. Ask the participants to begin to shape the clay using their hands.
2. They can also use modelling tools, or if you have outside space, ask the group to go outside to find twigs and stones to use as ancient tools.
3. Leave the clay to dry.

You can display all the cave art together to create one piece of ancient art.



3. CREATE A CAVE PAINTING

(45 minutes)

You will need:

- Coloured paint (red, black, white, yellow and brown)
- Paper/card
- PVA glue
- Glue spatulas or old paint brushes
- Sand in a large tray



Explain to the group that although no ancient cave paintings have been found in Britain (yet!), they are found throughout Europe and are an important record for historians learning about prehistoric life.

Make your cave wall

1. Give each group member a piece of A4 or A3 paper or card (card works better as it is less likely to wrinkle under the glue).
2. Ask each participant to paint their card with PVA glue.
3. Invite the group to come up one at a time to the sand tray and to carefully dust sand onto their paper/card to create a rough surface.

Find your tools

1. While the 'cave wall' paper is drying, take the group outside into a communal area.
2. Explain that the ancients couldn't pop down to the craft shop for a paintbrush, so the group will need to paint using their fingers and natural objects they find.
3. Ask the group to look for twigs, stones, feathers and leaves to use as painting tools.

Get creative

1. Now the paper is dry, shake off the excess sand back into the tray and hand out the paper/card.
2. Ask the participants to think of the scene they'd like to portray. Here are a few ideas:
 - Ancient animals – like deer, cattle and horses
 - An ancient message like those included in the introductory activity
 - A 'modern' cave painting – using inspiration from nature right outside the windows
 - A simple pattern using lines, dots and zigzags
3. Remind the group that paints were made from natural rocks and minerals so they can only use colours such as red, black, white, yellow and brown.

Once the group has finished, display all the cave art together to create one piece of ancient art. Ask the group to take a look at each other's paintings and work out what scene or message they have painted.

Top tips

If you don't have an outside area nearby, you can bring in a bag of twigs and other natural objects for the group to choose from on the day.



BUILD A STONE CIRCLE

This activity can be run with individuals, but it also works well with participants working in pairs or small groups.

You will need:

- One sand tray per participant/group (an unused cat litter tray, or seed tray with drainage holes covered, works well)
- Lots of clean sand from a craft or toy shop
- Quick-drying modelling clay or a selection of suitably sized clean stones
- Extension activity – an outside space and/or a dark room with a torch

Setting the scene

Before you get started, set the scene by explaining to the group that it is 2500BC (around the time the great circle at Stonehenge was built) and they are ancient stone circle builders. Their challenge is to design and build a stone circle using the Stone Circle Builders Instruction Sheet and the Planning Sheet.

You can either read out the instructions as the session progresses, or hand out photocopied sheets to each participant/group.

It will take around 15 minutes to plan a circle and 30–45 minutes depending on the age of your group to build the circle. Call out as the time passes to keep people on track, with warnings when the time is running out.

Optional extension activity

If you have more time, or a more advanced group, you can also use the Bring the Stones to Life! activity which will take a further 15 minutes. This helps the group to think about how their circle may have been used and how it would have looked throughout the day. There is a sheet included in this workshop which can be used as a handout or as instructions for the workshop leader.



STONE CIRCLE BUILDER'S INSTRUCTION SHEET

1. Plan your stone circle

Think about what your stone circle would have been used for in the ancient world. Some ideas historians have had are:

- To measure the movement of the sun and moon
- To create a special meeting place
- For spiritual worship

Now decide what layout your stone circle will have. It could be:

- A simple circle of upright stones like the Nine Maidens of Boskednan – this is now just nine standing stones, but was originally 22
- A larger arrangement with more than one circle and more stones lining pathways, like Stanton Drew
- A circle of stacked stones to create arches like Stonehenge, with more stones arranged inside the circle

There are some diagrams and images to get you thinking on the Planning Sheet, along with a blank space ready for you to plan your own circle.

2. Get the stones ready

Work out how many and what sort of stones you will need for your circle. Around 10–25 stones per circle works well. Remember that about a quarter of each stone will be underground to ensure it stands up.

Stones: If you are using real stones, think about the colour, texture, shape and size, as they did in prehistory.

Clay: If you are modelling your stones, make them as realistic as possible by modelling them with rough edges. You may want to use some real stones for inspiration.

3. Get building!

Put your plans into action by building your stone circle in your sand tray.

Experiment, just as the ancients did, with how deeply you need to bury the bottom of your stones to keep them standing firmly upright.

You might need to add more sand at this stage to make sure that it is deep enough to put your stones into. Adding a little water to dampen the sand will help.

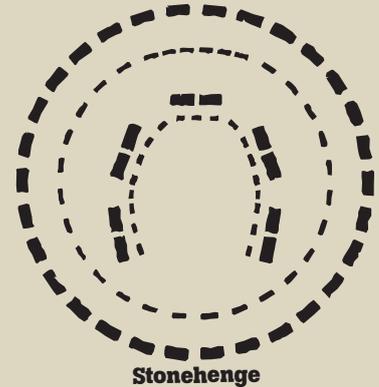
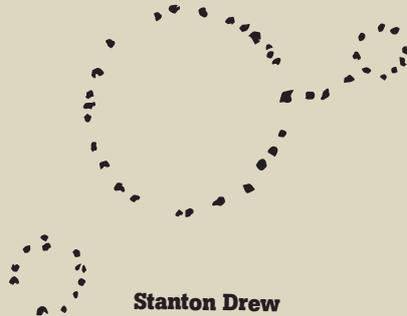
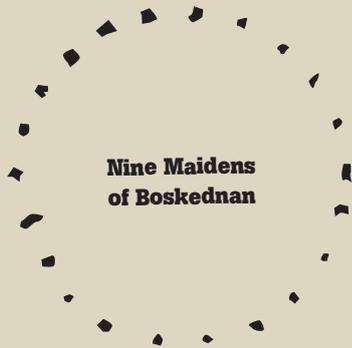
You can create stone arches like those at Stonehenge by laying one stone on top of two standing stones.

4. Name your circle

It could be named after where you live, what you think people would use your circle for or what it looks like. For example it might be called 'The Moon Worship Circle'.



STONE CIRCLE BUILDER'S PLANNING SHEET



Your plan:

Extension activity

BRING THE STONES TO LIFE

How would it have felt for ancient people visiting your circle?

Some historians believe they would have visited during the changing of the seasons, or at night for spiritual worship. Many think that ancient people were interested in how the light from the sun and moon shone on the circle and created shadows.

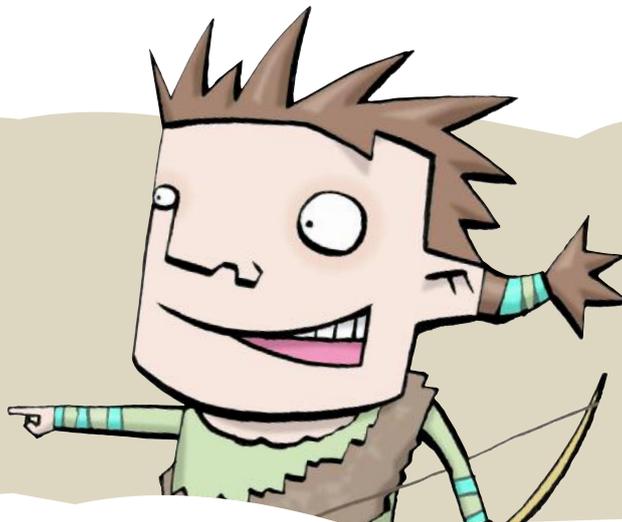
If you have outside space:

You can test the light on your own circle by taking it outside and placing it on the ground with the sun on it. Now walk around your circle to see how it looks from each angle as the sun creates shadows around it.

If you have a darkened room:

If you have a room which can be darkened in some way, you can replicate the sun or moon by using a torch. Turn on the torch, and, starting low to the floor, raise the torch up and around your model.

As you move the torch up and around your circle, think about which stones will first be warmed by the sun or lit by the silver light of the moon. What shadows are cast at each stage as the light climbs into the sky and then sets on the other side?



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