

Information for Teachers

Dig It! KS2 Session at Flag Fen



Flag Fen is recognised as the finest Bronze Age archaeological site in northern Europe. This 'Dig It!' day celebrates the role of Archaeology as a way of finding out about the past and understanding a different way of life. It links to topics covering historical periods from the Stone Age to Medieval times.



Be an Archaeologist

In our indoor simulated archaeological dig, pupils will use a variety of excavation tools and techniques to dig and record genuine archaeological finds. Through the experience, they will find out more about archaeology and the role of the archaeologist. In their discoveries, they will learn how to interpret evidence, develop their understanding of chronology and get an insight into life in the past.

Please note that we use clean, shredded recycled rubber in our dig pits. The rubber reacts in the same way as soil, but creates an obviously much cleaner and healthier environment to work in. With Upper KS2 students we introduce the concept of stratigraphy – a principle process of archaeology.

The role of an Archaeological Site

Explore the full archaeological site with our knowledgeable guides and discover what the finds and the experimental archaeology tell us about how people lived in the past. As Flag Fen is a Bronze Age site, this historical period will be used as the example. You will see how the archaeological finds are being preserved and conserved such as the Bronze Age causeway remains and the eight prehistoric log boats found at Must Farm and featured in the British Museum's 'Teaching History with 100 Objects'

<http://teachinghistory100.org/>. Pupils will be encouraged to discuss how 'Bronze Age life' is presented and the role the site plays in teaching and learning about the past.

One example of experimental archaeology you will study during the guided tour is the reconstructed Bronze Age roundhouse. This leads nicely into the next activity...



... Time for a story

Get cosy in our Bronze Age roundhouse and enjoy a traditional prehistoric story. You have an option of choosing whether or not to have a fire lit in the roundhouse for this activity.

National curriculum links: History, English, Science.



Learning objectives:

Participating in this 'Dig It!' day, pupils will:

- Develop a chronological understanding of the changes in Britain from the Bronze Age to Roman period.
- Gain historical understanding in relation to how we find out about the past through experimental archaeology and the use of primary sources.
- Understand historical concepts such as significance; continuity and change; cause and consequence and similarity and difference.
- Show an understanding that science is, and always has been used in the real world.
- Deduct statements and inferences from evidence.

"The children thoroughly enjoyed the practical digging exercise. Many of the things covered were reinforcements for the learning and activities in the classroom." (Teacher at Holme Court School)

"The involvement of the children and practical elements gave a perspective that is difficult to achieve in the classroom" (Teacher at Mareham Primary)

Other information:

Duration:	Full day: 10 am–2 pm.
Cost:	£240 per group of up to 30 pupils. This cost includes supporting adults and a pre-visit. Minimum charge for school groups with less than 20 students: £200.
Maximum group size:	Maximum number per group is 30 and the site can accommodate up to two groups at any one time.
Recommended ratio:	Minimum 1 adult to 10 students.
What to bring:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable outdoor clothing for predicted weather. • There is no tea and coffee facilities for teachers at Flag Fen, so you may wish to consider bringing flasks/cold drinks (to drink at the appropriate time of course!)
Information for coach driver/s	During the public closed season (October-March inclusive) the Visitors Centre is not open for drinks. We advise to bring own refreshments. Building team officers are on site to allow entry to toilet facilities. During the open season (April-September) coach drivers have access to the café in the VC and the toilets.
Booking information:	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.
A note about behaviour:	Members of the school staff have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Flag Fen staff with this where necessary. As you know, pupils benefit significantly when school adults also get involved in the workshops so please join in where appropriate.
Pre-visits:	We welcome and encourage pre-visits as it will give you an opportunity to meet a member of the Flag Fen Education Team; familiarise yourself with the site; go through the risk assessment, format of the day and activities and discuss any further needs. Please note that we accept that there may be a need to bring along dependent children, if this is the case, please advise us in advance. Additional adults and children and additional time on site will be chargeable at the normal visitor rate on the day of the pre-visit.

