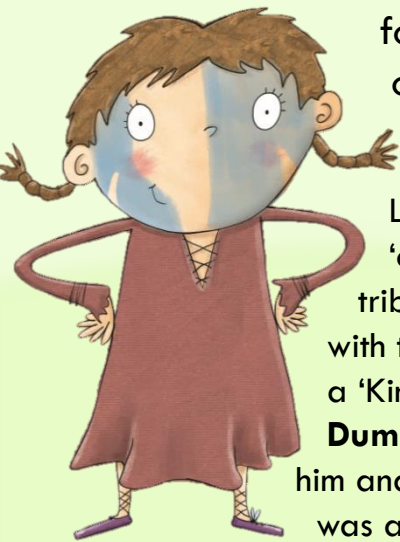


The Iron Age in Lincolnshire

The Iron Age is what we call the final part of prehistory in Britain, from around **800BC until 43AD**. It is called the Iron Age because it was when iron was used

for the first time in Britain, although iron had been in use in other countries before this. People belonged to tribes with their own leaders.



Lincolnshire was inhabited by the **Corieltavi** tribe, who had their 'capital' at Leicester. They were probably split into smaller sub-tribes. We think this because they made their own coins, sometimes with the names of their leaders on. **Volisios** seems to have been a 'King' around 45AD but the names **Dumnocoveros**, **Dumnovellaunus** and **Cartivelios** appear alongside him and might have been leaders of sub-tribes. There was a mint at **Sleaford** and this might have been one of their tribal centres. The Corieltavi were probably farmers. We don't know very much about them and it seems they did not fight the Romans when they invaded.



Much of Lincolnshire was either marsh, swamp, fen or river. Log boats were a good form of transport in these conditions and many have been found in the county, including the one pictured below found at Fiskerton.

Treasures found at Fiskerton

A wooden causeway (like a low bridge) was discovered, providing a stable surface to cross the marsh and reach the River Witham. Close to the remains of the causeway were many precious items that seem to have been thrown into the water deliberately. Why would people do this? Perhaps they were offerings to spirits or Gods to bring good luck or favour, but without asking someone from the Iron Age we will never know. Items like swords, spears and tools were found – in the Iron Age throwing something like these in the water was like throwing your expensive car in the river!
Can you think of a reason they would do that?



The Romans invaded Britain in 43AD, which marked the end of the Iron Age, but it didn't mean people stopped their way of life.

Build a Round House in 5 Easy Steps



Reconstruction at Hadleigh
Country Park.

Image: Gary Faux

1 – Check what materials are available – there is no use trying to build a house far away from building materials. The most likely materials you will need are wood and mud, clay or dung (yes, that's right...dung is a very handy material and easy to find on an Iron Age farm!).

2 – Dig post holes to form a large circle (they're called round houses for a reason you know!). These will be where you place large wooden poles to support your walls and roof. Use rope made of nettles to hold your posts together.

3 – Decide where the door will be (this is an important step if you want to get inside your new home!) South-facing is best so you don't get a cold wind blowing through. Don't worry about windows, you wouldn't have any!

4 – Weave pliable (bendy) wood around the circle of posts to form walls that look like a basket – this is called **wattle**. Then add a mixture of mud, clay and dung to make the walls solid – this is called **daub**. Some walls were built with planks of wood instead, like one found at [Danebury Hill Fort](#).

5 – You need a roof or you are going to end up very soggy. Reeds, straw or turf (grass and mud) work really well. Reeds can be found in marshy areas near rivers, which Lincolnshire had plenty of in the Iron Age. Make sure the roof is steep – this will keep the rain out and will keep the smoke above your head when you light a fire. Don't be tempted to leave a chimney gap or your roof will catch fire!

How do we know?

The materials used to build round houses rot away but the post holes can be spotted by changes in the soil.

Archaeologists have built experimental round houses. This is how they know what the roof was like. [Butser Ancient Farm](#) have been recreating Iron Age round houses from around the UK.



Round house at Cranborne, Dorset.

Image: Clive Perrin

Activities to try at Home

Make your own Torc

A torc is a piece of jewellery worn around the neck. They were made of solid or twisted strands of metal, often gold or bronze. They are usually U shaped but some have been found that could be closed into a ring. They seem to have been worn to show you were important and were worn by men and women. They may have been decorations on statues too – we don't know! This one was found near Sudbrook but was sadly damaged by a modern plough. It can be seen on display in the museum.



To make your torc, use a flexible material like wire, pipe cleaners, rolled up foil, thick rope or modelling clay. Bend your chosen material into a U shape and you are done! You might want to paint your torc too – you could use paint or nail varnish to get a metallic effect.



Make your own Coins

Coins were first made in the Iron Age in Britain, but we don't think they were used to pay for things the way we use money today. The Corieltavi decorated their coins with horses and sometimes boars. The coins started off as pellets of metal, which were then stamped to flatten them and create the decoration.

You can make your own versions with clay, play dough or plasticine. Roll a small ball and then use an object to stamp it flat. You could use a stamp you have at home, a pen lid, a piece of jewellery...anything you like. Why not experiment with the different patterns you can make?

We used plasticine and an assortment of items from around the house to make marks on our coins (right).

