



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KS2

DISCOVERY CHEST

Feast! Food at Stonehenge exhibition

This resource has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to the Feast! Food at Stonehenge special exhibition which provides essential insight into the role of food and feasting at the time of Stonehenge. This Discovery Chest is a free onsite handling collection for schools to book and enjoy while visiting the exhibition at Stonehenge. Use these supporting resources before, during and after your visit to help pupils get the most out of the Discovery Chest.

INCLUDED:

- Teachers' Guide:
 - Exhibition Introduction
 - Using the Discovery Chest
 - Food History Timeline
- Object Descriptions
- Glossary

Get in touch with our Education Bookings Team:

☎ 0370 333 0606

✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

➡ <https://bookings.english-heritage.org.uk/education>

Don't forget to download our **Hazard Information Sheets** to help with planning.

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Step into England's story

TEACHERS' GUIDE

LEARNING OVERVIEW

Curriculum Links

- History
- Citizenship
- Science

Learning Objectives

WHAT: Learn to interrogate objects to explore the Feast! Food at Stonehenge special exhibition.

HOW: By using objects to facilitate interaction with the exhibition and as a stimulus for historical enquiry. By applying skills of observation, deduction and imagination.

OUTCOME: Pupils will learn how to discuss the archaeological evidence for feasting at Durrington Walls and draw supported conclusions about the role of food and feasting at the time of Stonehenge.

Time to Complete

You are free to spend as much time using the Discovery Chest as you wish, but we recommend spending at least 5–10 minutes on each activity.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before your visit:

- Use the Glossary to make sure pupils are familiar with key words and phrases such as: prehistory, feast, archaeology, replica, midden.
- Check pupils' chronological understanding and remind them where the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age feature on a timeline, and how they relate to other periods in history.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

- Before your visit, you could introduce your pupils to prehistory by visiting the English Heritage prehistory hub [here](#) and watch our Stonehenge education video [here](#).
- Watch our YouTube videos:
How to Make a Neolithic Flint Axe and
How to Make Prehistoric Pottery.
- Discuss what archaeological evidence might survive for prehistoric feasts. Consider what was needed to host a prehistoric feast:
 - What preparation was needed?
 - What might have been eaten and where was it sourced?
 - Who might have attended the feast?
 - Why might the feast have taken place?
- You can find out more about the history of Stonehenge by downloading our learning resources [here](#) and playing our education game [here](#).

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Back in the classroom, you may wish to explore the role of feasting in prehistory further through activities such as:

- Writing in role: pupils write a diary entry from the perspective of someone preparing for, or attending, a feast at Durrington Walls.
- Make Neolithic-style food: watch our tutorial video [here](#) on how to make prehistoric cheese.
- Taste through time: use the food history timeline on page 4 to find out when types of food were first widely eaten in Britain, and do a tasting session of some of those foods.

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

You will find an Exhibition Introduction, a guide to Using the Discovery Chest and Object Descriptions on the following pages. All other information to complete the Discovery Chest activities will be provided onsite.

The Discovery Chest is a free resource but it needs to be booked through our Education Bookings Team. If you haven't already booked your Free Education Visit, you can do so using the contact details on page 3.

HELPFUL HINTS

We suggest you use the information on the following pages to become familiar with the special exhibition and handling objects before you visit. Onsite, pupils will be given activities to do which explore the objects closely and carefully, encouraging skills of imagination and enquiry to find out about the role of feasting at the time of Stonehenge.

An accompanying Teachers' Answer Sheet will also be provided onsite to guide pupils' learning.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please ensure that pupils are sensible when handling the objects and leave the Discovery Chest as you found it, for others to enjoy.

All the objects should be handled with care and you should supervise pupils closely. Please be particularly careful with objects that have sharp edges.

We recommend you share the following object-handling guidelines with pupils:

1. Use both hands to handle the objects.
2. Be gentle when touching and lifting the items.
3. Don't throw, grab or deliberately damage any of the objects.

Remember, it's our job to care for these objects so that their stories can continue to be told in the future. If any objects do get damaged or broken, please inform a member of staff.

EXHIBITION INTRODUCTION

Feast! Food at Stonehenge is a new special exhibition revealing the diet and lifestyle of the people who built Stonehenge. It is based on the fascinating results of the 'Feeding Stonehenge' project.

Around 2500 BC, the people who built and used Stonehenge probably lived at nearby Durrington Walls. This large settlement was also a place of ceremony and ritual. Analysis of thousands of animal bones and fragments of pottery from the site tells us about what people ate and how they obtained, cooked and served their meals.

This is a story of long-distance travel, spectacular ceremonies and vast quantities of food. When set in the wider context of ancient diet and alongside other feasting sites from later in prehistory, we can see how important food was to community and identity during the construction and use of Stonehenge.

The exhibition is divided into four cases:

- Case 1 – **Durrington Walls: a meat feast:** examining the evidence of 38,000 discarded animal bones and teeth excavated at the late Neolithic settlement of Durrington Walls, a short walk (3.2km) from Stonehenge.
- Case 2 – **Come dine with me ... Neolithic style:** exploring the ordinary diet of people at the time of Stonehenge.
- Case 3 – **Ceremonial ceramics:** important new ways of chemically analysing Neolithic pottery to find out what was cooked in them, and how different types of pottery played different roles in feasting rituals.
- Case 4 – **Feasting in later prehistory:** archaeological evidence exploring massive late Bronze Age and early Iron Age feasting sites and the huge middens (waste dumps) left behind.

USING THE DISCOVERY CHEST

Please see a member of staff at the entrance to the exhibition space to collect your pre-booked Discovery Chest.

There are four activity bags which each contain activity instructions and associated objects. Each bag has a different theme, and represents a different exhibition case.

We suggest you split your group into four sub-groups, each with an accompanying adult, and move around the four activity bags in turn to explore the four activity bags to explore the exhibition. The activity bags can be done in any order. Each activity bag has a pupil activity sheet and a teacher answer sheet. The accompanying adult can use this sheet to help with answering questions or activity solutions, it also provides further information about the handling objects to aid pupil discussion.

CONTACT DETAILS

☎ 0370 333 0606

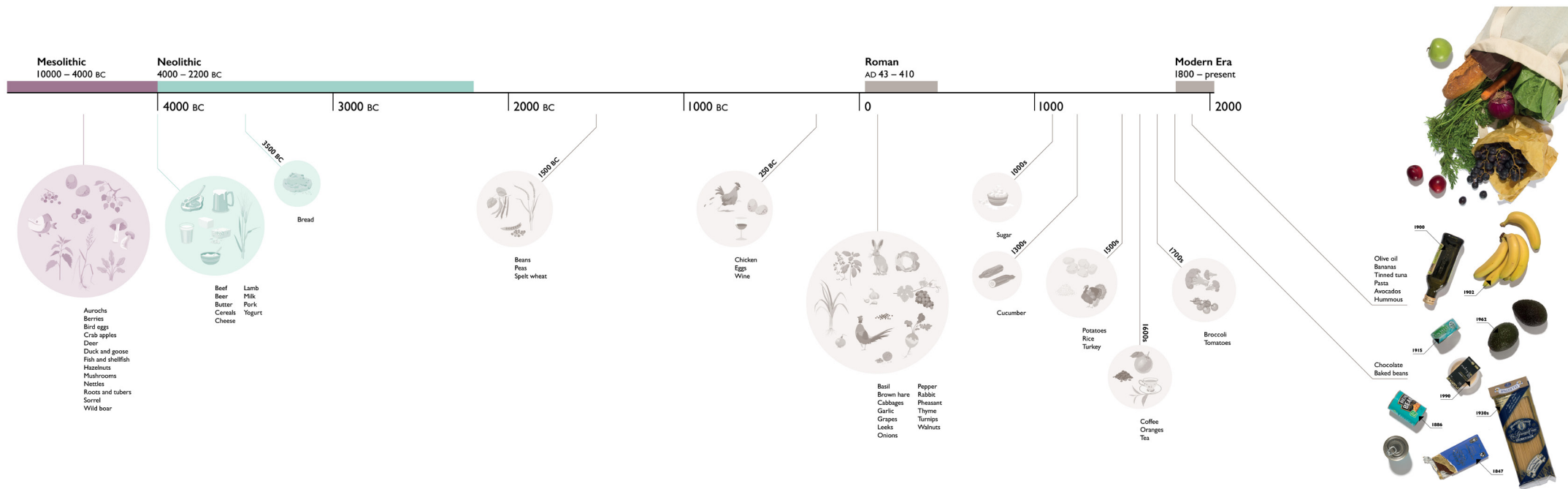
✉ bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk

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POST-VISIT ACTIVITY RESOURCE: FOOD HISTORY TIMELINE

Use this food history timeline to find out when types of food were first widely eaten in Britain, and do a tasting session of some of them.



OBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The following items are replicas of objects related to prehistoric feasting. You will find these objects in the Discovery Chest activity bags. They have been selected to represent the themes covered in each of the four exhibition cases.

ACTIVITY 1: MEAT FEAST

CASE 1 – Durrington Walls: a meat feast

FLINT KNIFE

1. Flint knife – a replica flint knife for butchering meat, similar to ones excavated at Durrington Walls. Flint is a very strong stone but it breaks in predictable ways, so it can be 'knapped' into shape using hammerstones and antler tools. It takes a lot of practice to make a fine object like this knife.



PIG JAW BONE

2. Pig jaw bone – similar to those excavated at Durrington Walls as evidence of feasting. Of the 38,000 discarded animal bones and teeth at Durrington Walls, 90% were pig.



ACTIVITY 2: SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD!

CASE 2 – Come dine with me ... Neolithic style

COLLECTION OF SCENT BOXES

1. Collection of scent boxes – these scents represent food items that would have been available for a Neolithic feast: hazelnuts, beef, honey, cheese and blackberries.



ACTIVITY 3: GOING POTTY

CASE 3 – Ceremonial ceramics

GROOVED WARE POTTERY

1. Grooved Ware pot – a replica Neolithic Grooved Ware pot, characterised by its flat bottom, straight sloping sides and bands of complex geometric grooved patterns. At Durrington Walls, ceramic residue analysis has shown that smaller Grooved Ware pots were used for dairy products such as low-lactose yoghurts or cheeses.



ALL CANNINGS CROSS BURNISHED POTTERY BOWL

2. All Cannings Cross burnished pottery bowl – a replica bowl from the original found at an early Iron Age midden site at All Cannings Cross in Wiltshire. This site is famous for its well-preserved examples of highly decorated pots. The decoration suggests that serving food was an important part of feasting ceremonies at midden sites and may have been part of negotiating friendships and alliances in the community.



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ACTIVITY 4: A LOAD OF RUBBISH

CASE 4 – Feasting in later prehistory

BRONZE AXE HEAD

1. Bronze axe head – a replica bronze axe head, similar to ones excavated at the early Iron Age midden site at Llanmaes in south Wales. Most of the axes found here were deliberately broken before being placed in the ground. Breaking the objects and then burying selected fragments seems to have been part of the wider ritual activity associated with the creation of the midden.



GLOSSARY

TRICKY TERMS AND
WHAT THEY MEAN

Below is a list of terms you might come across while exploring the Feast! Food at Stonehenge exhibition. Use this Glossary to find out what they mean.

archaeologist – a person who learns about human history by examining things that people have left behind in the past

archaeology – the study of where and how people lived and the things they left behind, to find out about human history



A 4500-year-old human coprolite from Durrington Walls.

Bronze Age (2200 BC – 800 BC) – a prehistoric period around 4200 - 2800 years ago that followed the Stone Age and came before the Iron Age, when some weapons and tools were made using bronze rather than stone

butchery / butchering – the work of killing animals and preparing them for their meat to be eaten

coprolite – a dried or mineralised poo

domestic animals – animals that have been controlled through breeding in captivity (taken from the wild and kept in a cage or enclosure) so that they are useful for humans for meat, milk, work (such as pulling a plough) or as pets

Durrington Walls – a huge henge built around 2500 BC on the west bank of the river Avon, only 2 miles from Stonehenge. Excavations have shown that it was a major settlement (village) at the time Stonehenge was built.

excavation – the digging up and recording of archaeology

feast – a large meal, often for a special occasion

flint – a hard grey rock found as lumps inside chalk

Grooved Ware pottery – prehistoric pottery made in Britain in 3000 BC – 2200 BC during the late Neolithic period. The pottery has a flat bottom, straight sloping sides and is decorated with bands of grooved patterns.



A replica Grooved Ware pot, used for making yoghurts and cheeses at Durrington Walls.

hearth – the floor of a fireplace



A prehistoric hearth as it might have been used.

henge – a Neolithic circular enclosure, made of a bank and ditch and sometimes containing a stone or timber circle

Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43) – a prehistoric period around 2800 – 1950 years ago, that followed the Bronze Age, when some weapons and tools were made using iron

landfill site – a place where waste (rubbish) is disposed of by burying it in the ground

Mesolithic – the name given to the middle part of the Stone Age period in prehistory, which is also known as the middle Stone Age

midden – a dump of waste (rubbish). Prehistoric middens contained butchered animal bones, broken pots, metal objects and bits of buildings.

Neolithic – the name given to the later part of the Stone Age period in prehistory, which is also known as the new Stone Age

organic waste – waste (rubbish) that has come from something that was once living, such as left-over food from a feast, bones from an animal or parts of a plant that are not used

Palaeolithic – the name given to the first part of the Stone Age period in prehistory, which is also known as the old Stone Age

prehistory – the period in the past before writing was used. It is split into three time periods: the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

replica – an exact copy or model of an object

ritual – a religious or important event, often celebrating something, that follows a set order of things to be done during the event

Stone Age
(800000 BC

– 2200 BC) – a prehistoric period, before the Bronze Age, when weapons and tools were made using stone or materials such as bone, wood or horn



A replica Neolithic flint knife.