

# #MuseumfromHome

## Activity Pack

# Amazing Archaeology



We hope you enjoy this activity pack. Please share photos of you using the pack with us on social media #museumfromhome #markethallmuseum



@RuairiTheFawn



Warwickshire Museum



@heritageandculturewarwickshire



Heritage and Culture Warwickshire

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritage)



Warwickshire  
County Council



# Awesome Archaeology

## Key Facts

- Archaeologists study people who live in the past. They look at the remains and artefacts they left behind to find out about their lives.
- Archaeology is especially important for learning about periods of history for when there are no written records. Periods of the past without written records are called prehistory.
- Objects made by people in the past are called artefacts. They could be anything from stone tools to cooking pots, clothes, toys and even modern items made from plastic.
- The oldest artefacts that archaeologists have found are stone tools. They have been dated to over 3 million years ago!
- There are different types of archaeology, including marine archaeology, forensic archaeology, landscape archaeology and geophysics.
- Although most people picture archaeologists digging up artefacts, the work of an archaeologist involves a lot of desk-based research before excavation. Afterwards, archaeologists have to carefully record everything they have found.
- There are lots of different ways that archaeologists can know how old an artefact is, but the most common is called stratigraphy. Artefacts found in the same layer (or strata) in the ground are often about the same age. The deeper something is found, the older it is likely to be.

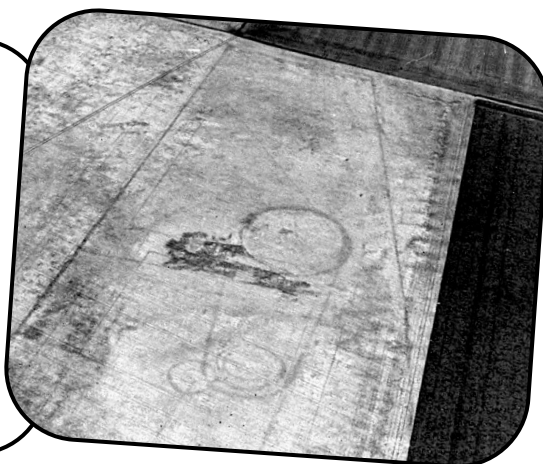


# Archaeology all Around

There is archaeological evidence all around us. Here are things to look out for in your local area:

## Crop Marks

- Crop marks are formed when features underground, such as old buildings or ditches, affect how crops grow above.
- Crop marks are best seen from above, such as in aerial photographs. Have a look on Google Earth to find some near where you live.



## Ridge and Furrow

- Ridge and furrow refers to the marks leftover from a method of ploughing not used since the Middle Ages
- Look out for wavy ridges and dents in fields.
- A field of ridge and furrow was open land, used by different people to grow food.



## Buildings and Monuments

- Buildings are archaeological artefacts too, telling us all about life in the past.
- See if you can find buildings in your area from different periods in history.
- Also look out for monuments. They could be ruined buildings, milestones, statues or even prehistoric monuments.





## How to make:

## Archaeology

### A Hand Stencil Cave Painting

You will need:  
Pigment powder  
Water  
Small pot  
Craft paper  
Stiff brush or  
straw  
Newspaper

Hand stencils are some of the more common examples of Palaeolithic cave paintings that archaeologists have found. The earliest found in Europe are over 35,000 years old, during the early part of the Stone Age. Because everybody's hands are slightly different sizes, archaeologists can pick out individual artists.

1. Stick a sheet of craft paper to a wall or on the floor.
2. Mix your pigment powder with some water in a small pot to make a thin paint.
3. Place one of your hands on the paper and use the stiff brush to flick paint onto the paper.



4. Alternatively, you can use a straw to blow paint onto the paper, being careful not to suck any paint into your mouth.

#### Warning:

This activity can get messy so wear old clothes and cover the work area with newspaper

5. Once the paper has plenty of paint on it, take your hand off the paper.
6. Your hand stencil will be revealed!

## How to make:

## A Wattle and Daub Wall

You will need:

Three thicker twigs  
Some bendy twigs  
Clay  
Straw (optional)

Wattle and Daub is a technique that has been used to make walls for thousands of years. A frame of wood is made, and then plastered with a mix of soil, clay, straw, and sometimes animal poo! The mix was easy to make so that houses could be repaired over time.

1. You will need to find some twigs in your garden or local park. You need 3 sturdier ones, and plenty of longer bendy twigs.
2. Lay out the studier twigs, and start weaving the bendy ones in between.
3. Carry on until you have a solid structure.
4. If using straw, mix it with your clay.
5. Next spread the clay over the frame.
6. Leave it to dry and you should have a solid wall fit for a roundhouse.



## How to make:

## Archaeology

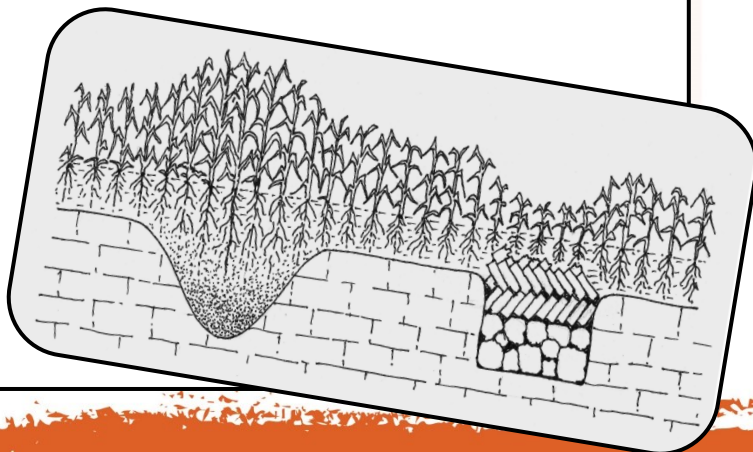
### Your Own Crop Marks

You will need:

A small tray  
Cress seeds  
Stones  
Compost or soil  
Cling film  
Water

Archaeological features like walls and ditches affect how well crops grow above them. Crop marks can show archaeologists where buildings. Depending on how the crops grow, they can only be seen at certain times of the year. The 2018 summer heatwave revealed lots of crop marks.

1. Build a wall or ring in the tray using the stones.
2. Fill the remaining space with compost or soil and sprinkle a layer on top.
3. Scatter the seeds over the tray and press them in slightly.
4. Water the seeds to dampen the soil and cover the tray with clingfilm.
5. Put the tray in a warm place that gets a little bit of light.
6. Sprouts should start to appear after a couple of days.
7. Uncover and water occasionally. After a few more days you should see your crop mark beginning to appear.





## How to make:

## Anglo-Saxon Flatbread

### Ingredients:

250g Wholemeal flour  
1 Egg, beaten  
185g Butter  
Salt

### Equipment:

Mixing bowl  
Blunt knife  
Measuring scales  
Rolling pin  
Clean tea towel  
Baking tray  
Oven



1. Preheat the oven to 220°C
2. Weigh the flour into the mixing bowl and add a pinch of salt.
3. Make a well in the middle of the flour and pour in the egg. Mix together.
4. Cut the butter up into small cubes then add to the mixing bowl.
5. Using clean hands, mix together the flour/egg mix with the butter until they are well combined and you have a smooth dough.
6. Cover the bowl with the tea towel and leave for about 30 minutes
7. Put a little more flour on a work surface and roll out the dough until it is about 1cm thick.
8. Put the dough onto the baking tray and bake for around 30 minutes until golden brown.
9. Get an adult to help you take the bread out of the oven. Leave to cool slightly then it is ready for tasting.