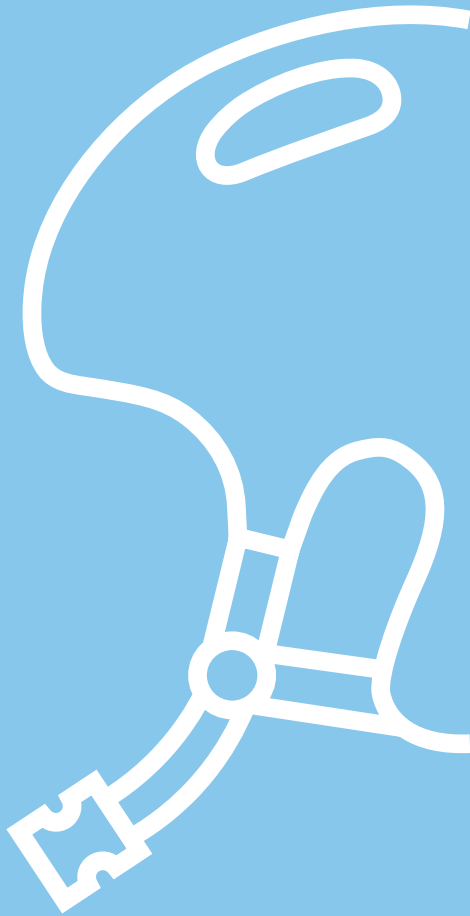


The British
Museum



Families
Ages 6+

Museum explorers ancient Britain



The Hamlyn family trails are supported by

HHT THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

Welcome

This trail guides you on a journey of exploration around the Museum. On the way you'll track down some amazing treasures and learn tales of human history. Whichever way you go, and whatever you discover, enjoy yourself! If you ever feel lost, just ask a member of staff for help.

Useful information for families

- Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available. You can breastfeed and bottle feed anywhere on the Museum's grounds but if you would like more privacy, please use the feeding room in the Ford Centre for Young Visitors in The Clore Centre for Education on the Lower floor, Level -1, or one of our baby changing spaces. For details, ask at the Families Desk or Information Desk in the Great Court, or pick up a map of the whole Museum.
- You can leave fold-up pushchairs in the cloakroom free of charge.
- You can find child-friendly food at the cafés. High chairs are available.
- You can use the Ford Centre for Young Visitors to picnic with your family at weekends and during school holidays.

Museum explorers ancient Britain



In **ancient Britain** helmets provided protection in battle. What helmets have you worn to protect you?

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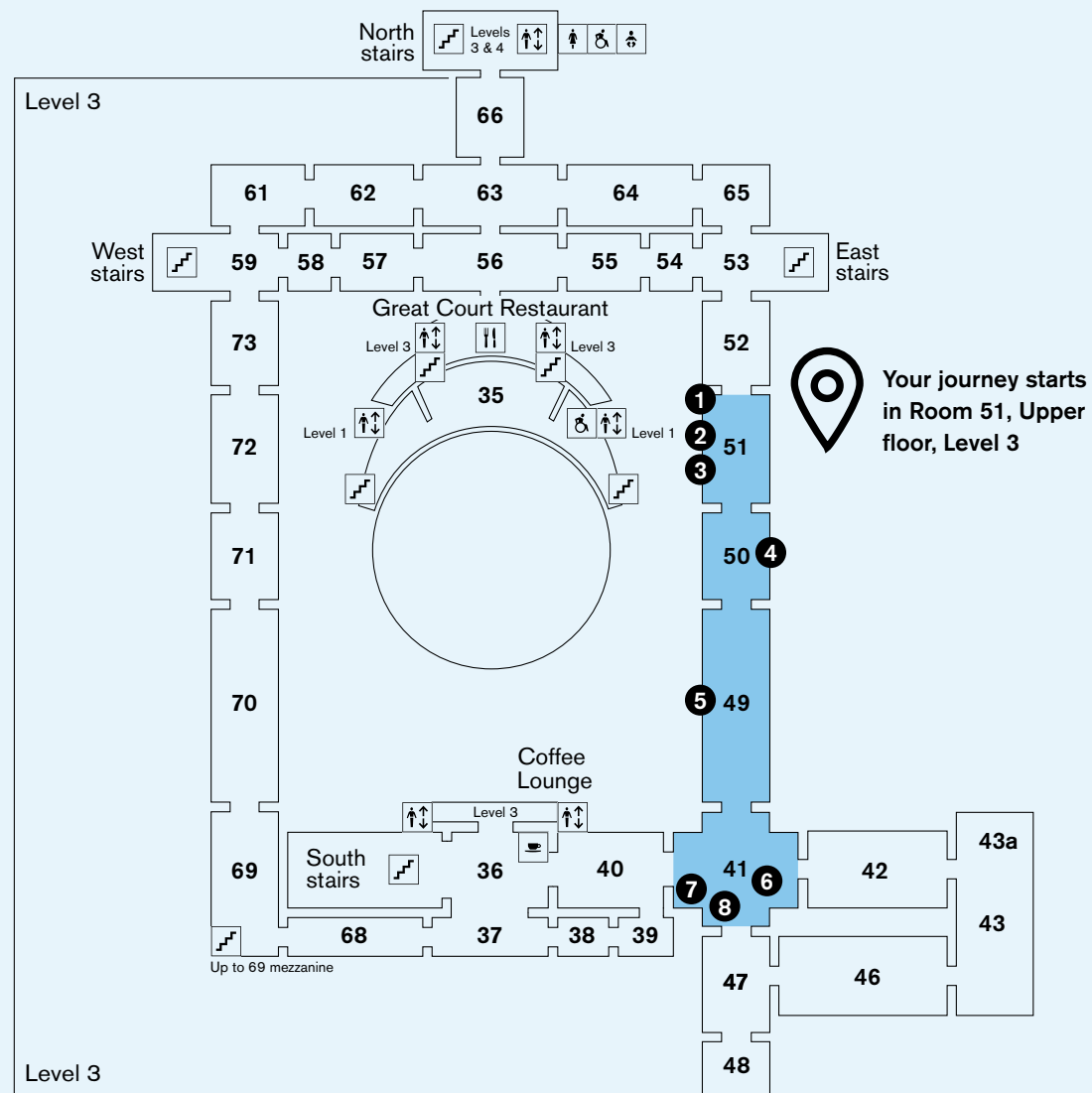
HHT THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

This map shows the locations of the objects in this trail. You can pick up a map of the whole Museum at the Information Desk in the Great Court. Please note that some galleries may be closed at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances or refurbishment.

The Families Desk, located in the Great Court, is open on weekends and school holidays from 10.00–12.30 and 13.15–16.30

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Toilets | Café | Baby changing | Lift |
| Accessible toilet | Stairs | Great Court Restaurant | Level access lift |

Upper floor



Take a trip through thousands of years of British history to find out how life changed across the centuries and how the ancient Britons once lived. You'll need the sharp eyes of a historian to track down every object!



Your journey starts in Room 51, Upper floor, Level 3. You'll need to go up a set of stairs to access this gallery. If you have a pushchair please use the lift.



Case numbers can be hard to find – don't be afraid to ask a member of staff for help finding an object



1 Roaming around
Room 51



2 Britain's first farmers
Room 51



3 Bronze Age boasting
Room 51



4 Gorgeous gifts
Room 50



5 Here come the Romans
Room 49



6 Sutton Hoo secrets
Room 41



7 Runes and riddles
Room 41



8 Viking hoards
Room 41

1 Roaming around



Go to Room 51 on the Upper floor, Level 3, and find Case 4

Mesolithic hunter-gatherers moved from place to place to find food. They hunted animals, caught fish and gathered plants. Star Carr in North Yorkshire was a favourite lakeside spot where they built wooden decking over the mud in the spring and autumn.



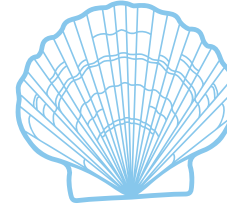
The Mesolithic ('middle stone' age) period dates from around 10,500–4000 BC

Find the deer skull headdress.

Imagine you are wearing it. Walk or prance like a deer!



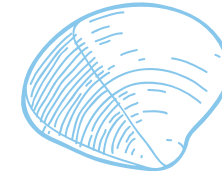
Find the glass-fronted cabinet packed with shells. How many different sorts of shell can you see?



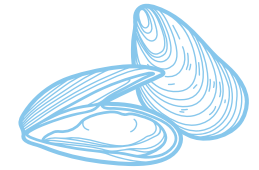
Scallops



Oysters



Cockles



Mussels



Find the birch bark rolls.

Hunters made glue for fixing things together from their sticky sap. It is possible that they also made bowls, bags and boxes from strong but flexible bark. Pretend to roll a strip of bark. You'll have to roll it really tight!

2 Britain's first farmers



Stay in Room 51 and find Case 6

Neolithic farmers cut down trees to clear space for crops, animals and houses. During this period people began to own more things. Stone tools were really useful for everyday work but by the end of the Neolithic period they had started to use metals. They loved shiny gold and copper jewellery, as well as new tools and weapons.



The Neolithic ('new stone' age) period dates from around 4000–2400 BC

Find these mysterious objects.

Nobody knows what they are! What would you use them for? Make up a story about these objects.



Head to Case 9 and find:

- A brooch
- A necklace
- A bracelet
- An armlet

Which of these pieces of jewellery would you like to wear?

Find the saddle quern in Case 10.

These stones were used to grind wheat. Grinding was hard work. Act out how you would use them to grind wheat. How long do you think you could do this before your arms started to ache?



3 Bronze Age boasting



Stay in Room 51 and find Case 10

Bronze Age people liked to show off. They held big feasts, wore gold and decorated their belongings with bold patterns.



The Bronze Age in Britain dates from around 2400–800 BC

Look for the metal cauldron in Case 10.

What would you add to make a Bronze Age stew?

Find the gold cape in Case 8 and imagine putting it on your shoulders.

How would you feel? If you were a superhero with a cape, what would your special power be?

Find the patterned pots in Case 11.

How do you think the patterns were made on the clay?



4 Gorgeous gifts



Go to Room 50 and find Case 19

Iron Age people gave presents to gods and goddesses to keep them happy. The best gifts were made of gold, silver or bronze. They would be decorated with beautiful patterns or worked and twisted into interesting forms, like the torc in the picture below.



The Iron Age in Britain dates from around 800 BC to AD 43

All the objects in Case 19, like the gold Torc below, were presents given to the gods.

How would you feel if you received one of these gifts? What's the best gift you have ever been given?

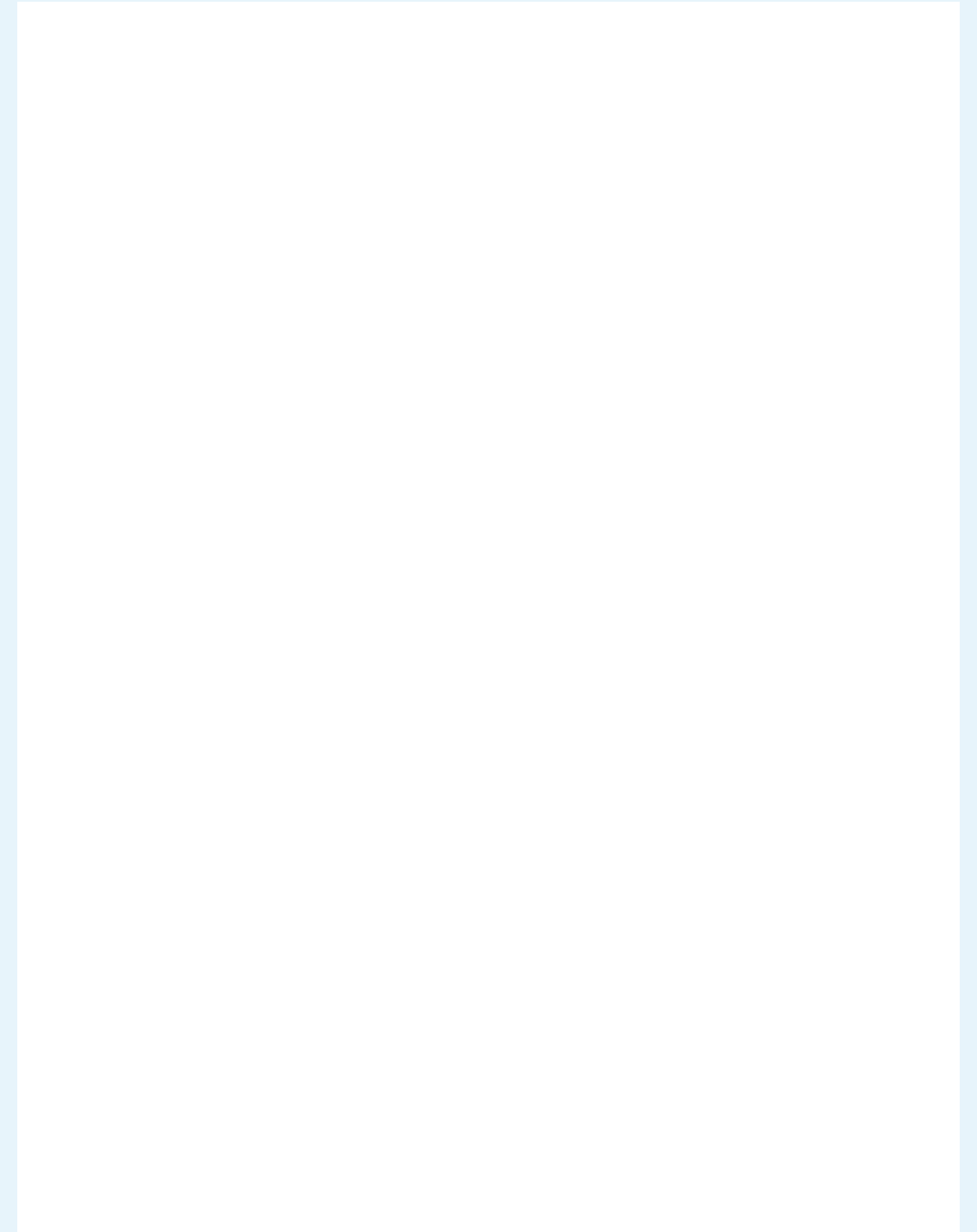
Now explore the objects in this gallery.

Choose an object that you would like to give to someone in your group.



Many Iron Age objects like these were made up of swirly lines and distinctive patterns.

Choose your favourite pattern in the gallery and copy it here – if you don't have a pencil to hand, take a picture and draw it at home later!



5 Here come the Romans



Go to Room 49 and find Cases 6 and 8



When the **Romans** arrived in Britain they brought a huge army, the Latin language and new ways of eating and drinking. They also introduced new foods like grapes, lettuce and cherries.



The Romans invaded Britain in AD 43 and ruled much of the island for more than 350 years

Imagine you're joining the Roman army.

Look at the military kit in Cases 6 and 8. Choose four items to take on patrol with you. How might you use these objects?

Romans spoke and wrote in Latin.

Find Case 2. Pretend you are writing to a friend about life in Roman Britain – what might you say? Now explore the case and choose some objects to put in your imaginary Roman pencil case.

Romans used beautiful tableware to impress their guests.

Look in Case 22 and pick out a plate for a bunch of grapes.

6 Sutton Hoo secrets



Go to Room 41 and find the large glass case in the centre of the gallery



The Anglo-Saxon burial at Sutton Hoo was hidden under a massive mound of earth for over 1,000 years! When archaeologists dug it up they found a magnificent collection of objects carefully laid out in the middle of a burial ship.



The Anglo-Saxon period covered the years AD 410–1066

In this case, find a shield, whetstone and great gold buckle (they are not next to each other).

Can you spot a six-winged dragon and a bird with a curly beak on one of these objects?

What animal stands on top of the whetstone?

Whetstones were special stones used to sharpen objects, however this one was more likely a symbol of status and power. Pull a face like the ones carved into its side.

Look at the twisting lines on the gold buckle.

Trace one through the air with your finger.



7 Runes and riddles



Stay in Room 41 and find Case 2

This whalebone box is decorated with early **Anglo-Saxon** letters called runes. It also has pictures from myths and historical stories. The casket is named after Sir Augustus Franks, who gave it to the Museum.



Find the runes on the box.

Do any of them look like letters you use for writing? Look carefully at the shapes of the runes on the box. Can you draw one of them in the box below.



Walk round the box and look closely at the carvings. The carvings tell mythical, biblical and historical stories. Can you find:

- Warriors carrying spears?
- A horse?
- Somebody standing in an arched window?

What object would you give to a museum so people in the future could understand what life is like today?

8 Viking hoards



Stay in Room 41 and find Cases 23 and 25

The **Vikings** loved hoards (groups of objects hidden together inside a bag or box) and they particularly liked to hoard silver!



The Vikings settled in Britain a little before AD 900



Find the **Cuerdale hoard** in Case 23.

This hoard contains more than 8,000 silver objects. What different objects can you see?

Hoards were sometimes stored in **gilded silver cups**.

Find two cups that held hoards in Case 25.

Imagine you had a hoard.

What precious things would you collect?
What would you store the hoard in?





You have completed the ancient Britain trail!

You can find out even more about life in ancient Britain in other parts of the Museum:

- Find some ancient hand axes in Room 1
- Pretend to be a Lewis chess piece in Room 40
- Strike a pose next to the Roman emperor Hadrian in Room 70



Head back to the Families Desk to receive a stamp!

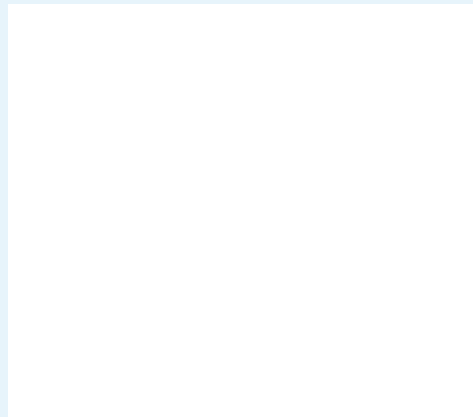
What an adventure that was. You've travelled through over 10,000 years of British history and explored what life was like in ancient Britain. Of all the things you discovered, which was your favourite?

Name _____

Age _____

Date _____

Favourite object _____



At home



Design the other half of this royal golden belt buckle. How many creatures can you hide in your design?

Other things you could do when you get home:

- Make a Bronze Age pot – don't forget to decorate it!
- Speak like a Roman and learn how to say 'hello' and 'goodbye' in Latin
- Design a swirly Iron Age pattern. Can you hide a secret symbol in your creation?

