

Let's imagine: socketed axe

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 **socketed axe** that can be found in a special exhibition, Hoards. Read the information in blue below to find out more about this axe.



Imagine you are need to describe the axe to a friend. What do you say?

Draw a picture of the axe whole (with a wooden handle).

Write a story or poem about being transported back in time to the late Bronze Age. You meet the owner of the socketed axe. What do you ask them?

This is a socketed axe that was found at Yattendon Court as part of a hoard. It is a complete socketed axe with side loop and widely splayed, rounded blade. One of the splayed tips of the cutting blade has broken off. The side loop on the socketed axe was a new way to attach to its handle (probably a wooden one). It dates from the late Bronze Age.

Bronze items (generally made from an alloy of copper and tin) appeared in Britain from around 2350BC. This socketed axe is one of over fifty artefacts from a hoard unearthed around 1876 when a country house was built in Yattendon Park. As well as axes, there were spearheads, knives, chisels, gouges, sword fragments, and pieces of flat bronze sheets. The Victorians who found the hoard thought that the metalworker had put these sheets aside as scrap, but they may have been included with the other artefacts as part of a ritual rather than a practical reason.

The hoard is interesting because although most of the items date to the late Bronze Age, one of the flat axes is earlier, and the palstaves (flanged axes) and some of the spearheads are Middle Bronze Age.