

2. IRON AGE!

#MUSEUM FROM HOME

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Make sure you are regularly checking our new Museum From Home webpage for lots more activities. We are adding new things all the time!

1

WEAVING

With this activity we'll use some coloured paper to create a paper weave picture.

Weaving in the Iron Age was a leisurely pastime, and provided people with cloth to make clothes. They also wove baskets, to hold food stuffs and provide storage. In the Castle we have clay weights from weaving on display. The loom would have been in their home and made of wood.

Fold a sheet of A4 paper in half, lengthways. With a pencil, draw straight lines from the folded edge, leaving a 2cm border at the top that you won't cut into which will keep the paper strips together. With a pair of scissors cut where you have made your lines. Open out carefully.

Now you need a sheet of contrasting colour paper or newspaper! Cut long strips to weave with. Start with one paper strip and weave it across the slits, going over and under the slits. Push the paper strip to the top. With the next strip weave in an opposite pattern. It will start to look like patchwork, hopefully with all sorts of great patterns and colours.

Once you have finished weaving with all your strips your art is finished!

What other materials could you weave with? Try weaving strips of wool and fabric strips in the same way. What other things could be used? Why not try cutting slits in a paper cup or plate and creating a circular design? Or glue a stick to one edge to make a lovely wall hanging?



2

LIFE AS AN IRON AGE CHILD

Children in the Iron age would have had lots of jobs to do from collecting berries and herbs to using a quern to grind wheat into flour. Can you write a diary entry of a typical day? Maybe you have helped to hunt or feed the animals such as goats and horses? Or helped harvest crops like corn and root vegetables.



3

DESIGN YOUR OWN TORC



In Iron age Britain torcs were a symbol of status. They were often made of gold and worn around the neck. They were elaborate in design, and heavy to wear. Ornate designs based on organic forms, animals and foliage. Can you investigate torcs and iron age body adornment using books or the internet? Why don't you design you own torc or Iron Age brooch based on the Iron Age La Tène art?

4

COLOUR CHANGING FLOWERS

With this experiment we'll see some white flowers change colour! The people of Iron Age Britain would prepare themselves for battle by painting themselves with magical blue paint made of woad. Woad was a plant with green leaves and yellow flowers. Once it was dried and mixed with urine (that means wee...ew!) a chemical reaction would occur and it would appear to magically change colour, to blue. With this experiment (minus the wee!) we are going to change the colour of some white flowers.

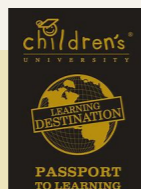
You will need a few different colours of food dye. Place about 10-15 drops of one of the colours of your dye in a cup half filled with water. Then repeat for the other colours, using different cups for each. Ask an adult to find you some white flowers, one for each colour you want to try out. Then place a stem into the coloured water- you may need to trim the stems of the flowers so they are not too long (ask an adult for help as scissors are sharp!) Check the flowers every hour and report your findings on how long it is until they are a different colour?

Do different colours work better than others?
Can you try different flowers such as roses?
Or even try celery!



LET US SEE YOUR CREATIONS!

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