

Using the Words of Time Team

Teacher's Pack
(Literacy)



Materials needed:

Computer, one per pair or dictionaries. Blank postcards or cut card.

Introduction task

5 mins

When you are on a dig you will hear archaeologists using some interesting words. What words do you think you will hear? Check that the whole class understands these words .

Here is a section of text which describes Winchester many years ago.

Read to class:

In the late Saxon period (AD 900-1000) the roads were in a poor state and were badly maintained. They started wide and over time they decreased in width. The inhabitants lived in timber houses with multiple floors piled on top of each other during a 150 year period. As the weight increased, the floors slumped into the Roman cess pits below. The Saxon cess pits showed people were eating cherries, fish, horse meat, cattle, sheep and grain. The town was a hive of cottage industry, where every household wove and dyed wool using the Madder plant to make the red dye. The evidence for this comes from the spindle whorls, needles and panel beaters found amongst the debris. The heavy industry of iron smithing and bronze casting had its separate area. By AD 868 money had been found to build the ramparts of the burgh, part of Alfred's scheme to fight the Danes. By this time Winchester had become wealthy as indicated by the timber framed houses with their long gardens for the rich and powerful. Trade and industry further increased in the period AD 950-1050 as barrel locks and their keys, weighing scales, and carved bone spoons, found in the excavation suggested.

Questions

5 mins

You will see what clues Archaeology can give us about people's lives BUT when you are on a dig the words that are used can be quite unusual, understanding them will give you better clues.

Development Task

30 mins

Write down the meanings of these words. Some you may know some you may need to look up in a dictionary or on a computer to check their meaning.

Some words about the Hyde Abbey buildings

Cloister Presbytery

Nave Abbey

Transept Refectory

Some words you might hear on a dig

Artifact A.D. Clay Ceramic

Archaeology Excavation Clinker Flint

Data Ecofact Glaze Find (Archaeology)

Feature Site Slate

Extension Task

Using at least three of the words above, write a postcard to a Year 4 pupil explaining what you have done today, which part you enjoyed the most and why. If you have time you might want to draw a picture on the other side of the card of Hyde Abbey or a view of Hyde.