

# Before 1066 KS3 History Explorer Card Version

- Print this document onto A3 card
- Cut out the individual object cards and laminate them
- Create a chronology on the classroom wall
- Create an Island map on the classroom wall or table
- Use in groups or as a class
- Suggested activities:
  - Students work in small groups (or 'mini museums')
  - Share out the cards across the groups (c. 6 each)
  - Each group introduces their objects to the class so everyone knows what the full selection is
  - Each group studies their own object selection, including looking at the place they were discovered on the Island using a map and using the chronology
  - Each group tells a short story about their objects in any creative form (including an exhibition), which can 'borrow' objects from other museum groups – this is presented to the class



For Isle of Wight Museums and Schools





**What am I?**

Burnt hazel nut fragments

**What period in history am I from?**

Mesolithic

**Where was I found?**

Bouldnor Cliff, Yarmouth, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Hazelnuts

**Who made or used me?**

People living 10,000 years ago

**What was I used for?**

Possibly food waste left behind

**Where am I now?**

IoW Shipwreck Centre

These plant-based (organic) materials do not normally survive in dry, land-based environments but have been preserved in this underwater site. DNA analysis has suggested that wheat found on the site does not naturally grow in Britain. It suggests early possible trade with Europe.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Mace head

**What period in history am I from?**

Mesolithic

**Where was I found?**

Wellow, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone

**Who made or used me?**

A skilled craftsman made me 10,000 years ago

**What was I used for?**

As a weight, hammer or weapon perhaps

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This circular perforated stone object is often called a 'mace head' by archaeologists. It may have been a weight; or fitted onto a wooden shaft and used as a hammer, weapon, for ceremonies or as a symbol of power.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Handaxe

**What period in history am I from?**

Palaeolithic

**Where was I found?**

Great Pan Farm, Newport, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone (flint)

**Who made or used me?**

The very earliest people living on the Island over 100,000 years ago

**What was I used for?**

Likely to have been held in the hand and used for chopping or smashing

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

People occupied this area from Europe and Africa as early as 1 million years ago, during warmer times between periods of ice. Their stone tools were washed into rivers from the places they lived by melting glaciers.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Handaxe

**What period in history am I from?**

Palaeolithic

**Where was I found?**

Priory Bay, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone (flint)

**Who made or used me?**

The very earliest people who lived on the Island, 100,000-400,000 years ago

**What was I used for?**

Likely to have been held in the hand and used for chopping or smashing

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Probably the earliest evidence for human settlement in this place, before it was an island. Several hundred handaxes have been found at Priory Bay in the gravels of a river flowing down through the eastern Solent from the south coast.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Neolithic axe

**What period in history am I from?**

Neolithic

**Where was I found?**

Ryde, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone (amphibolite or glaucophanite)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a skilled craftsperson who could get hold of this stone from Europe

**What was I used for?**

There is no sign this axe was used. It was probably a special keepsake

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

People started to build homes and settle in small communities. They cleared woodland for farming. Stone axes were used to help fell trees and work land. Some were special and made from stone traded over a long distance.



**What am I?**

Pot

**What period in history am I from?**

Neolithic

**Where was I found?**

Redcliff, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Pottery

**Who made or used me?**

The earliest farmers who brought animals and cereals onto the Island about 6,000 years ago

**What was I used for?**

To consume a thick beer made from porridge and called 'frumenty'

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Some of the earliest pottery on the Island dating to at least 6,000 years ago. It has not been heated ('fired') to harden ('temper') but is clay mixed with recycled crushed pottery.



**What am I?**

Arrowhead

**What period in history am I from?**

Bronze Age

**Where was I found?**

Blackpan Common, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone (flint)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by someone skilled at shaping flint into tools (a flint knapper)

**What was I used for?**

With a bow to hunt animals for food

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Look at how the arrow has been carefully shaped from a piece of flint found in a field or on the shoreline. Gentle pressure is applied patiently using a soft piece of bone or antler to remove flakes. The arrowhead that results had very sharp edges when new.



**What am I?**

Bracelet

**What period in history am I from?**

Bronze Age

**Where was I found?**

Nunwell Park, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a skilled craftsperson who could work bronze ('smith')

**What was I used for?**

For wearing as an item of personal jewellery

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Bronze was made by heating copper and other metals including tin. It was a valuable material and objects made from it were often recycled. This bracelet came from a 'hoard' which could have been a 'smith's' scrap pile.





**What am I?**

Bowl

**What period in history am I from?**

Iron Age

**Where was I found?**

Gills Cliff, Ventnor, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Pottery

**Who made or used me?**

People living in the area

**What was I used for?**

Everyday bowl for eating, preparing and storing food

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This relatively complete bowl is over 2,000 years old. It would have been typical of the everyday bowl used by Iron Age people living in the Gills Cliff area near Ventnor, probably for eating, preparing and storing food.



**What am I?**

Brooch (fibula)

**What period in history am I from?**

Iron Age

**Where was I found?**

Gills Cliff, Ventnor, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

People living in the area

**What was I used for?**

To fasten their cloaks before the days of zips and buttons

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Although only part of it survives, this brooch would once have been an elaborate example of Iron Age jewellery. This suggests that the owner was relatively wealthy, and it may have been worn by a woman, child or man.



**What am I?**

Part of a shield (the central 'boss')

**What period in history am I from?**

Iron Age

**Where was I found?**

St Lawrence, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (iron)

**Who made or used me?**

A warrior

**What was I used for?**

To give protection during a fight

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

The late Iron Age was a time of conflict with the Romans beginning to invade from Europe. Warrior burials are known from this period where human skeletons have been found complete with sword and shield. This metal part ('boss') of a wooden shield gave it strength and protected the warrior's hand in combat.



**What am I?**

Stone head sculpture

**What period in history am I from?**

Iron Age - Roman

**Where was I found?**

Luccombe, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Stone (greensand)

**Who made or used me?**

Possibly carved in Dorset from imported stone

**What was I used for?**

Could have represented a god

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

We don't know if this stone head sculpture is from the Iron Age. It has many features associated with Iron Age stone heads, including a simple form, and flat face and nose. Celtic peoples who lived on the Island before the Romans believed the head was special.





**What am I?**

Painted wall plaster

**What period in history am I from?**

Roman

**Where was I found?**

Brading Roman Villa, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Plaster

**Who made or used me?**

The wealthy farming family who lived in the villa almost 2,000 years ago

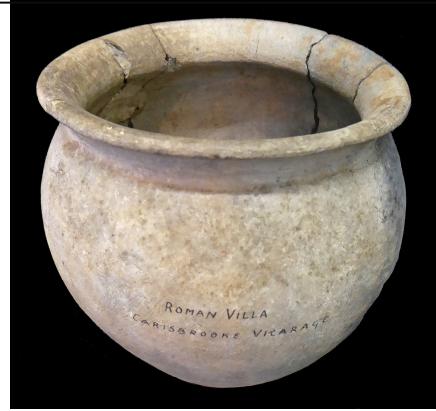
**What was I used for?**

To cover and decorate walls

**Where am I now?**

Brading Roman Villa

Insides of Roman villas were often lavishly decorated with painted walls and mosaic floors. At Brading, surviving plaster suggests the walls were covered in brightly coloured birds, like peacocks, and country scenes. Technology came from Europe and artists were local.



**What am I?**

Greyware pot

**What period in history am I from?**

Roman

**Where was I found?**

Carisbrooke Villa, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Pottery

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a local pottery maker

**What was I used for?**

General cooking and storage in the kitchen

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This pot was made locally because of its grey colour. A soft clay pot was fired in a kiln to harden which was heated to a relatively low temperature. As a result, it was softer and absorbed liquids from food/ drink compared to expensive 'red' pottery heated to a higher temperature.



**What am I?**

Running hare brooch

**What period in history am I from?**

Roman

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze) and enamel (made from coloured glass)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a jewellery maker

**What was I used for?**

As an item of jewellery

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This brooch decorated with enamel (made from glass) was made by the Romans. To Romans, the hare was sacred and associated with the moon. It was found in the grave of an Anglo-Saxon who may have found it and treasured it long after the Romans left.



**What am I?**

Dog figurine

**What period in history am I from?**

Roman

**Where was I found?**

Newchurch, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

A rare discovery and made by a skills craftsman

**What was I used for?**

Perhaps an offering to the Roman gods concerned with hunting or healing

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Dogs were symbols of healing and were kept at Roman temples to lick the wounds of the injured. Small bronze dogs were made as votive offerings to the gods. The hound is similar to the breed we call the Irish Wolfhound.





**What am I?**

Bird brooch

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Chessell Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze and gold)

**Who made or used me?**

A skilled jeweller with an eye for design

**What was I used for?**

Worn as a decorative brooch by the owner

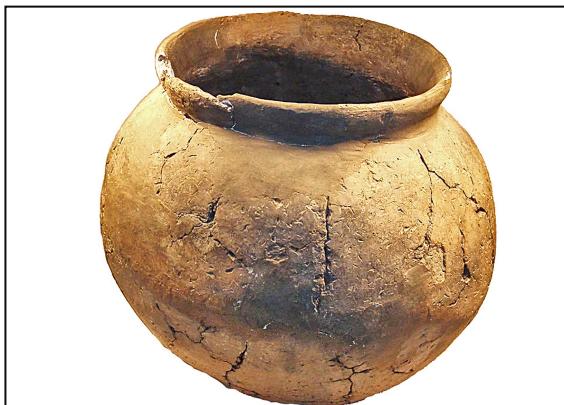
**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This very unusual and early Anglo-Saxon bird-shaped brooch was discovered in a grave at an early Jutish cemetery at Chessell Down on the Island. The design is rarely found in England and shows connections with Jutish artistic traditions that developed in Kent.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Globular urn

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Pottery

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a potter and used by relatives of someone who died

**What was I used for?**

To contain the ashes of their loved one who had died for burial

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This handmade urn came from the Jutish cemetery at Bowcombe Down. Early Anglo-Saxons buried some of their dead after they had been cremated. Their ashes being contained in a pottery urn, along with objects they owned.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Brooch (one of a pair)

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Shalcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze and gold) and gemstones

**Who made or used me?**

Worn by women as a pair

**What was I used for?**

To fasten their dresses

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

These early Anglo-Saxon gilded silver brooches, mounted with garnet and glass, come from a 6th century burial mound (or barrow) on Shalcombe Down. The barrow collapsed in 1745 and was excavated by John Dennett in 1816.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Coin brooch

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Near Chillerton, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (silver)

**Who made or used me?**

An Anglo-Saxon person or someone living later who found it

**What was I used for?**

As an item of jewellery

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

A late Anglo-Saxon silver gilt penny made (or 'minted') in York during the reign of King Æthelred II (r. 978 – 1016). It was perhaps found and made into a brooch at a later date.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Strap end

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a Saxon metalworker

**What was I used for?**

Used to decorate a belt. Found in an Anglo-Saxon grave on one of the highest hills on the Island

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Attached to the end of a leather strap as decoration, to stop the ends fraying and to add weight so the strap hung correctly. Found in an early C6th burial in a cemetery where other items discovered suggest a Jutish ancestry.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Brooch

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Shorwell, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (gold) and gemstone (garnet)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by craftspeople working in Kent

**What was I used for?**

As a personal item of jewellery

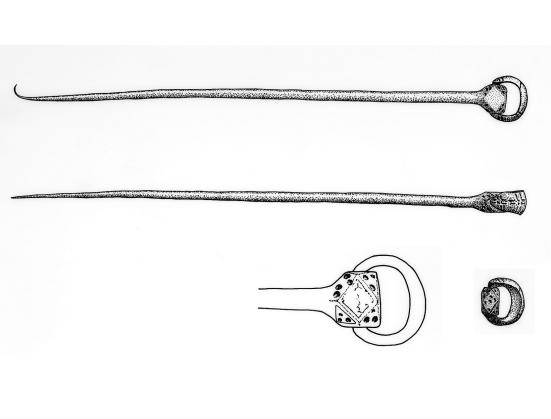
**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This jewelled (or Kentish) disc brooch is a rare example of a style developed by jewellery craftspeople in Kent at the beginning of the C6th. It was cast in one piece from silver and would have been worn individually near the throat.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Cloak pin (drawing of)

**What period in history am I from?**

Viking

**Where was I found?**

Fishbourne, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a Viking craftsman perhaps in Ireland

**What was I used for?**

To fasten a cloak in the days before zips and buttons

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Rare example of Viking presence on the Island. Found on the beach at Fishbourne and is just over 1,000 years old. European Scandinavian Viking design usually found in Ireland. Owned and worn locally or washed ashore.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Skillet

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Shalfleet, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

Used by an early Christian priest on the Island

**What was I used for?**

Probably used for baptizing people in church

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

The Island was supposedly the last place in England into which Christianity was introduced. This skillet dates to the C8th – C9th and has a cross riveted onto the handle. Probably used in Anglo-Saxon Christian baptism ceremonies.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Sword

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Shalcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (iron)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a skilled craftsman who could work iron and steel

**What was I used for?**

For protection and as part of a warrior's uniform

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Swords were very valuable and often handed down from generation to generation in Saxon families. Strips of forged iron and steel were twisted and welded together to form a strong blade ('pattern welding').



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Tweezers

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Chessell Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

Used by my owner and buried with them when they died

**What was I used for?**

To look after their appearance

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

130 graves were discovered at the this C6th Jutish cemetery site. They contained many objects (grave goods) buried with the dead for their use in another life. The Anglo-Saxons took care of their appearance and removed unwanted hair with tweezers like these.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

A decorative item

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Near Brighstone, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (gold)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by someone who worked with gold (a goldsmith)

**What was I used for?**

As decoration and to show importance

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This shiny gold mount may well have formed part of an ornate decoration for jewellery, dress accessories or weapons. It suggests the owner and wearer had a degree of wealth and social importance.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Decoration from a leather strap

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Calbourne parish, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (gold)

**Who made or used me?**

Perhaps worn by a wealthy person

**What was I used for?**

On their clothing to show their wealth and importance

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This mount is unique (nothing else quite like it has been found from the Anglo-Saxon period). It formed part of the decoration of a scabbard strap or belt holding a dagger or sword. It is made of gold, a rare and expensive metal, which suggests its owner was wealthy.



THE EARTH MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Arrowhead

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (iron)

**Who made or used me?**

Used by a warrior

**What was I used for?**

For hunting and defence in battle

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Saxons would have been skilled in the use of bow and arrow. Archery played a part in battles but by practising every day the skill would mostly be used for hunting. In the language of the Anglo-Saxons (Old English), the bow was known as 'boga'. This example was buried in a C6th Jutish cemetery.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Belt buckle

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (bronze)

**Who made or used me?**

Made by a Saxon metalworker for women, children and men

**What was I used for?**

For securing their belts and for decoration

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Anglo-Saxon women, children and men wore leather belts with fitted buckles (known as 'dalc' or 'fifele' in Old English). Their makers decorated them with patterns. This example from a C6th Jutish burial has circular patterning.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Part of a shield (known as the 'boss')

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Bowcombe Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (iron)

**Who made or used me?**

Used by a warrior

**What was I used for?**

Defence in battle and as part of a uniform

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Most Saxon shields were made of linden (lime) wood, naturally good at absorbing blows. To provide strength and protect the warrior's hand a central iron fitting (boss) was attached, behind which the shield was held. Shields gave protection and were a symbol of importance.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Decoration from a sword belt

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Near Bembridge, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (gold) and gemstones (garnet)

**Who made or used me?**

A person who wore a sword

**What was I used for?**

On their clothes to show their wealth and importance

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

This mount would have formed part of the decoration of a sword belt strap. They were generally made in either silver or copper alloy, but this one was made of gold inlaid with small garnet gems. This suggests its owner was wealthy and important in society.



THE EARTH  
MUSEUM



**What am I?**

Spearhead

**What period in history am I from?**

Anglo-Saxon

**Where was I found?**

Arreton Down, IoW

**What am I made of?**

Metal (iron)

**Who made or used me?**

A farmer, soldier or wealthy person

**What was I used for?**

For hunting and protection

**Where am I now?**

Isle of Wight Heritage Services

Spears were the main weapon of the Anglo-Saxons. Farmers, soldiers and nobility would use a spear. Anyone with no fighting experience could be quickly trained to use one and they were cheap to make. Some were light for throwing, others strong for thrusting. Only enslaved people could not carry a spear.

