



History of Waste Worksheet

Waste in the Iron Age

What would I have thrown away in the Iron Age?

Choose from these words:

Pot Shards

Sawdust

Clinker or slag

Bones

Old Needles

Loomweights

Broken plough blades

Millstones

Broken toys

<i>Job</i>	<i>Picture of tools</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Waste</i>
Potter		Potter's wheels were made of stone, rope and wood. Pots were made from clay. Clay would have been remoulded if it broke apart, but pots become too hard to rework (recycle) when they are fired in a kiln.	
Carpenter		Lathes were made from wood and string, while tools like chisels had metal blades, like today's hand tools. Wood shavings would have been used as kindling to start fires.	
Metalworker		Smelting iron to produce metal tools was vital to Iron Age society. Metals would have been recycled.	
Farmer		Ploughs had metal blades. <i>What other tools do farmers use?</i>	

Weaver		Looms and spindles were made of wood while loomweights were made of stone. Fabric was always made from natural materials like wool or linen.	
Miller		Grain was milled into flour by hand with a rotary quern, or bigger stones were driven by mules or donkeys.	
Child		Toys would have been made of wood. <i>Do you think you would have left any food on your plate?</i>	
Cook		Cooking was done in pots over fires or on hot stones near the fire. Food was valued and eaten quickly.	
Tailor or seamstress		Woven fabric would have been sewn with bone needles and yarn made from natural fibres. Brooches or toggles held clothing together.	

Extension Questions

1. When was the Iron Age?
2. What other occupations and their associated rubbish can you think of?
3. How has rubbish changed since the Iron Age?
4. Describe the difference between things that are lost and things that are thrown away?
5. Look at the Iron Age finds in the British Museum (these are available online here: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/britain-and-europe-800-bc-ad-43>) What was lost, what is from burial sites and how much is domestic rubbish?
6. What will archaeologists of the future find from the Modern Era?