At home 🏠

Houses in the **IRON AGE** looked very different to our houses.
The big difference is...they were round! So, we call them **ROUNDHOUSES**.

Roundhouses didn't have lots of rooms. The whole family lived in one room with a nice warm **fire** in the middle.

Archaeologists excavating a roundhouse

Roundhouse reconstruction

What about water?

When we want **water**, we just turn on the tap. But in the Iron Age they had to collect water if they wanted to use it for **cooking**, **washing** or **drinking**.

Living near fresh water was very important for Iron Age people. Sometimes they lived near **rivers**, and sometimes they dug **wells** to collect water.

We found some of these wells in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

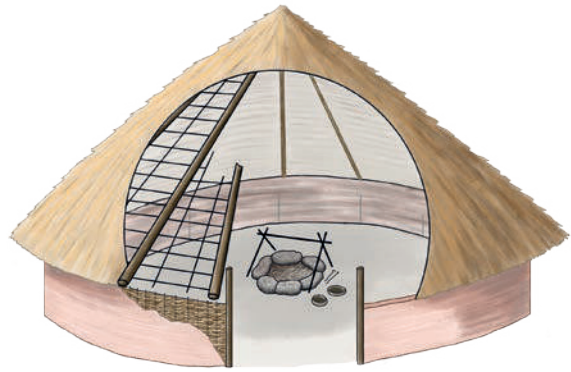One of them even had a **wooden ladder** which the Iron Age people had to climb down to collect water.

Make a miniature roundhouse

Roundhouses had pointy **roofs** made from straw.

The **walls** were made from wattle and daub panels.

Wattle panels were made from wooden posts with thin, flexible sticks woven between them. **Daub** was used to cover the wattle, making the house warm and waterproof. It is made from mud and clay (and sometimes animal poo!) mixed with straw.

ACTIVITY: Colour your roundhouse.

Cut out the wall and glue the tab to the other end of the wall.

Cut out the roof and glue the tab to form a cone.

Glue the two remaining tabs to the inside of the roof.

Design your Iron Age Settlement

Iron Age people usually lived in small groups.

They grew their own **food** and had **farm animals** like cows, pigs, sheep and goats.

As well as living in roundhouses, they used them as **workshops**, where they made their own clothes, pots and brooches which they could use or trade with other groups.

ACTIVITY: Now you have built a roundhouse, it's time to think big and design your own Iron Age village!

Use the sheet to draw a map of your village, and make sure you think about all the things you will need to survive in the Iron Age.