Picturing Prehistoric Lincolnshire

Background information

Lincolnshire HER
The Collection Museum, Lincoln
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Contents
Picturing Prehistoric Lincolnshire Introduction  page 2
Sources of information  page 3
Background information  page 4
Paleolithic (Old Stone Age)  page 6
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)  page 8
Neolithic (New Stone Age)  page 10
West Ashby Henge  page 13
Bronze Age  page 15
Iron Age  page 17
Fiskerton Causeway  page 19
Further sources of information  page 23
Glossary of terms  page 24
Picturing Prehistoric Lincolnshire Resource Introduction

Picturing Prehistoric Lincolnshire explores life in the county from Stone Age to Iron Age. It is designed to support teachers and pupils at Key Stage 2. The resource stems from strong links between the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER), and The Collection Museum, Lincoln.

The approach is active learning. Pupils can take on the roles of archaeologists and curators to examine the evidence from both organisations. The HER has provided documents, reconstruction drawings, photographs and films/animations. At The Collection, teachers and pupils can discover evidence in its displays and handling collections from hand axes, pottery and jewellery through to a reconstruction of the Fiskerton Causeway and Iron Age log boats. The focus is very much on local sites, stories and finds.
Sources of information

**Historic Environment Record**

The Historic Environment Record holds records on all the known archaeological sites and historic buildings within Lincolnshire. This includes records and activity from the earliest Stone Age occupants (from around 500,000 years ago) to the present day. It also holds details of the archaeological investigations and excavations that led to the discovery of this evidence.

These records are held within a computerised database, linked to a GIS mapping system. The database acts as an index, showing which archaeological and historical features are known within the county, and where to go to find out more.

The records contained within the HER are available to view online, via two main website resources.

*Lincs to the Past*

*Heritage Gateway*,

*Lincs to the Past* collates records from Lincolnshire focussed services, including information on:

- Historical photographs and documents from the Lincolnshire Archives
- Archaeological artefacts held at the Collection Museum
- Records from the HER.

*Heritage Gateway* is a national collection of all the HER datasets and other national, heritage-related records, such as Historic England’s listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments registers.

Both of these websites have ‘Help’ sections, with advice on how to search the records more easily. There are contact details for the various organisations responsible for the content too.

**Great timeline**

Usefully for teachers, there is a timeline of objects at the foot of the home page of Lincs to the Past. This shows objects from the Stone Ages through to the last century.
Background information

Dispelling the myths

Prehistory covers a vast time span and it can be daunting for both teachers and pupils. This section provides some helpful background information along with some common misunderstandings around Prehistory.

Archaeologists divide prehistory in five broad periods:

- **Palaeolithic**: 450,000BC – 10,000BC
- **Mesolithic**: 10,000BC – 4,000BC
- **Neolithic**: 4,000BC – 2,350BC
- **Bronze Age**: 2,350BC – 800BC
- **Iron Age**: 800BC – 42AD

Lithic means stone, Palaeo means old; so Palaeolithic is Old Stone Age. Mesolithic is Middle Stone Age and Neolithic is New Stone Age.

The dates for each period mark when technological or cultural change happened. Most change from one period to the next happened very gradually, not quickly or dramatically. There was no cut-off point where hunter gatherers suddenly became farmers for example. The timeline is misleading if taken literally.

The inspiration for this resource is a set of five detailed illustrations commissioned by the Historic Environment Record (HER). The illustrations are based on a fictitious piece of Lincolnshire land. They show the main changes in the landscape from each Prehistoric period to the next. Alongside the images are objects that have survived from each era and a brief overview.

There are a couple of PowerPoint Presentations, Layers of time and Ancient evidence which overlay the illustrations so teachers and pupils can look for evidence of the main changes in the land through each era and search for clues to how people might have lived.

A key feature of Prehistory is there is no written record. The only written records we have are from a Roman perspective of Iron Age tribes.

Thinking about evidence...

The time periods covered by Prehistory are vast and only a fraction of the objects that would have been used by people living so long ago have survived. Archaeologists interested in this period believe this is what makes it such an exciting time to research. So little is known, meaning there is so much more to find out. If a Roman villa or fortress is discovered, archaeologists pretty much know what they will find. With Prehistoric sites, this is not the case.

Experts create a picture of Prehistoric life from the evidence they have (objects that have survived) and by researching communities who may live in similar ways to our ancestors today, for example, people who live in remote communities barely touched by modern communication.

It becomes harder to find evidence the further back in time you go. Very little survives from the Palaeolithic era apart from flints and the fragments created by making flints. There is very
little in terms of clothes or wooden tools. Any organic matter that survives from this time would have been found in unusual or rare environments (e.g. waterlogged and oxygen-free deposits). Some of the finds in Lincolnshire have survived because they were found in such environments, for example, the log boats from the Fiskerton Causeway.

Another big issue for archaeologists is sites that people would have considered to be great places to live long ago, would also appeal to later generations. People of all eras tend to look for places with a good water supply, good sources of food, great land for farming and places that are easy to protect. This can mean that evidence of earlier life might be buried or even unknowingly destroyed by future generations.

Modern farming practice can also create problems for archaeologists. Modern ploughing can damage or remove traces of Prehistoric life that may have survived well until this happened. As a result of this, there is now very little evidence to see above ground of Prehistoric activity. There are some burial mounds in Lincolnshire which survive as mounds. There is more evidence surviving underground.

Most often, the evidence of Prehistoric activity comes from the artefacts that have survived, and from cropmarks identified on aerial photography in more rural areas. It’s interesting that very modern technology provides clues to the ancient past.
Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) 450,000 BC – 10,000 BC

Hand axe from Welton le Wold
Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) 450,000 BC – 10,000 BC

Everyday life

The Palaeolithic period covers a long time, when the climate of Britain went through a number of warm then cold cycles. The cold cycles were 'Ice Ages' when large parts of Britain were covered in ice, making it impossible for people to survive there.

People lived in small family groups. This meant that competition for food and resources was kept to a minimum. They moved around the landscape looking for food, gathering seasonal plants, following and hunting wild animals. They would walk over large distances following migrating herds of animals such as horse and reindeer. At that time, Britain was still connected to Europe by a land bridge known as Doggerland. This meant people had the chance to travel to and from the rest of Europe. There was no English Channel to cross.

Evidence

The evidence archaeologists have from this period is largely simple stone tools and flints. Little else survives although people at this time would have made use of other materials such as wood, plant fibres, antler horn, etc. The small flints can tell us a little about how people lived but we would have a much clearer picture if more items had survived and not rotted away.

The HER shows finds of simple flint hand axes at Hall Hill near West Keal, and at quarry pits south of Tattershall and north-east of Welton le Wold. [Lincs to the Past](#).

Other very rare finds from this time show that the climate was very different to what we experience today. Lincolnshire was home to animals that are now long gone, such as:

- The straight tusked elephant (there is a replica straight tusk on display at the Collection although the museum has the real thing)
- Cervus or red deer
- Megaloceros (large deer)
- Equus (wild horse)
- Woolly rhinoceros.

It would have been very difficult to hunt and kill an animal. The animals would have been much stronger and faster than any humans. This meant that humans had to find clever ways to catch them. Hunters had to learn to work together as a team if they were to have successful hunting trips.

If people managed to kill an animal, they would make use every part of it. They would use the skin or pelt to make clothes or even shelters; they would eat the meat and they would use horn to make tools or weapons. Sinews would become thread. They would be experts in foraging for plants and berries to eat. They would know which were safe to eat and which would be poisonous.
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) 10,000BC – 4,000BC

Flint Microliths
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) 10,000BC – 4,000BC

Everyday life

The Mesolithic period starts from when ice sheets covered most of Britain. People moved back into the area of Britain as the ice sheets melted. The landscape at this point is tundra-like (a landscape that is too cold for trees to survive). Eventually, as the ice sheets melted, it began to be covered by trees. At first the trees would have been conifer, but then there would be more broadleaved woodlands (trees with leaves not needles), so hazel, beech and birch.

At this time people still survived as hunter-gatherers, moving around to find food, following herds of animals. They would also forage for food, berries, nuts, and other edible plants. As the environment changed, people had to respond by adapting their technology and culture.

There is evidence that people at this time used tools made from a wide range of materials. Very little survives from this time apart from microliths and flakes from flint that would have fallen away as the tools were made.

There are a few sites across the country where water-logged conditions have meant that organic materials like wood and animal bone have survived, such as Star Carr in Yorkshire, and land next to the River Witham in Lincolnshire which was excavated during the work to build the Lincoln Eastern Bypass. These sites show evidence that although people were still following migrating herds across the landscape they were also staying for whole seasons in one place, according to whatever food was available to them in that season.

Animals

At this time people also started to tame domestic animals. Dogs were the first to be tamed. People were no match for a lot of the animals they hunted either in speed or strength, so dogs were a great help.

Evidence

Microliths are small flint tools that would have been used for different jobs. For example, people would have made scrapers to clean animal skins; awls were used for making holes in animal skins and blades were used to cut meat. 50,000 microliths were found at sites in Lincolnshire including near Newton on Trent. They date from the Mesolithic through to the early Bronze Age. This suggests this site was in continual use. Flint is a really useful material. Many people still use flint today to make precise and sharp tools.

During the Mesolithic period, as the ice melted the sea level rose. Somewhere around 6,500BC and 6,200BC, the land to the east of Lincolnshire, Doggerland, flooded and Britain became an island. We also see the first deliberate and careful burial of people along with objects during this period. It seems beliefs were changing, and this is reflected in this practice. In other parts of the country people drew and carved images onto rocks and bones, and onto the walls caves, like those at Creswell Crags. Nothing like this has been found in Lincolnshire.
Neolithic (New Stone Age) 4,000BC – 2,350BC

Potterhanworth Hand Axe
Neolithic 4,000BC – 2,350BC

Everyday life

During the Neolithic period, there was a lot of change in the way people lived. This change happened gradually over a long period of time. Perhaps the biggest change was the gradual move from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to people becoming early farmers. Rather than moving around all the time and living in shelters, people now would start to clear woodland and make, largely, permanent settlements. This means the population grew from small family groups to larger groups or tribes living closely together.

Often people would mix the two ways of life; having small farms but still continuing to hunt for food and forage for berries. Archaeologists find a wider variety of tool types, e.g. tools to grind cereal grains to make flour. Pottery vessels are found for the first time in Britain during the Neolithic period. Before that, they may have used animal skins or wood as containers. At this time, archaeologists think people were largely equal in status and worked together in a community.

When people died, they were also buried together in chambers inside mounds, known as long barrows. It is thought that often the dead would be left to the elements in special areas, known as mortuary enclosures. When only the bones remained they were interred in barrows, often with different types of bones being buried together. For example, skulls could be grouped together in one part of the chamber, while leg bones would be grouped somewhere else.

People began to make tools to cut down trees and for hunting. People became skilled at various crafts and could trade objects that were particularly well made or useful.

Animals

During the Neolithic, the domestication of animals continued as farming expanded. Gradually people tamed other wild animals. Wild aurochs became cattle, boars became pigs and sheep and goats became domesticated, so they could be used for meat, milk and/or wool and leather.

Archaeologists believe that from the Neolithic period through to the Iron Age, people would have kept livestock inside their homes. The warmth from the animals could heat their homes and at the same time the livestock would be safe.

Making their mark

Another big change at this time is that people began to make their mark on the landscape, in the form of henges and barrows. No one really knows what happened at Henges but people believe they were sites of celebrations, gatherings of local family groups or tribes.

There is evidence of religious beliefs at this time too. This doesn’t mean people didn’t have religious beliefs before this time, just that no evidence has survived in Lincolnshire. Evidence comes from monuments such as henges (e.g. the West Ashby Henge) or long barrows (for example at Riby Grove Farm in the Wolds). By creating barrows or mounds, people were leaving their mark on the landscape. This could be to remember their ancestors or to create a focal point for a community.

Evidence
Much more survives from this period in the form of objects such as tools and axe heads. The Collection Museum has polished axe heads made from stone found only in Italy. There was no reason to polish axe heads apart from to make them more attractive and precious objects to own. Analysis of the Potterhanworth Axe found 1975 shows that it is made from jadeite, quarried in the North Italian Alps. The axe would have been very valuable due to the material it was made from and the distance it had travelled. This axe also shows that communities had trading arrangements across vast areas suggesting they travelled far and wide.

The learning officer, Dr Erik Grigg, at The Collection Museum described these items as being the equivalent of designer clothing. Everyone would recognise the axe head as being made from high-quality stone and so it would give status to the owner. See report by Anthony Lee on the Potterhanworth jadeite hand axe for further information.
West Ashby Henge
West Ashby Henge

This link shows the official record on the HER site for West Ashby Henge. [Lincs to the past West Ashby Henge](#)

A henge is a Neolithic earthwork which is circular or oval area of land, enclosed by a bank and ditch. The main difference between the way that henges and other types of enclosures were built is that the ditch is inside the bank. This would mean they wouldn’t work very well as a defensive structure, so they must have had some other use.

West Ashby Henge was thought to be a triple ring ditch henge. The bank and ditch would have been created first and then wooden posts added. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that henges with standing stones, including Stonehenge started out as a bank and ditch, with wooden posts added and eventually standing stones.

Archaeologists don’t really know what henges were for. Some think they were the focal point for large gatherings, others think they were a type of calendar. They were often set up to reflect the rising or setting of the sun. It is thought that people gathered at important times of the year such as the winter or summer solstices or the vernal or autumnal equinoxes.

The winter and summer solstices mark the shortest and longest days so the winter solstice would be particularly important. People may have celebrated the coming of lighter and longer days, and the spring.

When we think of henges today, we tend to think of large, grey, stone circles but some archaeologists think that stones might have been highly decorated with paints and dyes. Neolithic people would certainly have had access to minerals or berries to make dyes.

**Evidence**

At Stonehenge there is evidence in the landscape that people went in processions to the henge, giving an idea of ritual or an important gathering. The gatherings could have been major events with a focus on feasting, celebrating life events, trade or maybe even resolving disputes.

According to the HER, archaeologists cut a section into the West Ashby Henge in 1977. It revealed ‘an urn inverted in a pit near the centre of the mound.’ The site was excavated to reveal a ‘class 1 henge beneath a Bronze Age barrow’. There was evidence that the shape of the barrow had been changed several times. Archaeologists also found two inhumation (burial) coffins and several cremations.
Bronze Age 2350BC – 800BC

Lincolnshire Past and Present, Issue 90, Winter 2012
Bronze Age 2,350BC – 800BC

Everyday life

Through the Bronze Age the population grew and people continued to develop craft skills. They learned how to work with metal, becoming more and more skilled.

Settlements and farming continued to grow too. People at this time cleared woodland to make places for their homes and livestock. Homes may have had a central hearth for cooking, a storage area, a side for craft activities and then another area for sleeping but it is very hard to find proof of this. Animals may also have shared these homes. People tended to live in extended family groups.

In the Bronze Age, the population and trading networks grew, and farming areas expanded. All of these developments may have led to conflict. There is evidence at this time of an increasing demand for weapons such as spearheads and bronze swords. Some weapons, such as the rapiers held at The Collection were more for show than to be used in battle.

Some archaeologists believe there is also evidence to show that the landscape was being divided up amongst different groups. On aerial photographs, long lines of pits can sometimes be seen in the landscape in Lincolnshire. They are known as ‘pit alignments’. Like henges, they wouldn’t have been very good for defensive purposes, so it was more likely they were in the landscape as very visible markers of territory.

There is also more evidence of jewellery being made such as the gold penannular ring found at Welton and the bangle found at Baumber.

Appearance and status

As people became more skilled at making things, they could afford to have valuable items. Bronze Age people started to be more aware of image and status.

Another sign of this is in how people buried their dead. There was a change from the largely communal burial practices of the Neolithic long barrows to more individual burials in round barrows. This may suggest the higher status of some people. There are other thoughts around why one person might be buried separately; it could mean they died on a significant or special date.

Evidence

The evidence is in the barrow cemeteries, with numerous sites known (e.g., Tallington barrow cemetery and Butterbumps barrow cemetery near Willoughby). There is a well-preserved example of an extensive barrow cemetery at Tathwell.
Iron Age 800BC – 42AD

Rothwell Boar
Iron Age 800BC – 42AD

Everyday life

In the Iron Age the population continued to grow. Settlements also grew and society became much more sophisticated, with new and more complicated social hierarchies. Their burials, and the objects they were buried with, suggest that some people were more important socially than others.

New technology made it possible to support larger and more complex societies. For example, iron ploughs made it possible to farm new areas of land to create more food.

There is evidence of log boats in Lincolnshire suggesting the need for trading networks and transport. Of the 170 log boats or dug-out boats found in England and Wales, 27 were found in Lincolnshire and Humberside. 19 come from the River Witham and its tributaries.

Ritual

There is evidence of ritual activity, for example, the creation of a number of causeways into the River Witham (e.g. Fiskerton). Finds show that treasured and expensive items were deposited in the river, suggesting people were making offerings to the gods.

Evidence

Far more objects survived from the Iron Age than other Prehistoric periods so archaeologists know a lot more about this time. They know a lot more about daily life. Archaeologists understand that they are basing their findings or assumptions on what has survived (and wasn’t recycled or used as firewood, etc.). There could be much more that hasn’t survived that might change the picture.

Fiskerton is an important Iron Age site nationally, not just in Lincolnshire. This is because of the objects that were found there:

- Bone needles
- Pottery
- Domestic and military metalwork
- Four axes and a hammer
- A file with a decorated bone handle
- A pruning hook
- Four iron swords
- Two in scabbards
- Three socketed iron spear heads
- Various items of horse furniture.

These objects tell us a lot about how people lived. For example, there are bone needles for stitching clothes and there are awls for making holes in leather. There are weapons but also pottery and a pruning hook. These suggest high levels of skill.

Another important thing to remember is what attracted people to prehistoric sites also would also make them attractive to people throughout the ages (good water supply, good land for farming, being able to see all around, good views). It is possible that later generations may have accidentally destroyed the evidence of people who lived in a place in the past.
Fiskerton Causeway from 600 BC
Fiskerton Causeway from 600 BC

The Fiskerton Causeway is a very important Iron Age site. It was first identified in June 1980. A local resident was using a metal detector and found metal artefacts including the remains of an iron scabbard and a sword, two bone weaving pins, a piece of a ribbed bronze bracelet and linchpin of iron. There were also a number of bronze studs. The site was excavated in 1981. The HER record gives the following description:

‘The causeway was thought to date from 600BC at its earliest, and was constructed of wooden posts, set vertically into the soft ground in clusters forming two roughly parallel lines, 4 metres apart, and perpendicular to the river. Lying between the posts were horizontal timbers which had been pegged into the ground forming a firm walkway over the boggy ground. There were two major phases of repair where vertical timbers had been replaced and when the horizontals rotted they had been consolidated with a layer of limestone chips.’

The evidence

The document lists the finds at this time as:

- Bone needles
- Pottery
- Domestic and military metalwork
- Four axes and a hammer
- A file with a decorated bone handle
- A pruning hook
- Four iron swords
- Two in scabbards
- Three socketed iron spear heads
- Various items of horse furniture.

So many valuable tools and weapons have been found in the River Witham that experts believe it is unlikely that these items were simply dropped or lost. Many of the objects are very valuable and some show very little sign that they were ever used.

At The Collection Museum, Lincoln

The Collection Museum in Lincoln has reconstructed a section of the causeway, giving its interpretation of what the causeway might have looked like in the marshy landscape. The museum also has the two log boats that were found when the site was investigated further in 2001. One was in very good condition and had clearly been pegged in place in the river. There were many other objects, such as awls and tools but there were some very valuable objects too including swords, the Witham Shield, spearheads and horse tack.

Archaeologists are fascinated by this strange site and can only make educated guesses about what happened here. It would seem people were choosing objects carefully. They were placing them in water with some ceremony. Some experts think that Iron Age people believed that the marshes may have been a mirror to the heavens. Others think it may have been seen as an entrance to the Underworld. Whatever the thought processes, lots of people left very valuable objects here as offerings.
The story of the causeway gets more mysterious. Initial investigation suggested that the posts used to make the causeway showed two phases of construction. However, dendrochronology (the scientific method for dating tree rings) shows that the first trees were felled in 456 BC and, from this date, they were felled every 16 to 18 years. This suggests a programme of repair and restoration. Some archaeologists think that the felling dates coincide with total lunar eclipses.

It was not only Iron Age people who made offerings to the water gods. There is evidence that people made offerings to the River Witham up to the 16th century. Unusually for what appears to be such a significant spiritual or religious site, there is no evidence of a medieval monastery being built at Fiskerton, as happened at other causeway sites along the River Witham.

Ten years ago, a member of The Collection Museum team found a skull near the site which suggests not only that people gave objects but some, probably important or high-status people, actually gave their lives. It is thought that they would have seen this role as an honour, possibly passing on messages to the gods in person.

Iron Age ‘bog bodies’ have been found very well preserved in waterlogged conditions in other parts of the country. Because they are so well preserved it is possible to work out how they died, and even what their last meal was.
The Rothwell Boar

The Rothwell Boar was found at Rothwell Top near Caistor in 1990 and came to The Collection Museum in 1990. It is a fascinating object for many reasons. It spans the late Iron Age and early Roman Britain. This was a time of great change, but often Roman culture was influenced by the Celts or tribes who lived in Britain at the time. Equally, the Celts took on some of the Roman ideas and designs.

Tribes like the Corieltavi who lived in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands had to decide if they were going to fight the Romans or live in relative harmony with them. The Boar may have been a symbol for the Corieltavi tribe. The Corieltavi also had a symbol of a bristly aggressive boar on their coins. Coins would have had great value at this time, not like the coins we carry today.

The Rothwell Boar is not an aggressive symbol, so it wouldn’t have been an emblem for a warrior. It’s unlikely it was a toy either. Some archaeologists believe it was made as a votive offering, destined for a site like the Fiskerton Causeway.
Further sources of information
Recommended reading for children:

An Ancient Land: Mike Corbishley
The Young Oxford History of Britain and Ireland: Volume 1:An Ancient Land: Prehistory-Vikings (book may be out of print but there are plenty of copies for sale on line and several sets within Lincolnshire Library services)

Hands on History! Stone Age by Charlotte Hurdman, Armadillo Press.

Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura (Walker Books Ltd)
This story book focuses largely on Paleolithic to Mesolithic periods but is a useful way to introduce the topic for Year 3 and younger. The children can read the book together and act out scenes in family (or literacy) groups.

The Cregswell Crags website has useful background information

Hands on History! Stone Age Charlotte Hurdman

Useful websites
'Heritage Gateway' is a national collection of all the HER datasets and other national, heritage-related records, such as Historic England's listed buildings and scheduled ancient monument registers.

'Lincs to the Past' collates records from Lincolnshire focussed services, including information on:

- Historical photographs and documents from the Lincolnshire Archives
- Archaeological artefacts held at the Collection Museum
- Records from the HER.

Diagrams showing Doggerland/ land bridge may be of use to teachers

Devensian Glaciation.
This site shows the furthest extent of the ice sheets in the last Ice Age
http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/iceAge/home.html

This site may be of use to teachers.
http://www.donsmaps.com/icemaps.html

Reference material
Report by Anthony Lee on the Potterhanworth jadeite hand axe for further information.
## Glossary of terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>The study of the humans in the past through things they created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>A place where historical documents are stored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awls</td>
<td>A sharp tool for making holes in leather</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barrows</td>
<td>Burial chambers. Long Barrows were places where the bones of lots of people were buried together in Neolithic times. Round barrows from the Bronze Age were for individual burials of people with high status</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cervus</td>
<td>A deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doggerland</td>
<td>Up to between 6,500BC and 6,200BC the area we know call Britain was connected to Europe by a land bridge known as Doggerland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestication</td>
<td>Taming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conifer</td>
<td>Trees that have pines not leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dendrochronology</td>
<td>The scientific method for dating tree rings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>To place something carefully on purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edible</td>
<td>Something that can be eaten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equinox</td>
<td>The two days in the year when day and night are the same length (in spring and autumn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equus</td>
<td>Wild horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Era</td>
<td>Period of time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Objects, documents, sites that have survived that can help to prove an archaeologists ideas or theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>Dig (carefully)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faience</td>
<td>Fine, glazed pottery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiskerton Causeway</td>
<td>A walkway leading into the River Witham. An important Iron Age site nationally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flints</td>
<td>hard, grey rock used to make tools or weapons in prehistoric times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage</td>
<td>To hunt or search in this case for food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand axe</td>
<td>Prehistoric stone tool that can be used to cut or break something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henge</td>
<td>A henge is a round or oval Neolithic earthwork. It is a circular or oval area of land, enclosed by a bank and ditch. The ditch is inside the bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hierarchies</td>
<td>system where people are ranked in terms of what status or worth they seem to have</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizontal</td>
<td>Flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Ages</td>
<td>The Palaeolithic period covers a long time, when the climate of Britain went through a number of warm then cold cycles. The cold cycles were 'Ice Ages' when large parts of Britain were covered in ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Explanation or description. The boards explaining prehistoric life in The Collection Museum are interpretations.</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jadeite</td>
<td>Jade is either the mineral jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is rarer and so more valuable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>Farm animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunar eclipse</td>
<td>When the moon passes behind the Earth, into its shadow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Log boats</td>
<td>Simple boats made out of a tree trunk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megaloceros</td>
<td>Large deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microliths</td>
<td>A small stone part of a tool, for example, a spear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrate</td>
<td>Moving from one area to another depending on the season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penannular Ring</td>
<td>A ring with a small gap, or piece missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pit alignments</td>
<td>Markers of territory in the Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery vessels</td>
<td>Early (Neolithic) form of container</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistory</td>
<td>The time before written records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric eras</td>
<td>Palaeolithic: 450,000BC – 10,000BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mesolithic: 10,000BC – 4,000BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neolithic: 4,000BC – 2,350BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bronze Age: 2,350BC – 800BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iron Age: 800BC – 42AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lithic means stone,</td>
<td>Palaeo means old; so Palaeolithic is Old Stone Age. Mesolithic is Middle Stone Age and Neolithic is New Stone Age.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinews</td>
<td>Tough tissue that links muscles to bone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solstice</td>
<td>The winter and summer solstices mark the shortest and longest days of the year. The winter solstice marks midwinter and is around 21st December. The summer solstice marks midsummer and is generally around 20th to 22nd June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>Original items from the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical</td>
<td>Upright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild auruchs</td>
<td>Buffalo-like animal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Encourage children to research further words and terms related to prehistory that they do not understand to a glossary of terms for the class.