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Level 2 (Upper Intermediate) Bryn Eryr an Iron Age Farmhouse

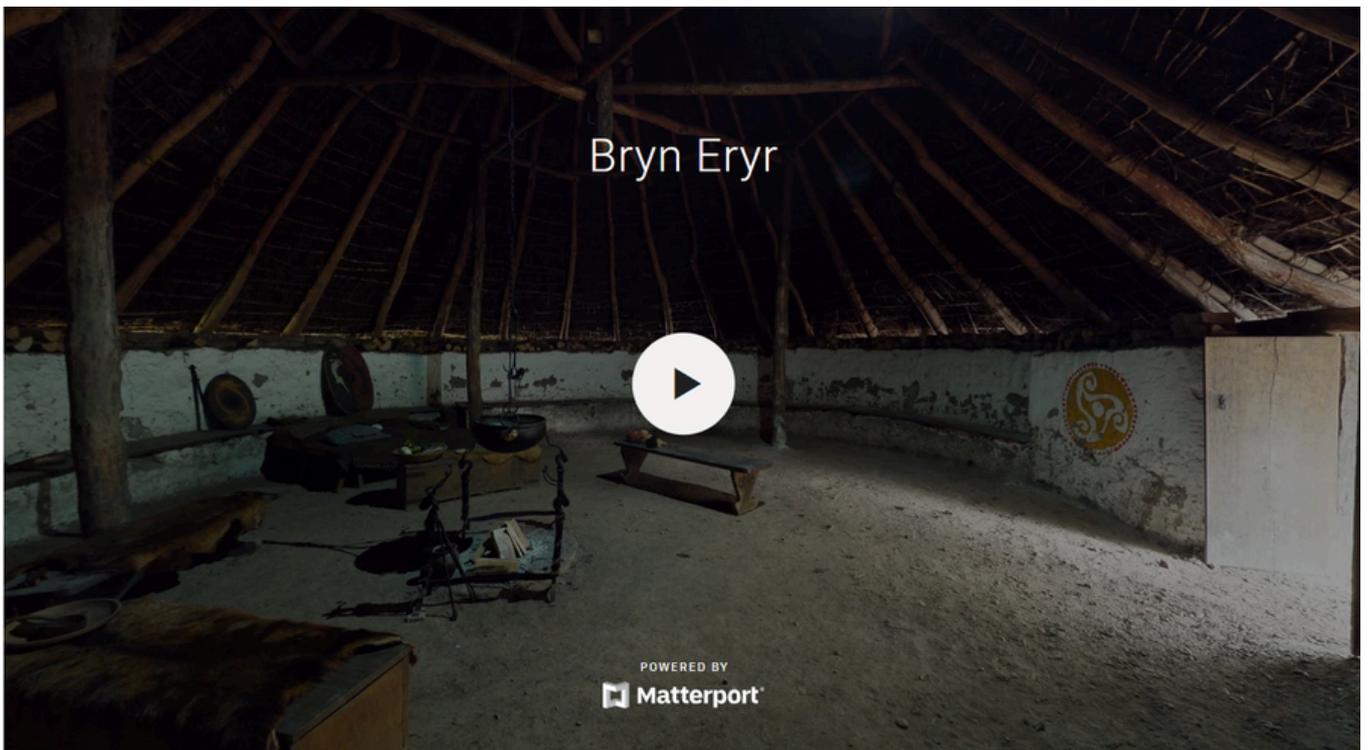


St Fagans National
Museum of History

Teacher's notes on page 24

360°

If you cannot make a physical visit to Bryn Eryr then you can use our 360 interactive tour instead.



CLICK HERE TO ACCESS

Our resources can help you enjoy your visit while practicing your English. Teacher's notes and guidance can be found at the end of the worksheet. You can click below to go directly to them.

These worksheets are for Level 2 (upper intermediate) ESOL students. They are split into three sections.

- ***Section one is an introduction to Bryn Eryr and should be completed prior to a visit to the museum.***
- ***Section two contains activities which can be completed during a visit.***
- ***Section three comprises of feedback activities to be completed after the visit.***

CLICK HERE FOR TEACHER'S NOTES
Level 2 (Upper Intermediate)
Bryn Eryr an Iron Age Farmhouse



Before your visit...

Read the following information about Bryn Eryr. Then complete tasks 1 to 2.

About Bryn Eryr |

These houses show how people lived in the Iron Age, about 2,000 years ago. They are based on evidence from a site on Anglesey in north Wales, called Bryn Eryr, which was once owned by a wealthy and important farming family. Their houses were big for the age and well-built and they were set within a large defensive enclosure.

The farmers of Bryn Eryr looked after cattle and sheep, but not pigs, and we know that they farmed wheat, barley and oats. Their crops were stored in granaries built beside their houses. They also owned horses; the jaw of a horse was found in a ditch by the entrance to the houses.

The building materials that the people of Bryn Eryr used to build their houses reflect the available resources of their area. There wasn't much suitable building stone available

About Bryn Eryr |

locally, nor was their plentiful timber, so instead they built their walls from clay dug from around their homes.

The contents of the smaller house reflect the type of furniture and objects that people owned in the Iron Age. Much of the furniture is a best guess of what they once had, but many of the smaller items are based on objects in the Museum's collections. Life was conducted around the fire, and the most prestigious item in the house was probably the cauldron, which was used as the centerpiece in feasts.

Bryn Eryr was probably lived in for generations and it continued to be occupied after the Romans conquered Anglesey in AD60. But after this date it became less important, the main houses were abandoned and a smaller stone roundhouse was built instead. By the time the Romans left the site had been abandoned.

Before your visit...

Task 1 | Write the correct words or phrases from the 'About Bryn Eryr' section in the gaps below to complete the sentences.

best guess

granaries

plentiful

abandon

evidence

prestigious

jaw

clay

defensive enclosure



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Before your visit...

Task 1 | Write the correct words or phrases from the 'About Bryn Eryr' section in the gaps below to complete the sentences.

We use a type of heavy soil called _____ for making things like bricks and pots.

When there is a lot of something available, we say it is _____.

We use _____ to show that something exists or is true.

_____ are buildings for storing grain like wheat and barley.

The bone in your mouth that contains your lower teeth is called your _____.

A _____ object is one that is respected and admired, usually because it is important.

Before your visit...

Task 1 | Write the correct words or phrases from the 'About Bryn Eryr' section in the gaps below to complete the sentences.

If you _____ something, you leave it and don't return to get it.

A _____ is our opinion about the thing that was most likely to have happened.

A _____ is a small area that has a wall or fence around it, which protects the people living there from attack.



Before your visit...

Task 2 | Read these sentences about Bryn Eyr. Are they true or false?

Bryn Eyr was originally built in north Wales.

True False

The houses were unprotected and open to attack.

True False

The farmers grew one type of crop.

True False

There is no evidence to show that the farmers owned horses.

True False

A large amount of wood was available for building houses.

True False

A large cooking pot was an important part of celebrations at this time.

True False

Romans came to north Wales nearly two thousand years ago.

True False

On your visit...

Explore Bryn Eryr. Take pictures of interesting objects. Complete tasks 1 to 5 while visiting. Ask staff working at the building to help.



On your visit...

Task 1 | Read the notice boards and talk to the Museum staff. Can you find this information?

These people are making clom. What is clom made from and where can you find it in the Farmhouses?



What part of the Farmhouse is this? What material is it made from? Where did the material come from?



On your visit...

Task 2 | Search for objects.

Can you find the objects pictured?



On your visit...

Task 3 | Match the name of the object next to its picture.

Quern Fire dogs Loom Cauldron Oak bench







On your visit...

Task 4 | Using the words from the previous task fill the gaps in the text.

A _____ was used to weave wool into fabric for clothes and blankets.

A _____ was used to grind flour to make bread. The original ones would be embedded into the floor to stop them moving.

A _____ was a large pot used for cooking. They were very expensive and were seen as a status symbol. This means that if you had one of these other people would think you were very important.

_____ were used either side of a fireplace to lift the wood off the ground and make it easier to burn. These would have been very expensive for people at this time and only rich and important people would own a set.

On your visit...

Task 5 | Take a picture of an interesting object in the Farmhouse. Find out what it is called and what it is used for. Write some notes about the object so that you can tell your class about it.



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After your visit...

After your visit return to the following tasks. Complete tasks 1 to 3.





After your visit...

Task 1 | Read this information about the project to build Bryn Eryr.

Who built our farmhouses?

From the beginning of the project, we wanted the building of our roundhouses to be an opportunity for everyone to be involved.

- *During the build, over 2,000 school children visited the construction site. Many helped with building the walls of the activity shelter and patching the walls of the main houses.*
- *Over 30 children on the edge of exclusion from schools in the Caerau and Ely area helped with building the activity shelter.*

After your visit...

Task 1 | Read this information about the project to build Bryn Eyr.

- *Members of the nearby Caerau and Ely communities helped with an excavation which took place on the site of the Old Celtic Village to help us understand how these roundhouses had fared over the previous twenty years.*
- *Over 1,400 people volunteered their time to help with preparing timbers for the roof, working on the walls and with threshing straw and thatching the roof.*
- *Hafal (the charity for people with mental illnesses and their carers) and the Probation Service played a particularly big role in thatching the roof of the smaller roundhouse.*

After your visit...

Task 2 | Discuss the following with the class.

- *Why do you think the Museum wanted to involve the community in building the farmhouses?*
- *The article mentions three groups involved with people who have difficulties in their lives. Who are they?*
- *How do you think this project benefits the local community?*

After your visit...

Task 3 | Write a letter to a friend telling them about the Bryn Eryr farmhouse.

In your letter write about:

- *The history of the farmhouses*
- *Interesting objects in the farmhouses*
- *The benefits of involving the community*

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To get more ESOL resources
CLICK HERE

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St Fagans National Museum of History

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Section one | Before your visit

Warmer Task: Look at the picture of Bryn Eryr and elicit learners' knowledge of St Fagans Museum. Ask the learners to estimate how old the farmhouses are and who may have lived there.

Ask the learners to read the 'About..' text in pairs, reading alternate paragraphs. Ask them to underline any unfamiliar vocabulary.

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Task 1 | Fill in the missing words

Learners work individually to complete the gap-fill exercise. They then check their work in pairs and feedback to the class.

Task 2 | True or false

Learners work individually to complete the true or false questions. Nominate learners to feedback to class.

Section two | On your visit

Ensure learners have physical or digital worksheets and explain that they need to answer these questions during the visit. Explain that they will find the answers to the questions by looking inside and outside the building and also by asking the Museum staff. If necessary practice asking questions.

Encourage learners to take pictures to share with the class.

Task 1 | Finding information

Search for and read information boards outside the building.

Task 2 | Finding objects

Search for objects inside the building.

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Task 3 | Name the objects

Use the object names provided to identify the objects.

Task 4 | Match the objects with descriptions

Using the object names read through the sentences and fill in the correct word.

Task 5 | Match the objects with descriptions

Encourage learners to take pictures and to make notes on some objects they have photographed.

Section three | After your visit

Warmer Task: After the visit, ask the learners to share any interesting information they found out about objects in the farmhouses. Ask them to work in small groups and share any pictures taken during the visit and talk about the objects in their pictures and their purpose.

Section three | After your visit

Task 1 | Reading

Read the information about the building project.

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Task 2 | Discussion

Ask learners to work in small groups and discuss the three questions.

Task 3 | Writing

Ask students to write a letter to a friend about their visit to the Museum.

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Answers | Before your visit

Task 1 | Fill in the missing words

We use a type of heavy soil called clay for making things like bricks and pots.

When there is a lot of something available, we say it is plentiful.

We use evidence to show that something exists or is true.

granaries are buildings for storing grain like wheat and barley.

The bone in your mouth that contains your lower teeth is called your jaw.

A prestigious object is one that is respected and admired, usually because it is important.

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Answers | Before your visit

Task 1 | Fill in the missing words

If you abandon something, you leave it and don't return to get it.

A best guess is our opinion about the thing that was most likely to have happened.

A defensive enclosure is a small area that has a wall or fence around it, which protects the people living there from attack.

Answers | Before your visit

Task 2 | True or False

Bryn Eryr was originally built in north Wales.

True	False
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The houses were unprotected and open to attack.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Answers | Before your visit

Task 2 | True or False

The farmers grew one type of crop.

True **False**

There is no evidence to show that the farmers owned horses.

True **False**

A large amount of wood was available for building houses.

True **False**

A large cooking pot was an important part of celebrations at this time.

True **False**

Romans came to north Wales nearly two thousand years ago.

True **False**

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Answers | On your visit

Task 1 | Finding information

Clom (a mixture of clay, earth and gravel) was used to build the walls of the farmhouse.

Spelt planted in St Fagans was used to make the roof.

Task 3 | Name the objects



loom



cauldron



guern



fire dogs



oak bench

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Answers | On your visit

Task 4 | Match the objects with descriptions

A loom was used to weave wool into fabric for clothes and blankets.

A quern was used to grind flour to make bread. The original ones would be embedded into the floor to stop them moving.

A cauldron was a large pot used for cooking. They were very expensive and were seen as a status symbol. This means that if you had one of these other people would think you were very important.

fire dogs were used either side of a fireplace to lift the wood off the ground and make it easier to burn. These would have been very expensive for people at this time and only rich and important people would own a set.