

## Iron Age Shield Craft



Above is an image of a very old object that we have in our collection. It's part of a shield and is called a 'boss'. It would have been used for protection during battle. The shield dates back to the Iron Age, specifically between 190 - 340 BC.

It is suspected that shields were occasionally thrown into nearby water during ritual tributes, as an offering to the gods. These remains were discovered in the River Trent.

Shields were often made from very thick wood, or sometimes leather with a metal boss riveted to the front. They were rectangular or oval in shape and were made from three separate pieces that slot together to make a whole.

Special shields were covered with a thin sheet of metal. The metal would have even decorated with a variety of techniques such as etching, hammering and enamel designs. These Celtic designs often included imagery from nature, such as animals and plants.

Have a go at crafting and plating your own metal shield, so you can be fully equipped when you head to battle, or have to hang on the wall as an art piece.

### You will need:

- |   |                                   |                                 |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard      | <input type="checkbox"/> PVA glue | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminium foil | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoe polish    | <input type="checkbox"/> Brush    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue |



- 1** Ask an adult to cut out the shape of your shield from a piece of cardboard, any size you like.



- 2** Draw some simple shapes on a piece of paper and carefully cut around them to create a template.



- 3** Use your template to cut out your shapes from cardboard and arrange them on the shield.



- 4** When you are happy with your layout, glue all the cardboard down, wait for it to dry.



- 5** Brush the whole shield in a thin layer of glue.



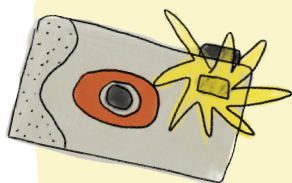
- 6** Carefully plate your armour by cutting a piece of aluminium foil to the correct size, and carefully rub it down into all the creases. You can use a piece of scrap cardboard to help you.



- 7** Fold all of the excess foil around the shield. With a tissue, buff a small amount of shoe polish over the top of the shield, to help bring out your design. This part will be messy!



- 8** Enjoy!



Do send us any photos of your Iron Age shield - **we'd love to see them!**



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