
Samsung

Digital Discovery Centre

Key Stage 2

Roman Britain treasure challenge video conference

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the session, or to adult helpers.

About this session

During this video-conference session, students will gain a basic understanding of the Treasure Act and the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) while investigating the importance of public archaeology in Britain through the discovery of the Frome Hoard. The session is underpinned by a real example of a Romano British archaeological hoard found by a member of the public. This provides opportunity for discussions involving aspects of Roman Britain, such as settlements and religion. By completing a series of challenges focusing on combining history, Computing, English and geography skills, students will be prompted to adapt their ideas and concepts of what treasure is and why following the proper excavation steps are vital to maintaining the integrity of the artefacts. This session lasts 90 minutes.

Session outline

- The session begins with a whole class discussion about what we think treasure is and voting on specific examples based on the rules of the Treasure Act.
- As the students take on the role of member of the PAS organising the recovery and care of the hoard they are guided by the British Museum (BM) teacher through Challenges 1-4 with worksheets and resources for each challenge (these will be emailed to the school). The class should previously have been split into teams of 5 or 6 to complete these challenges.
 - The Challenges are:
 1. Choose your team: Students must put together groups of experts to help with the various stages of excavation, conservation and display
 2. Choose your tools: They must decide which kinds of tools will be used for the excavation with emphasis on the Roman British period layer.

3. Security: The focus is on providing a security plan to eliminate the threat of looters
 4. Coin Decoder: Students learn how to decode a Roman coin
- The session concludes with a full class discussion on whether the Frome Hoard is Treasure according to the Treasure Act and why.

Key themes of the session are developing children's critical thinking and observation skills while addressing archaeological issues.

Key vocabulary includes Roman Britain, archaeology, archaeologist, treasure, hoard, looters/night hawkers, ritual/religion.

Preparing for your session

- Before the Session it is essential that you have completed the following steps, which will help ensure the session runs more smoothly.
 - Separate the students into teams of 5/6 and give each of them a team name (for example different colours).
 - Note: Each team must be facing the video-conference screen as they must be able to engage with the museum teacher and view the supporting PowerPoint. Below is an arrangement of the classroom to consider
 - Print out all the materials (Challenges and Resources) that have been emailed to you.
 - Each team will need one worksheet for each of the four challenges as well as two copies of the supporting documents
 - Discuss with your students the rules and etiquette of a video-conference. The main points to cover are as follows:
 - Don't wave at the screen or partake in any distracting movements
 - Face your chairs towards the museum teacher at all times
 - Speak up when giving an answer
 - Raise your hand
 - ****During the session it is essential that all teachers play an active role in the video-conference. This involves repeating questions asked by the BM teacher and answers given by students, passing out and helping with the challenges, calling on students to answer questions and helping send team ambassadors to the front of the class.**

Summary sheet

In this session you will learn about:

- How to tell what is archaeological Treasure
- Stages of excavating, conserving and displaying artefacts (objects)

Key words

Roman Britain
Archaeology
Archaeologist
Treasure
Hoard
Looters/ Night hawkers
Ritual/religion

Treasure

- You will be asked what you think when you hear the word treasure. You will then learn that there is a legal definition (a law) that says what Treasure is. This is the Treasure Act.
- You will find out that Dave Crisp has found something that could be an exciting archaeological find from Roman Britain.

Challenges

- Challenge 1: With your class team you will decide who should be sent to help excavate (dig up) the hoard, clean it and display it.
- Challenge 2: The excavation team will need tools to help them dig and record the finds. What will your team send?
- Challenge 3: People are trying to steal the hoard! Make a security plan to help the police.
- Challenge 4: Find out more about the coins from the hoard.

What do we know about the Frome Hoard?

- The archaeologists have sent you a report. Watch the report and you will find out that they know the hoard is from the Roman Britain period. Due to the large amount of coins in the hoard and because no one returned for them the archaeologists believe the hoard was purposefully buried during some form of ritual.
- You and your team must now decide if this hoard is Treasure by looking at the Treasure Act which will be shown on screen.

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