

Museum of Archaeology
Durham University

Hidden Stories from the River Wear

Exploring 1000 years of
Durham history
online exhibition



durham.ac.uk/archaeology.museum.com



This pack of learning activities was created by a group of students of the MA Museum and Artefact Studies course at Durham University. It is a part of the online exhibition “Hidden Stories from the River Wear” (2021 – 2022), a project focusing on Durham city’s local history, as well as the thrilling world of underwater archaeology through the weird and wonderful objects underwater archaeologist Gary Bankhead discovered while diving in the River Wear from 2007 to 2019.

In this pack, you will find a wide range of activities designed for your pupils, suitable for Key Stage 1. We would like to assure you that the material meets all the standards established by the National Curriculum. Instructions for all activities are included, and if you wish, you may share your class’s work with us in archaeology.museum@durham.ac.uk

Our mascot, a mini Gary Bankhead, will guide you and your pupils through this pack, offering helpful hints and tips.

We sincerely hope this activity pack serves as a useful (as well as entertaining) learning tool for your classes.

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Sir Walter Raleigh and the River Wear

Introduction

The brooch pictured on this worksheet is believed to depict Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh, creating a link between the city of Durham and the famous explorer. Test your pupils reading comprehension skills by reading through the text and answering the questions.

Curriculum links

- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction
- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
- A study of local history

Learning outcomes

- Gain an understanding of Sir Walter Raleigh's biography and his contributions to British history
- To develop comprehension skills from the reading of a short, non-fiction piece of text

Success criteria

Pupils can...

- Read and comprehend the text with some help for more difficult words and phrases
- Correctly answer the comprehension questions

Lesson ideas

Pupils could read through the comprehension alone or aloud, in either small groups or as a whole class. You may wish to use this as an introduction to Sir Walter Raleigh or to complement a lesson on him. It could also be used within a local history lesson, drawing on the link of the brooch and the River Wear, and Raleigh's residency in Durham House, the historic house of the Bishop of Durham.

This brooch was found in the River Wear and is believed to be showing Queen Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh. Read more about the brooch and the great explorer Sir Walter Raleigh and answer the questions below.



This brooch was found by Gary Bankhead under Elvet Bridge in Durham's River Wear. It was found in 2009 and thought to be from 1600-1800. It was made from a copper alloy. The brooch is thought to show Queen Elizabeth and Sir Walter Raleigh.

Sir Walter Raleigh was an English explorer at the time of Elizabeth I. He was born around 1554 in Devon and was the youngest of five children. Sir Walter went to France to fight in the Wars of Religion when he was about 15 years old. After the war, he studied at Oxford University and began writing poetry, which he loved.

Sir Walter became a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I after helping to stop an Irish rebellion and she knighted him in 1585. Two years later he became the Captain of the Queen's Guard. He began exploring with an expedition to North America between 1584 and 1589.

Sir Walter upset Queen Elizabeth I when he married her lady-in-waiting, Bessy Throckmorton, without the Queen's permission. Both Sir Walter and Bessy were imprisoned in the Tower of London but soon released.

In 1594, Sir Walter began exploring again and went to South America to find El Dorado, the legendary lost city of gold. He didn't find it but did explore many South American countries. He also attacked Spanish ships and ports, taking a lot of their treasure.

When James I became king in 1603, he did not like Sir Walter and charged him with treason. Sir Walter was imprisoned in the Tower of London again where he lived for 13 years. He wrote a book called *History of the World* and wrote lots of poetry. He was released in 1616 but when he attacked the Spanish he was sentenced to death. He was executed on 29th October 1618.



Who found the brooch in the River Wear and in what year?

5

What bridge was the brooch found under?

When and where was Sir Walter born?

Which Queen and King did he serve under?

What two continents did he explore?

How many times was he imprisoned in the Tower of London?

When did he die?



Queen Elizabeth I

Sir Walter Raleigh

Introduction

The objects in the River Wear collection are varied in age, type, and material. This worksheet blends the history of the River Wear objects with science, encouraging pupils to consider what the objects are made of and their properties. The first activity is to match the River Wear objects with the materials they are made from and the properties of the materials. The second asks pupils to consider what else these materials could have been used for and are used for now. You may wish to show further examples from the River Wear object sheets, keeping with the local history theme.

Curriculum links

- Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic
- Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made
- Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties
- A study of local history

Learning outcomes

- Identify different everyday materials by sight and their basic properties
- Identify different ways in which everyday materials have been used throughout history

Success criteria

Pupils can...

- Identify metals, gems, plastic, and clay objects by sight
- Identify some of the basic properties of these materials
- Name other historical and modern objects made of these materials

Lesson ideas

This worksheet can be expanded to include further objects and materials from the River Wear collection. You may choose to focus more on science and look further into the properties of the materials, or focus on history and discuss the ways in which these materials were used and manufactured in earlier centuries.

Guess the material

The objects found in the River Wear were made from lots of different materials. Some were metal, clay, and plastic—Gary even found diamonds! See if you can match the objects to their materials and properties.



Love token

Silver

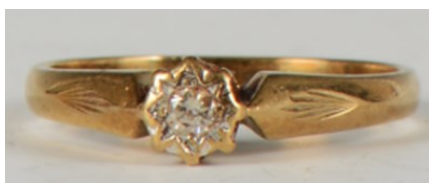
Rough
Sticky
Easily shaped



Ring

Plastic

Colourless
Crystal
Hard



Ring with stone

Lead

Shiny
Metallic
Precious



Homer Simpson toy

Clay

Metallic
Yellow
Rare



Georgian family scene

Diamond

Waterproof
Metallic
Toxic

Man-made
Cheap
Flexible



You've seen what kinds of objects these materials can make. Can you find out other uses? Sort the hints below into the table—some may have more than one use. See if you can think of any other uses. Have any changed or stayed the same?

	Was used for	Is now used for	Any other uses?
Lead			
Silver			
Gold			
Diamond			
Plastic			
Clay			

Was used for

Pottery

Jewellery

Water pipes

Dishes

Cutting tools

Not invented

Is now used for

Batteries

Drills

Bottles

Pottery

Solar energy

Jewellery

Create your own hidden story

Introduction

From 2007 to 2019, Gary Bankhead found over 13,000 objects under the surface of the River Wear. The oldest artefact dates to the 4th century, while the most recent ones are dated to the 21st century. For each object Gary found, there is an amazing hidden story to tell. Ask your pupils to write a story, using some of the prompts provided in this pack. You can have the children work on an object individually, or ask your class to produce a piece of work based on a particular object. Encourage the pupils to work in whatever form they like best, their story can be a short story, a story from an object's perspective, a drawing, a comic or whatever else they desire.

Curriculum links

- A study of local history
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry
- Use historical concepts e.g. continuity and change, cause and effect
- Create structured written narrative
- Practice spelling common words
- Writing skills

Learning outcomes

- Develop writing skills
- Develop spelling skills
- Create their own piece of structured work

Success criteria

Pupils can...

- Think of their own ideas to write a story
- Create their own structured piece of work based on objects

Lesson ideas

Can be used for pupils practicing their reading and writing skills. Pupils can work individually on their own work and pupils could volunteer to read their work out loud. Links to local history.

Between 2007 and 2019, Gary Bankhead found over 13,000 objects beneath the surface of the River Wear in Durham. Each object he found has an amazing hidden story. Now it's time for you to write your own hidden story!

Your object

- What is your object?
- What colour is it? What is it made of?
- Does it have a smell?
- Is this object important to your character? How do they feel about it?

Your character

- Who did your object belong to? A person? An animal?
- What is your character's name?
- What does your character look like?
- What was your character doing by the river?

Your setting

- Is your setting Durham, or a different city, town or village?
- Is this place crossed by a river? Or maybe it is by the sea, or even a lake?

The big question:

- How did the object end up at the bottom of the river, or the sea, or the lake?
- Did your character throw it into the river on purpose, or was it an accident?
- How did your character feel after the object ended up in the river?
- Is the object still there today?

How to start

- "Once upon a time"
- "Once there was"
- "Long ago"
- "There once was"
- "One day"



Your character could be the object itself! This way, you can tell the story from the object's point of view.

Example

A long, long time ago, on a beautiful summer day in the city of Durham, two little girls, Marion and Elizabeth, who were very dear friends, were playing by the riverside while their mothers were doing laundry nearby. Wishing to make an eternal oath of friendship to each other, each girl took of their favourite metal bracelet; Marion's had a bright golden colour, while Elizabeth's, silver. They used a small pin that happened to be in Marion's mother's pocket to engrave their names on each. Marion carefully attached the one to the other, and after they both counted to three, Elizabeth threw the two of them as far away as she could! Both friends clapped and cheered happily, and then sat together by the riverside, embraced, watching the water rings growing and growing under the music of the Cathedral's bells.

Introduction

The River Wear object sheets offer a small glimpse into the huge River Wear collection and the vast history of Durham. Using some of these - we recommend around five - ask your pupils to vote on which is their favourite and have them tally the marks in the table. Then, they can create a pie chart and key and use this to work out the percentage of the class who liked the most and least favourite.

Curriculum links

- Interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs and use these to solve problems
- Solve problems involving the calculation of percentages and the use of percentages for comparison
- Gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions

Learning outcomes

- Gathering and interpreting data to create mathematical charts
- Calculating percentages

Success criteria

Pupils can...

- Gather data in the form of a tally chart
- Interpret and construct a pie chart, including a key
- Calculate percentages from tally and pie chart data

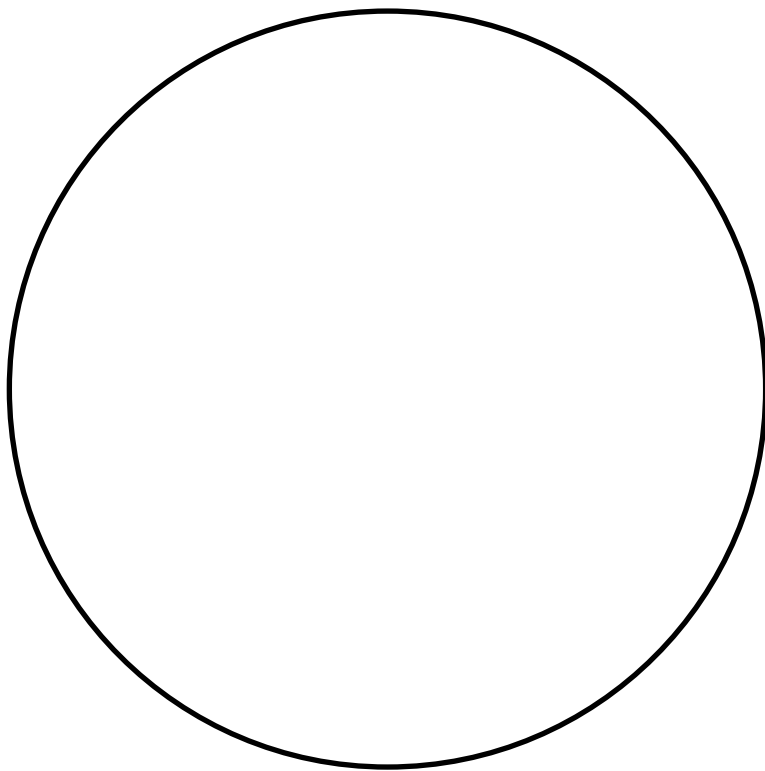
Lesson ideas

This activity can be paired with 'Looking at Objects', using the favourite object in the centre and encouraging the pupils to work in small groups to create a narrative for the object. This can then be shared as a whole class to collect and compare ideas. For large classes, it may be fun to split the pupils in half and see how their choices differ.

What is your favourite object?

Gary found over 13,000 objects in the River Wear! Choose five objects from the River Wear sheet and ask the other members of your class what their favourite object is. Tally their answers in the table below, then make a pie chart and identify right away which is the most popular!

Object	Number of votes



Colour in the boxes on the left and write the objects in the boxes on the right to make a key for your pie chart.

Key

What percentage of the class chose the most favourite object?

What percentage of the class chose the least favourite object?



Introduction

This activity gives pupils a chance to become archaeologists, discovering just how much we can learn about historical objects just by looking at them. Ask your pupils to cut out and glue an object from the River Wear object sheets into the centre of the sheet. Using the prompts, they should fill in all the information they can, just from what they can see.

Curriculum links

- Understand the methods of historical enquiry
- Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made
- Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- A study in local history

Learning outcomes

- Use methods of historical enquiry to discover and record information about historical objects from visual data
- Interpret objects to make justifiable conclusions

Success outcomes

Pupils can...

- Discuss and record information about historical objects
- Make their own observations and conclusions based on the visual evidence

Lesson ideas

This activity can be paired with 'What's your favourite object?', using the object chosen as the centre. It can be done individually, in groups, or as a whole class to create a larger poster with the pupils' collective ideas. You may wish to use it as a more creative activity or be stricter with historical accuracy. The objects can be chosen by the teacher or the pupils and you can encourage a varied selection or choose objects by theme.

Archaeologists like Gary can tell a lot about objects just by looking at them. Cut out a picture from the River Wear Object Sheet, glue it in the centre, and write what you see. Think about what it is made of, shape, size, age, and what it might have been used for or by.

I was in the river because...

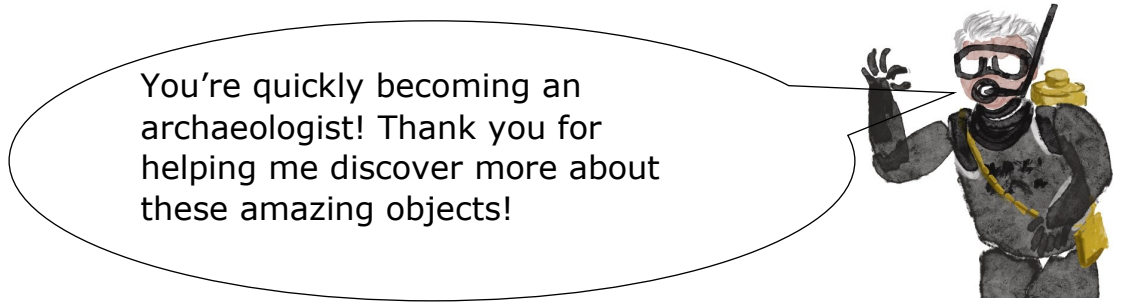
I am made of...

I was used for...

I belonged to...

My age is...

My shape is...



Introduction

Take your pupils on a journey through time to discover popular toys from centuries ago. Using 'I See, I Think, I Wonder' as prompts, ask your pupils to think about the toys throughout their life, from creation, to play, and disposal. Many of the toys are still around today, albeit in a different form, so see what similarities and differences your class can find between their toys and those from the past.

Curriculum links

- Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties
- Changes within living memory
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry
- A study of local history

Learning outcomes

- Identify how historical toys were made and used
- Identify different everyday materials by sight
- Compare and contrast historical toys with modern ones

Success criteria

Pupils can...

- Describe how historical toys were made and who they were used by, using the prompts as a guide
- Compare modern day toys with historical ones, distinguishing the similarities and differences

Lesson ideas

Toys are an exciting topic for pupils and this activity is a great way to really get them engaged with the collection. There are more toys to choose from on the River Wear object sheets and this sheet could also be paired with 'What's your favourite object?' to get them excited about maths too. Alternatively, bring out your pupils' creativity and challenge them to draw the toys, labelling their parts and materials.



I see: What is it? What is it made of? Has it been damaged?

I think: Why do you think it was in the River Wear? Who played with it?

I wonder: How is this toy different from your toys? How have toys changed over time?



I see: What is it? What is it made of? Has it been damaged?

I think: Why do you think it was in the River Wear? Who played with it?

I wonder: How is this toy different from your toys? How have toys changed over time?



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I see: What is it? What is it made of? Has it been damaged?

I think: Why do you think it was in the River Wear? Who played with it?

I wonder: How is this toy different from your toys? How have toys changed over time?

Introduction—Create your own medal

Alexander C. Newton's War and Victory medals were among the objects found by Gary in the River Wear. If Alexander really discarded his medals, it could be an example of how traumatic war can be. So, in order to embrace the values of friendship and harmony that come with peace, instead of the hostility and violence that always accompanies war, we thought it would be a great idea to create our own peace medals instead.



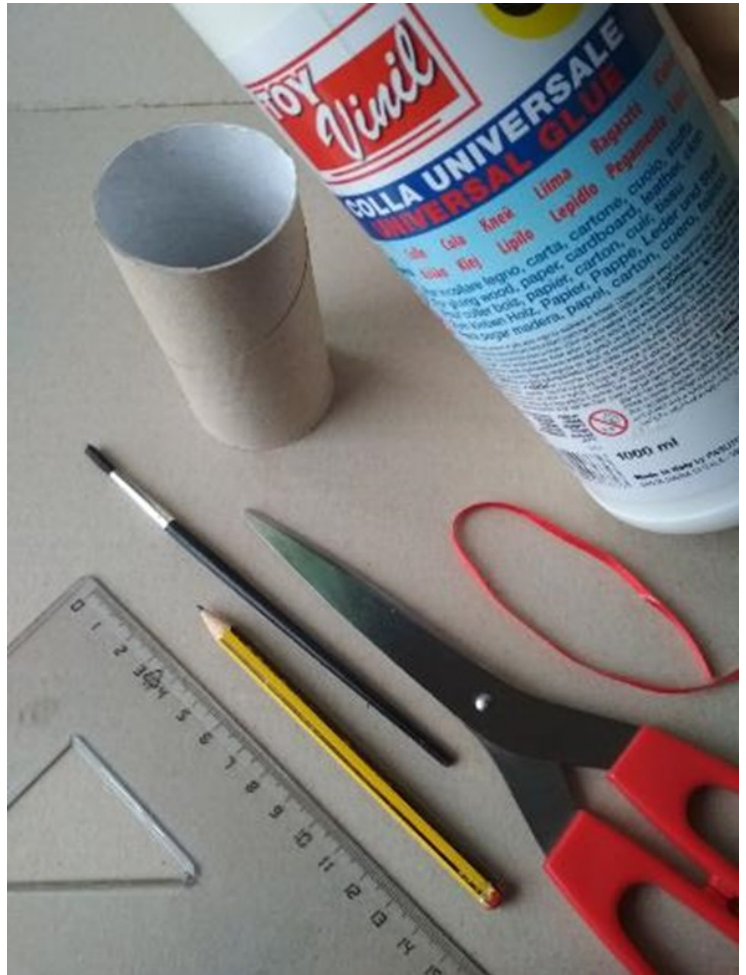
World War 1 British Victory Medal
(Empire Medals)

You will find directions for a paper medal in this pack. You can either draw or engrave peace doves or anything else you might like on them.

Create your own paper medal

You will need:

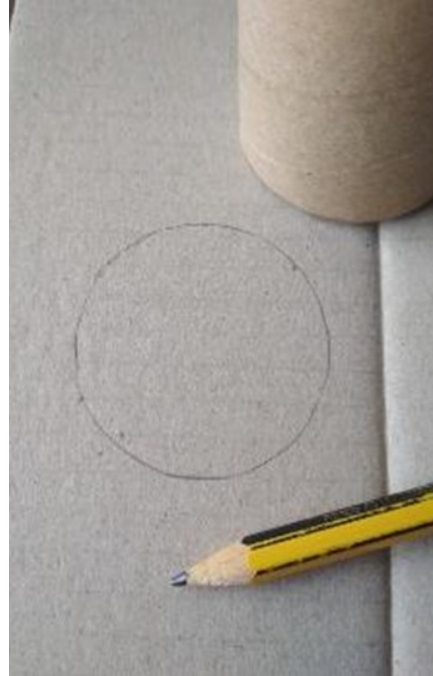
- Cardboard
- Kitchen towel roll
- PVA glue
- Pair of scissors
- Pencil
- Brush
- Ruler
- One pointy tool (like a sharp pencil)
- A ribbon or some string



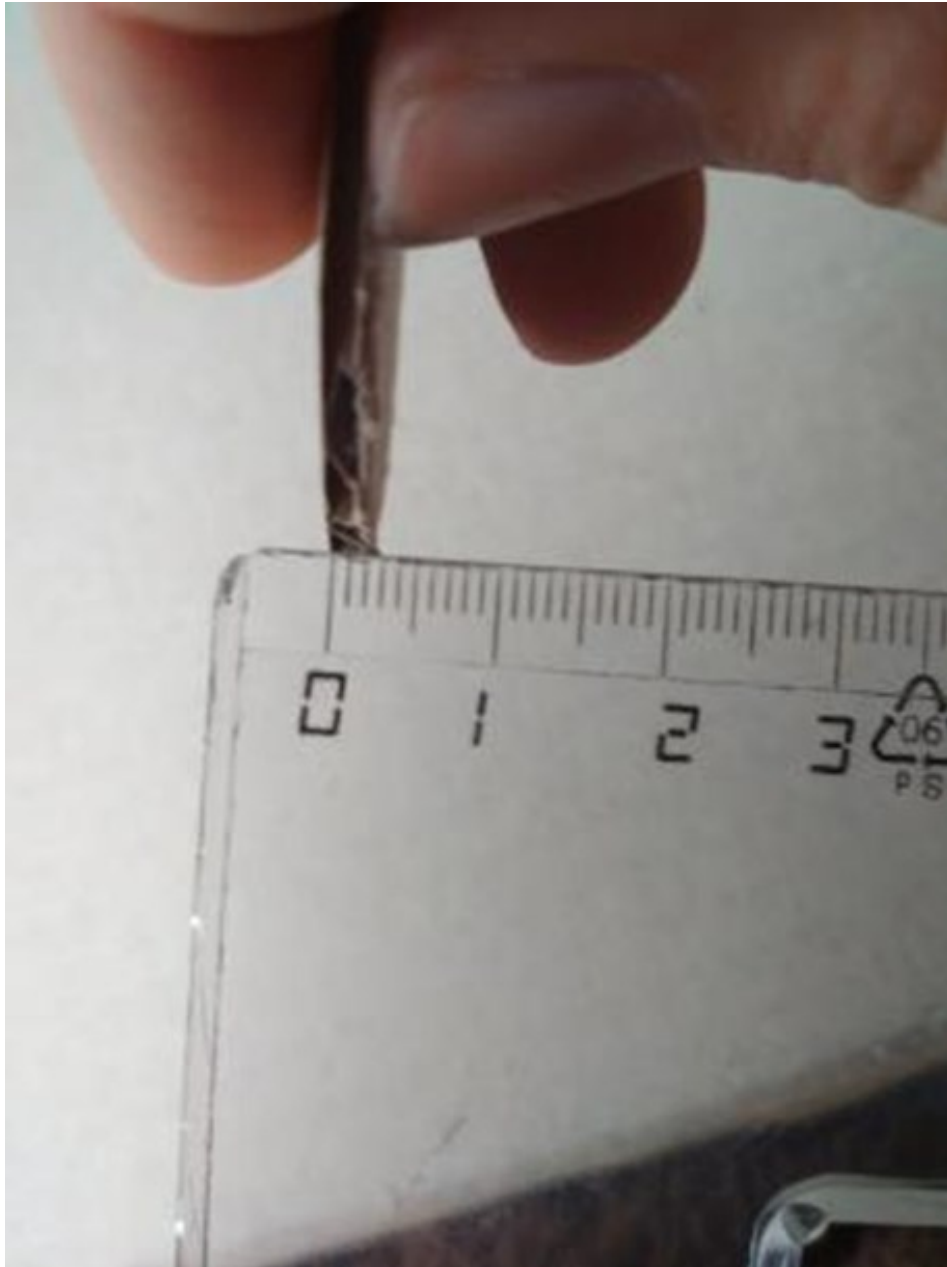
Make sure you ask an adult to help you with the scissors



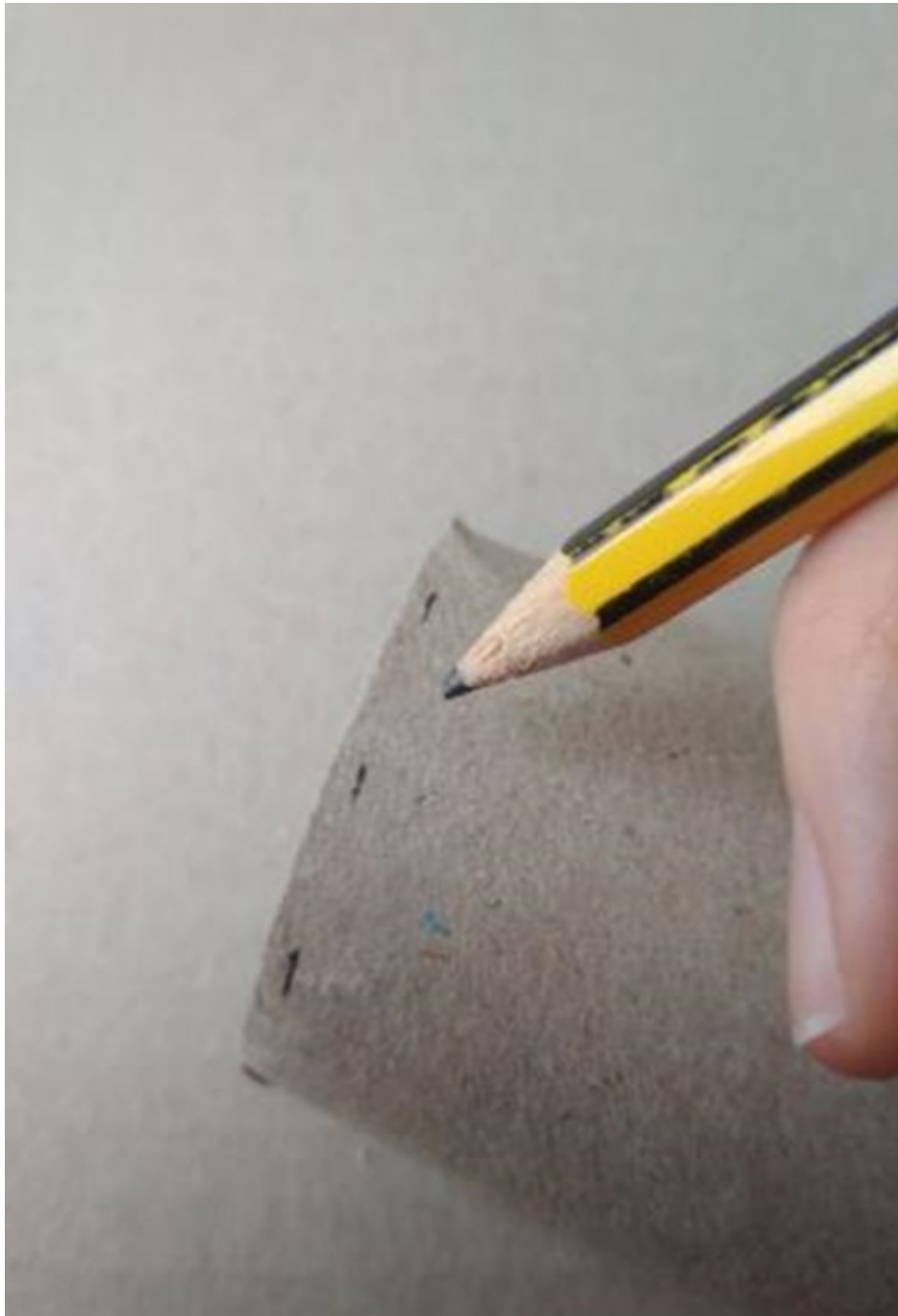
Step 1: Trace a circle on the cardboard using the kitchen towel roll and cut it out



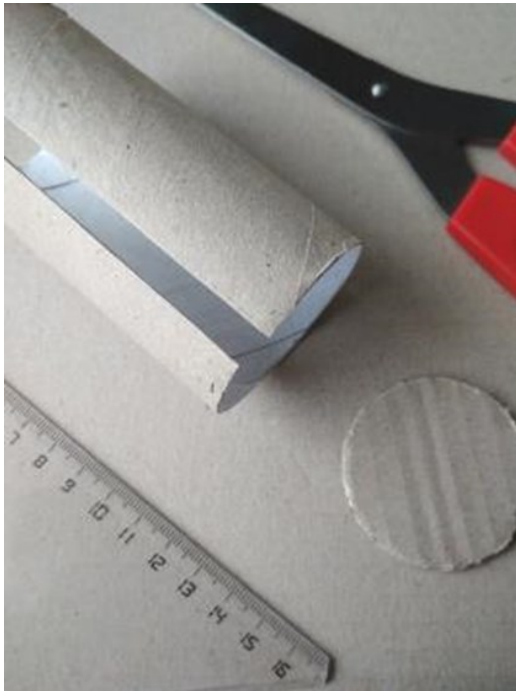
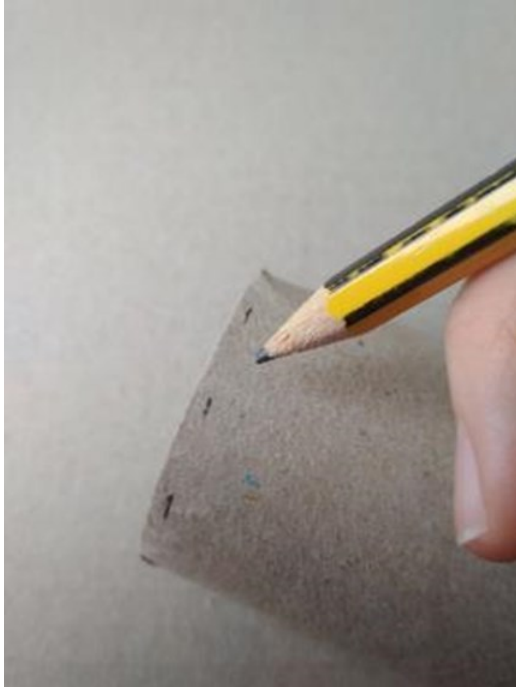
Step 2: With the ruler, measure the width of the cardboard disk.



Step 3: Measure a circle all around the paper roll with the width equal to the width of the cardboard



Step 4: Cut the kitchen towel roll in the middle. Then cut across the line you drew in Step 3



Step 5: Draw the handle on the cardboard and cut it out



Step 6: Glue all of the pieces together using the PVA glue and brush



Step 7: Use glue on the edges of one side and wait until it is completely dry (it will become transparent when it is dry)



Step 8: After the first side is dry, repeat on the other side



Step 9: With a pointy tool (such as a sharp pencil), carefully poke a hole in the handle of the medal.



Step 10: Pass the ribbon through the hole of the handle. Decorate your medal however you like!



Introduction

These sheets have a number of high-quality images of just some of the objects displayed in our online exhibition, "Hidden Stories from the River Wear: Exploring 1000 years of Durham History". For more objects and information, click on the exhibit link above. They are designed to be used not only with worksheets such as 'Create your own story' and 'Looking at objects', but to expand upon and enhance the activities in this pack.

Objects

1. Homer Simpson toy
- *Plastic, 21st century*
2. Toy soldier
- *Lead/pewter, 20th century*
3. Native American figure
- *Lead, 20th century*
4. Toy aeroplane
- *Tin, pewter, 20th century*
5. Toy horse
- *Lead, 17th century*
6. Toy knight
- *Lead, 16th-17th century*
7. Toy soldier with instrument
- *Lead, 19th century*
8. Marbles
- *Glass, 18th-21st century*
9. Doll's skirt
- *Lead, 16th-17th century*
10. Engagement ring
- *Gold and diamond, c.1862*
11. Love token
- *Lead, 20th century*
12. Finger ring
- *Gold, 16th-17th century*
13. Obituary ring
- *Gold, rock crystal stone, c.1775*
14. Ironmonger shop nameplate
- *Copper-alloy, 19th century*
15. British War Medal
- *Silver, c. 1918*
16. Elizabeth and Walter brooch
- *Copper-alloy, 17th-19th century*
17. Comb
- *Lead, 16th-18th century*
18. Dress hook
- *Copper-alloy, 16th-17th century*
19. Bird of prey ankle bell
- *Copper-alloy, 19th-20th century*
20. Dentures
- *Porcelain and vulcanite, c.1880s*
21. Pigeon ring
- *Copper-alloy, c.1919*
22. Seal matrix
- *Gilt blue glass, 18th century*
23. Medallion
- *Gold, c.1973*
24. Pilgrim's pendant - St Cuthbert's Cross
- *Copper-alloy, 20th century*
25. Pilgrim badge - St Cuthbert's Cross
- *Lead/tin, 14th century*
26. Sacring bell
- *Copper-alloy, 18th century*
27. Devotional badge - hunting horn
- *Pewter, 14th century*

River Wear object sheets



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24



25



26



27