

Let's imagine: tile

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is a clay tile that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more about this type of clay tile.



You have to describe this tile to a friend. What do you say?

Draw a large square and then design a tile to commemorate an event of your choice.

Write a story or poem about being transported back to 19th century England. Imagine you attend the event this tile commemorates. What's the event and what do you see and do?

This is a clay tile from 19th century. It is a red glazed tile decorated with slip (lighter coloured clay), with an eight-pointed star in the centre and a date (1822) underneath. There is a flower in each corner and deer shapes around the star; the top of the tile is missing. It is from Hampstead Marshall and is thought to commemorate a marriage. Similar tiles have been identified in Kintbury – one in its original position above the front door of a brick-built house and the other on the exterior of a building. It is considered that the tiles were made by the same tile or brickworks as the tile above, and possibly all by the same person. Each tile is handmade, like the one above, and commemorates a special occasion. Both of the Kintbury examples are also thought to record the date of a marriage, and each include a pair of initials and a geometric design of a star.