



## CHOOSING A SETTLEMENT SITE

### CORE CONCEPTS

This resource encourages learners to appreciate the importance of location for a settlement site in the Iron Age. By exploring the importance of natural resources to society, learners can start to explain how natural resources are acquired and why choosing a good settlement site depended on these factors.



### STATEMENTS OF WHAT MATTERS LINKS:

**HUMANITIES** – The resource enables learners to engage with their understanding that the natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions, where human actions in the past can affect interrelationships within the natural world. Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs. Science and Technology – Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives.



This resource is intended for **progression step 3**. The descriptions of learning for this resource include:

### DESCRIPTIONS OF LEARNING

**HUMANITIES:** *I can describe and give simple explanations about the impact that physical processes have had on people, places and landscapes in the past and present.*

*I can describe and explain similarities and differences between people's lives both in the past and present.*

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:** *I can recognise that our planet provides natural materials and can explain why they may have been processed to make them useful.*

## GUIDANCE

Choosing somewhere to live requires careful thought. You and your community need to have access to resources, whether you lived in the stone age, medieval age, or present day. Some of these resources include water, food, ore, clay, wool, thatching materials, and wood. Sites didn't always have all these resources, so some of them would have to be traded or farmed. Therefore, your site needed to be accessible (by land or by sea), but also to be defensible from attack by people or animals. Communities also wanted the best conditions for farming and everyday life. Life was hard enough without having to endure the harsh climate of a mountain summit. We know that prehistoric communities in Wales often settled on higher ground along the coast and river valleys, and were known as promontory forts and hillforts. They could fish, freshwater was accessible from rivers or springs, their settlements were easily defensible, the land could be farmed, and the climate was slightly warmer than the higher altitudes.



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- 1 Look at the pictures of the iron age community carrying out activities. Identify the resources that are being used (wool, straw, wood, metal, animal skin, grains, willow). Real life examples of the resources would make a good addition to the lesson.
- 2 Provide the pupils with the word bank of items, features and materials. Encourage pupils, in groups, to rank the resources in order of priority. Use the pictures and information from the 'Examples natural resources and their uses' pages to illustrate what the different resources would have been useful for.
- 3 Pupils can draw their own settlement site using chalk outside. Working in small groups, they can build up their settlement site by drawing specific aspects of the landscape that they feel is important for a community to survive. Encourage them to draw woodland, coastline, farmland, animals, mountains, wetlands, rivers, and rocks (for ores).
- 4 Learners can build on their chalk drawing by creating their own 2D or 3D model of a landscape.



Iron Age people carrying out daily activities

### WORD BANK OF ITEMS, FEATURES AND MATERIALS UTILISED DURING THE IRON AGE

#### METALS/PRECIOUS ITEMS

Gold  
Iron  
Bronze  
Amber  
Silver  
Tin  
Copper  
Aluminium  
Lead

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Doll  
Musical instruments  
Board games  
Paint  
Theatre  
Books  
Toys  
Make up  
Ball

#### EVERYDAY OBJECTS

Paper  
Hairbrush  
Telescope  
Compass  
First aid kit  
Computer  
Money  
Clothes  
Toothbrush

#### NATURAL MATERIAL

Clay  
Meat  
Rope  
Loom  
Rocks  
Clothes p  
Charcoal s  
Brickss  
Flint

#### LAND FEATURES

Sea  
Beach  
Swimming pool  
Woodland  
Mountains  
Caves  
River  
Lake  
Plain (flat land)

#### PLANTS

River reed  
Flax  
Herbs  
Roses  
Heather  
Willow  
Wild flowers  
Cereals / Grains  
Cotton

#### ANIMALS

Pigs  
Donkeys  
Woolly mammoth  
Cattle  
Dogs  
Sheep  
Horses  
Wild animals  
Chickens

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### EXAMPLES OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR USES

Images provided by National Museum Wales



The picture shows a gold ingot from the Bronze Age. Gold was a valuable resource and often used for decorative purposes. Gold was a symbol of status.



This flint knife was used in the Bronze Age. It could have been used for cutting meat or preparing animal skins. Flint was easy to find, it is sharp and durable.



This glass bead dates to the Iron Age and was used for decorative purposes. Metals were added to make the glass green or blue.



This bronze spearhead from the Bronze Age may have been used for hunting or warfare. Bronze is made when two metals (copper and tin) are mixed together.



Wooden artefacts don't preserve well but this wooden tankard was used during the Iron Age / Roman period. Wood was an excellent material for making all sorts of things for daily life.



This is a copper horse figurine. It's not clear what it would have been used for, but perhaps it was decorative. Great Orme mine in North Wales was the largest copper mine in Europe in 1700 BCE.



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Clay was a very important resource as it can be easily moulded into different shapes, such as pots and moulds, by adding other materials into it like straw. After drying and firing, clay becomes hard and brittle.



Gemstones were valuable resources and could be traded. They were decorative and usually a symbol of status. This gemstone is engraved which would have been very difficult to do without any magnification!



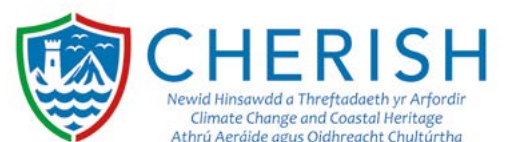
Iron was a metal used to make weapons, tools, cooking pots, harnesses, nails and bridle bits for horses (like the one in the photo). Iron was stronger and more durable than bronze, which made iron tools better than bronze.



Bone was another useful resource and could be carved into tools such as combs. This particular comb is from the early medieval period.



Silver was another valuable metal and was used to make these Roman silver coins.



Comisiwn Brenhinol  
Henebion Cymru  
Royal Commission on the Ancient  
and Historical Monuments of Wales

PICTURES OF THE IRON AGE COMMUNITY CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES

