

THE WILD WAY HOME

Activity pack



Write a letter from the Stone Age

Imagine you have travelled back in time to the Stone Age.

Now write a letter to your family or friends to tell them
what it's like and how it feels to be there ...



Design your own map!

Using the Mandel Forest map created by Lamont, Beaky and Charlie as inspiration, create your own map of a place that is special to you.



Spot the Difference!

Can you spot 6 differences between the two book covers below?



Maze

Can you help Harby through the maze to reach the warm fire?



Curate your own Mandel Museum

Charlie (the main character in this book) enjoys collecting interesting things from the Mandel Forest including a badger skull, an arrowhead, a green glass fragment washed smooth by the river and a birds' nest. Charlie has kept all these items in a black tin chest and labelled the collection 'Mandel Museum'.

Why don't you see what interesting objects you can find in the wild and create your own mini museum? Use the space below to name your museum and draw or list the items you find.

My museum is called:

Items included in my museum:



Author Sophie Kirtley took these photos of the old metal box that inspired Charlie's Mandel Museum. The box is full of seeds, stones and fossils she collected with her daughters to be part of their own mini museum.



Wild Word Search

Can you use your hunting skills to find the ten hidden words in the puzzle below? The words are placed in either vertical or horizontal lines ...

C	A	B	A	J	H	W	G	P	T	F
R	D	W	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	I
L	V	T	R	Z	O	L	J	U	E	R
K	E	R	I	S	Z	D	T	T	D	E
D	N	U	E	A	R	S	M	V	F	S
S	T	O	N	E	A	G	E	I	O	M
O	U	F	D	Y	T	L	K	A	R	I
I	R	P	S	L	P	H	O	M	E	P
H	E	N	J	X	R	Q	J	R	S	H
F	Q	B	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	G
W	O	L	F	S	U	O	Q	X	W	D

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ Adventure | ☐ Friends |
| ☐ Ancient | ☐ Home |
| ☐ Family | ☐ Stone Age |
| ☐ Fire | ☐ Wild |
| ☐ Forest | ☐ Wolf |



Make a deertooth necklace ... out of salt dough!

Deertooth necklaces are very important to the characters in this book. You can create your own by following Sophie Kirtley's instructions for this fun (and slightly messy!) craft activity over the next few pages ...

You will need:

- A big bowl
- A cup
- Flour
- Salt
- Water
- A skewer, or a thin twig
- A baking tray lined with greaseproof paper
- A chunky needle (like an embroidery needle)
- A length of string or leather cord

Method (Charlie Merriam style)

1. Mix one cup of flour and half a cup of salt with half a cup of water to make a lovely ball of mouldable dough.



2. Take a small lump of dough and shape it into a rough deertooth shape, about the size of your little finger. Don't be too fussy about making it perfect – you're a rough and rugged Stone Age child, remember!
3. Why not experiment with different animal teeth – what would a sabre-toothed tiger's tooth look like? Or a wild boar tooth? Or a bear tooth? Or you could even make a pebble shape ... or a claw? We even carved some lines into one of the deerteeth, just like the lines on the deertooth in *The Wild Way Home*.



4. Lay your deerteeth on the lined baking tray as you go, leaving space between each one.



Make a deertooth necklace continued ...

5. When you're happy that you have enough, get a skewer and carefully pierce each deertooth at its widest point and give it a wiggle. Be sure to leave plenty of dough around the hole you make so that your deertooth can be attached securely later.



6. Heat up the oven to about 50°–70° and bake for at least two millennia (actually three hours or so) until they're rock solid.
7. When your deerteeth are cool, arrange them how you would like them to look on the necklace. If you have made pebbles, you might want to paint them. Cut a length of string that is long enough to take off over your head, leave some extra for knotting it too.



8. Thread your needle (or if it's easier, you can just use the string on its own), then tie a big knot at the end of the string.
9. Thread the deerteeth on to your string.



10. When you're done, knot the string really securely. Remember to make it long enough so that you can put it on and take it off again! (Unless you want to be a full-time Stone Age child!)
11. Ta-da! Wear your Stone Age deertooth necklace with wild pride!



Watch
Sophie Kirtley
make her
deertooth
necklaces!



Deertooth necklace discussion questions

What were deertooth necklaces really for?

While you're making your necklaces maybe have a little wonder about why you think real Stone Age people wore deertooth necklaces. Even today, no one NEEDS to wear a necklace, or a ring ... or get a tattoo, do they? So why do us humans want to do these things? Is it just to look interesting or is there a deeper meaning behind the ways we decorate ourselves? What significance do you think deerteeth might have had to Stone Age people?

What's changed?

Have a look at the instructions below and compare how we made our salt dough deertooth necklaces with how Stone Age people would've made their own real-life deertooth necklaces 6000 years ago ... What's changed? For better or for worse?

You will need:

- A forest full of wild animals
 - A tree
 - Flint
- A lifetime of hunting practice and spear-making skills

Method (Harby style)

1. Make your spearhead with flint
2. Make your spearshaft from wood
3. Make your spear
4. Hunt a deer
5. Give thanks
6. Use the meat to eat and the skin to make clothes – nothing can be wasted
7. Prepare your deertooth, using a small sharp stone to create a small hole
8. Carve lines upon your deertooth – one for every summer
9. Thread your deertooth on to a length of deer leather
10. Attach around your neck
11. Make safe



Create your own cave-painting inks!

'They're not just pictures, they're pictures that tell stories'

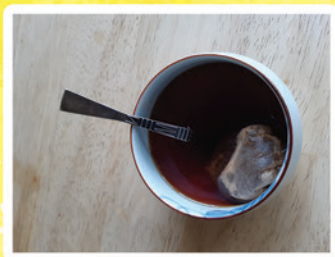
Follow these step-by-step instructions and use natural materials to create your own cave-painting inks, then use the ink to make paintings like those Charlie found in Deadman's Cave ...

You will need:

- Some plain paper
- Some berries or colourful flowers, plants and leaves
- Tea bags
- Spoon
- Paint brush

Method

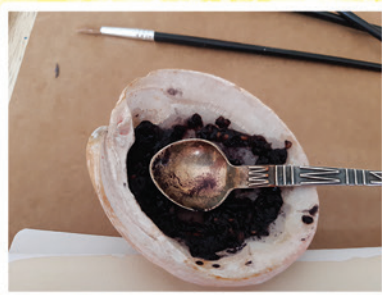
1. Soak two or three tea bags in to a cup of warm water for 5–10 minutes. When the tea is ready, apply it by dabbing the paper with the tea bag or by dipping a paintbrush into the tea and brushing it on to the paper.



2. While the paper is drying (you need it completely dry before you can paint on it), it's time to go foraging! Head outside and see what berries or colourful flowers you can find. If you can't find berries outside maybe you can find some in your fridge at home?

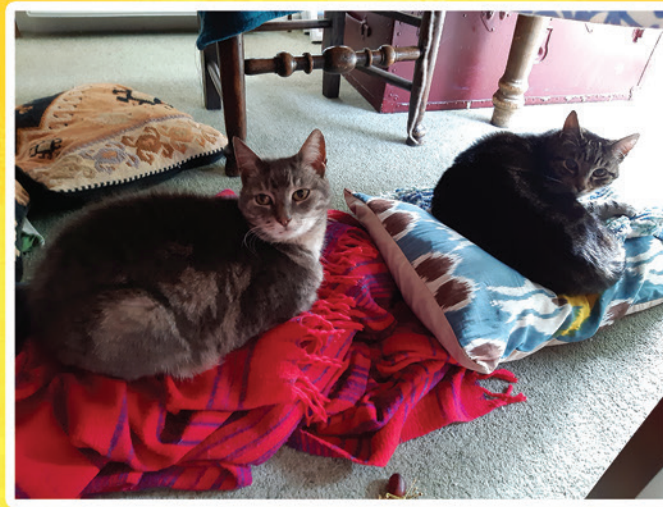


3. Once you have your natural ingredients, it's time to squish those ingredients up. You can use the back of a spoon or a pestle and mortar if you have one.



Cave painting continued ...

4. Next, find some 'wild beasts' to paint! If you don't have any pets like Sophie Kirtley does, use your imagination or copy a picture of any animal you want to paint.



5. Get painting!



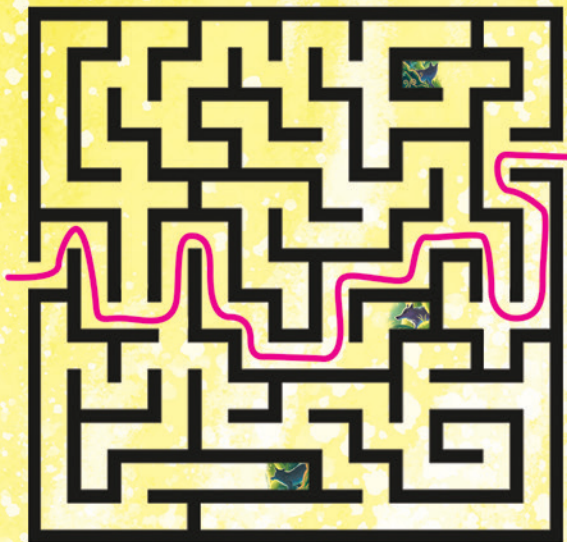
Watch
Sophie Kirtley
create her cave
painting!



Answer sheet



C	A	B	A	J	H	W	G	P	T	F
R	D	W	F	A	M	I	L	Y	S	I
L	V	T	R	Z	O	L	J	U	E	R
K	E	R	I	S	Z	D	T	T	D	E
D	N	U	E	A	R	S	M	V	F	S
S	T	O	N	E	A	G	E	I	O	M
O	U	F	D	Y	T	L	K	A	R	I
I	R	P	S	L	P	H	O	M	E	P
H	E	N	J	X	R	Q	J	R	S	H
F	Q	B	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	G
W	O	L	F	S	U	O	Q	X	W	D



Share your creativity!

We would love to see examples of anything you have created as a result of this pack, so please do share them with us:

Email: childrensmarketing@bloomsbury.com

Twitter: [@KidsBloomsbury](https://twitter.com/KidsBloomsbury) [@KirtleySophie](https://twitter.com/KirtleySophie)

