



CHALKE VALLEY
HISTORY FESTIVAL
FOR SCHOOLS
TEACHER NOTES



**LIVING HISTORY:
THE IRON AGE**

Age Group: Key Stage 2

Key Question: How do we find out how Iron Age blacksmiths worked?

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BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- Iron Age people lived a long time ago – from about 3,200 to about 2,000 years ago.
- They lived in Britain. Wherever you live, Iron Age people lived nearby all those years ago.
- Humans use tools in many different ways to live their lives: to make homes, to make clothes, to hunt, to eat. The earliest tools humans used were made of stone. Then they discovered how to use heat to make metal items out of bronze.
- Iron is harder, stronger and can be made sharper than bronze. But while bronze can be worked at about 950 degrees centigrade, iron has to be heated to at least 1250 degrees to become soft enough to be worked.
- Modern furnaces use gas and electricity to reach these temperatures. These were not discovered until long after the Iron Age.
- Iron Age people did not use writing, so they left no accounts of how their blacksmiths worked.



THE VIDEO WILL HELP YOU ANSWER THE KEY QUESTION.

RECORD YOUR ANSWERS BELOW:



How did Iron Age Blacksmiths achieve high temperatures?



How do we know?



AFTERWARDS

In groups, talk about your answers. Then talk about our Key question. Which of the three ways we use to find out about the past do you think is most useful? What does your group think?

