

Treasure Hunters

ASHMOLEAN

Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum
Subject Area/s:
PHSCE, history, literacy

Length of session:
1 hour and 30 minutes (KS2)

Max group size: 32 pupils

Session outline

What is treasure? Where can treasure be found? What would you do if you found treasure? What stories can treasure tell?

Activity 1: What is treasure and where might you find it?

- Work in groups to decide where you would bury treasure.
- Discuss why people buried treasure in the past and never returned to collect it.
- Find a lost Roman Emperor.
- Learn about the boy who literally stumbled on some treasure.

Activity 2: Finders Keepers

- Find out about the discovery of the Watlington Hoard.
- Learn about the law surrounding treasure. Who does it belong to and what do you have to do if you find it?
- Handle original and replica objects to discover more about treasure.

Activity 3:

- Take part in a 'Treasure or Not' gallery hunt.
- Check your new knowledge in a 'Treasure Hunters' Quiz.

Activity 4:

- Design a coin inspired by the Watlington Hoard.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding more about what counts as treasure and the legal implications of finding treasure.
- Understanding how new archaeological finds can sometimes rewrite history.
- Knowledge and understanding of using archaeological evidence to learn about the past.



'The year 6 class absolutely loved this'

Head teacher
New Hinksey
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Pre visit activities

- Find a definition of treasure.
- Talk about the difference between things we might treasure and what the law says about treasure.

Please note that the session does not require any previous knowledge.

Post visit activities

- Make replica objects from the hoard.
- Make a bag to keep your hoard safe.
- Research other finds of treasure in Britain. Make a map locating approximate hoard sites.

Resources

The following resources are available to download on our website: www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources

- Images of some of the objects used in the session.
- Collector cards and challenge cards for follow up activities in school
- Crondall Hoard story starter PDF



This selection of items from the Watlington Hoard are on display in Gallery 41, England on floor 2 of the museum. The hoard was found near Watlington in October 2015. In all there were between 200 - 210 coins. Some of the coins are not complete, so is not easy to be sure exactly how many there are. There are 15 ingots, three arm rings, three pieces of hacksilver and one piece of very rare hackgold.