



# CELTS & ROMANS IN NORTH WILTSHIRE



## The Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons Teacher's Pack

This teacher's pack contains information and activities to complement the teaching of history at KS2 and KS3. It was developed from the HLF funded *Celts and Romans in North Wiltshire Project* as part of the project legacy.

This pack is supplemented by  
the *Truckle Hill Roman Bath-house* Teacher's Pack  
– available from [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)



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## **This pack includes**

- Three posters introducing the Chiseldon Cauldrons
- Celtic Cauldrons worksheet – an art or literacy based activity
- Celtic Cookery information and worksheet – a historical activity
- Roman Kitchen worksheet to extend 'Celtic Cookery' with a historical comparison
- Suggestions for extension activities

## **Curriculum links at KS2**

This pack is designed to complement National Curriculum history unit 7. *Local History Study*.

## **Curriculum links at KS3**

This pack is designed to complement the teaching of National Curriculum history 2.1 *Historical Enquiry* and 2.2 *Using Evidence*.


Activities in this pack can be used to explore Literacy and Art.

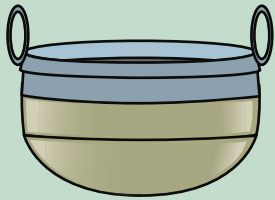
## **Learning Outcomes**

By using this pack, pupils could explore:

- Aspects of life, society and art in Celtic Britain, specifically in North Wiltshire, and the differences between food preparation in Celtic and Roman Britain
- Artefacts as a historical source

By using this pack, pupils could demonstrate:

- Artistic, literary, understanding and observational skills
  - An understanding of materials and archaeological survival
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# The Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons

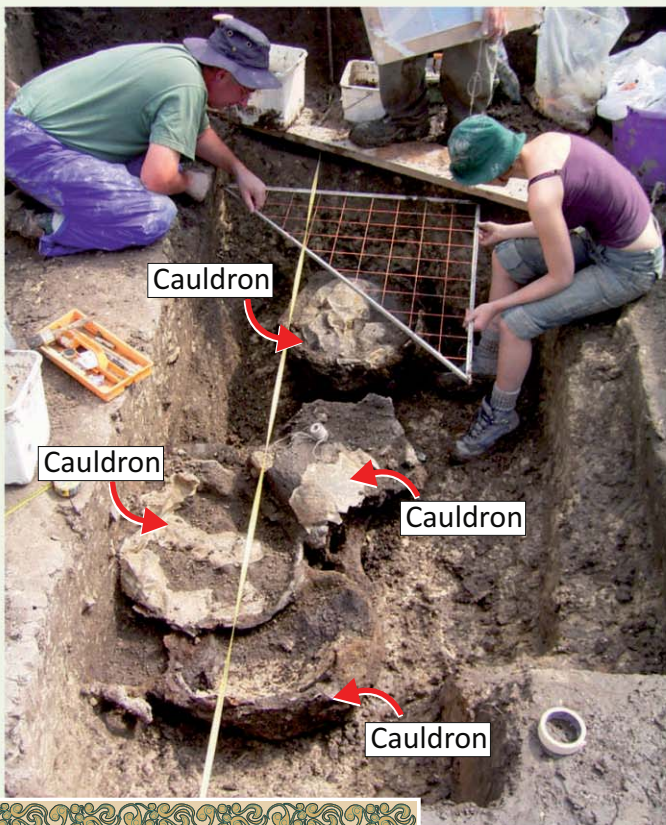
## Discovery



In 2004 a metal detectorist working in a field in Wiltshire made an amazing discovery. Buried beneath the earth at his feet was a hoard of twelve Iron Age cauldrons. He quickly realised that he had found something rare and exciting that needed to be excavated and protected.

He contacted the Chiseldon Local History Group and shortly afterwards experts from Wessex Archaeology and the British Museum started excavating what was to become one of the most intriguing finds in British prehistory.

The cauldrons were of various sizes and all were made of bronze. They had been buried very close together in a big pit and excavating the cauldrons was difficult because they were very delicate. In places the metal was less than 1 millimetre thick and many had been crushed by the weight of the soil that buried them.

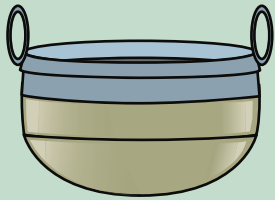


The cauldrons are being conserved at the British Museum in London. Conservators are removing the soil and putting broken pieces back into place. It will take two conservators an entire year to complete the work on all twelve cauldrons.



One of the cauldrons being conserved





# The Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons

## The Iron Age

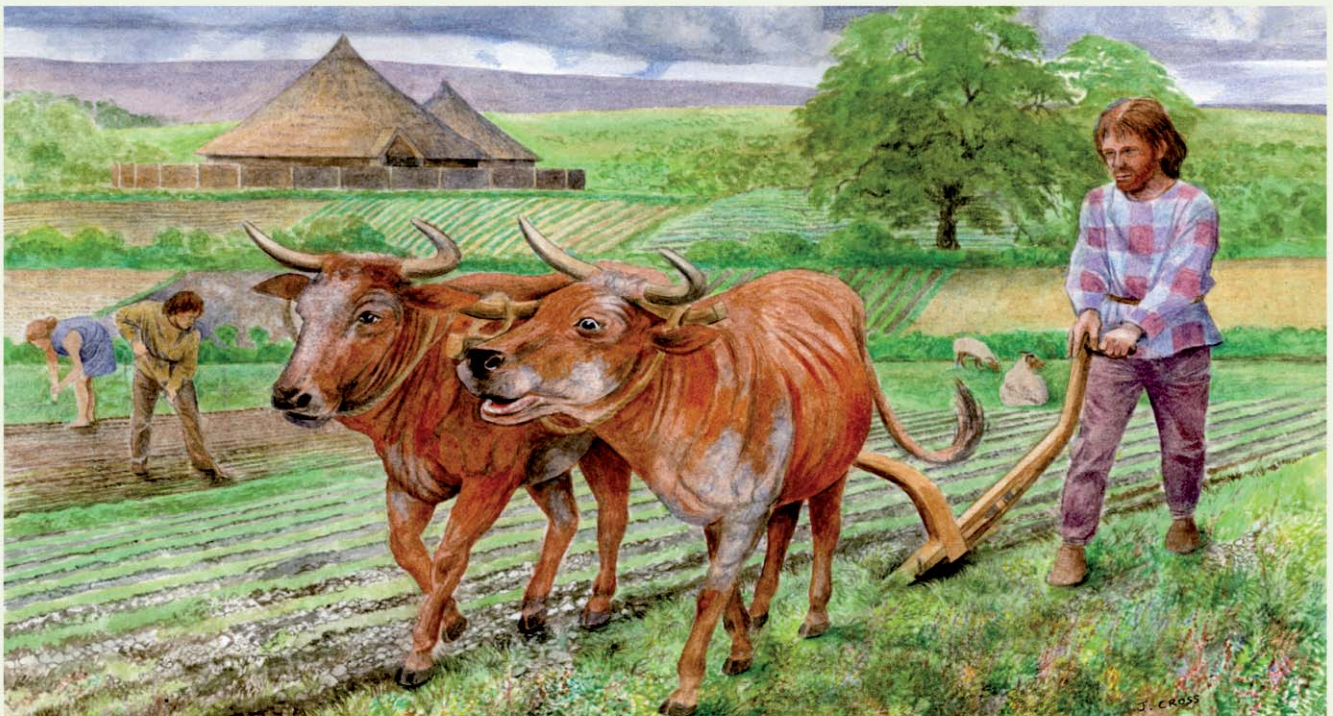


A cauldron hanging over a cooking fire

The Iron Age began around 700 BC and ended in 43 AD when the Romans invaded. The people who lived in Britain during this time are often called the Celts.

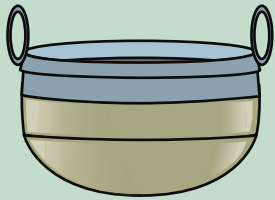
The Celts used cauldrons for cooking. They would have suspended the cauldrons over a fire by chains or hung them from an iron stand called a 'fire dog'. Cauldrons so big are quite rare and archaeologists don't think that they were used for everyday cooking. Instead they were probably used for making stew or heating drinks for large groups of people ... Feasts!

Many discoveries of cauldrons in the past were poorly recorded and the objects have fallen apart so important information was lost. As the conservation of the Chiseldon cauldrons continues we have a unique opportunity to learn more about these fascinating objects.



A farmstead during Iron Age times





# The Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons

## Learning More



The Chiseldon Local History Group and volunteers have worked together to learn more about the area where the cauldrons were buried. They have walked over the field where the cauldrons were found to search for other artefacts in the soil and they have conducted geophysical surveys to look beneath the ground.

The geophysical survey revealed that whilst there are other archaeological remains in the field, the cauldrons were probably not buried within a village. Archaeologists still don't know why they were buried here – was it a special place within the landscape? Is someone important buried nearby? As research continues into this exciting site, the Chiseldon Local History Group hope to answer some of the questions raised by this rare and important find.

**Above:** A volunteer using geophysical survey equipment

**Below:** Volunteers walk over the field searching for clues

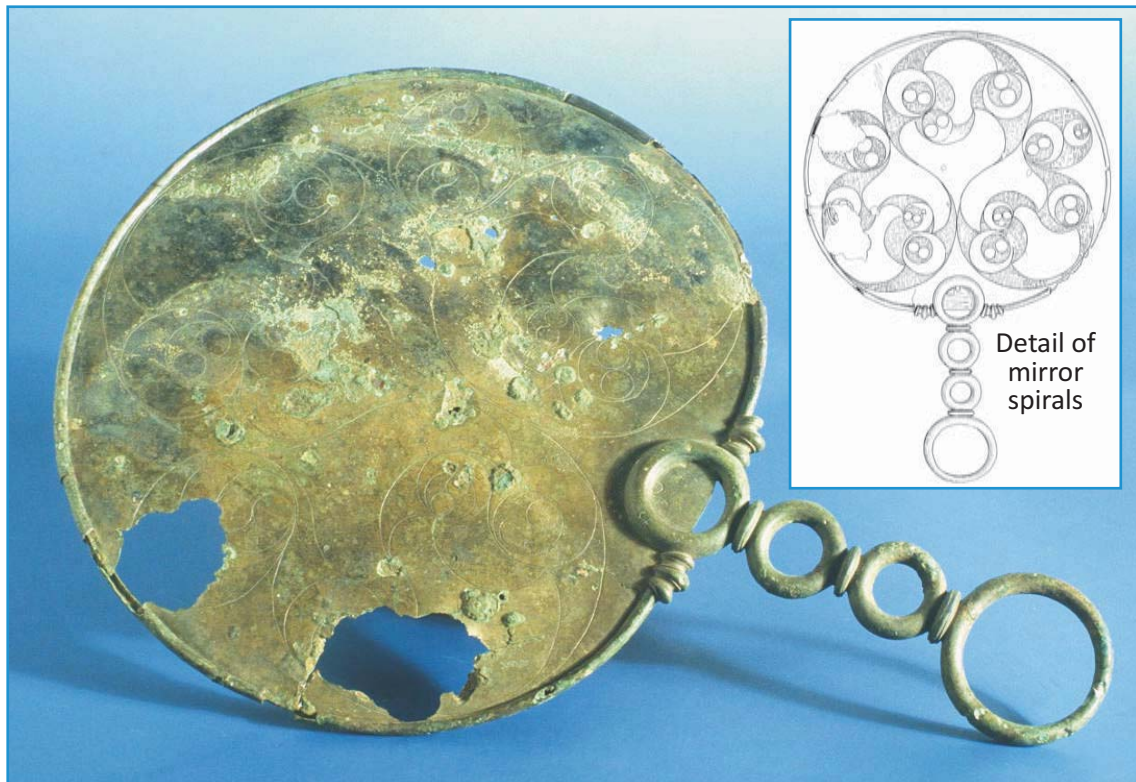


## Activity 1

# Celtic Cauldron

Use the worksheet in this pack to design your own Iron Age cauldron. The Chiseldon cauldrons had iron rivets on them but can you imagine any other way of decorating them? Research Celtic art for inspiration.

Cauldrons were expensive and some had been repaired – has yours been repaired?



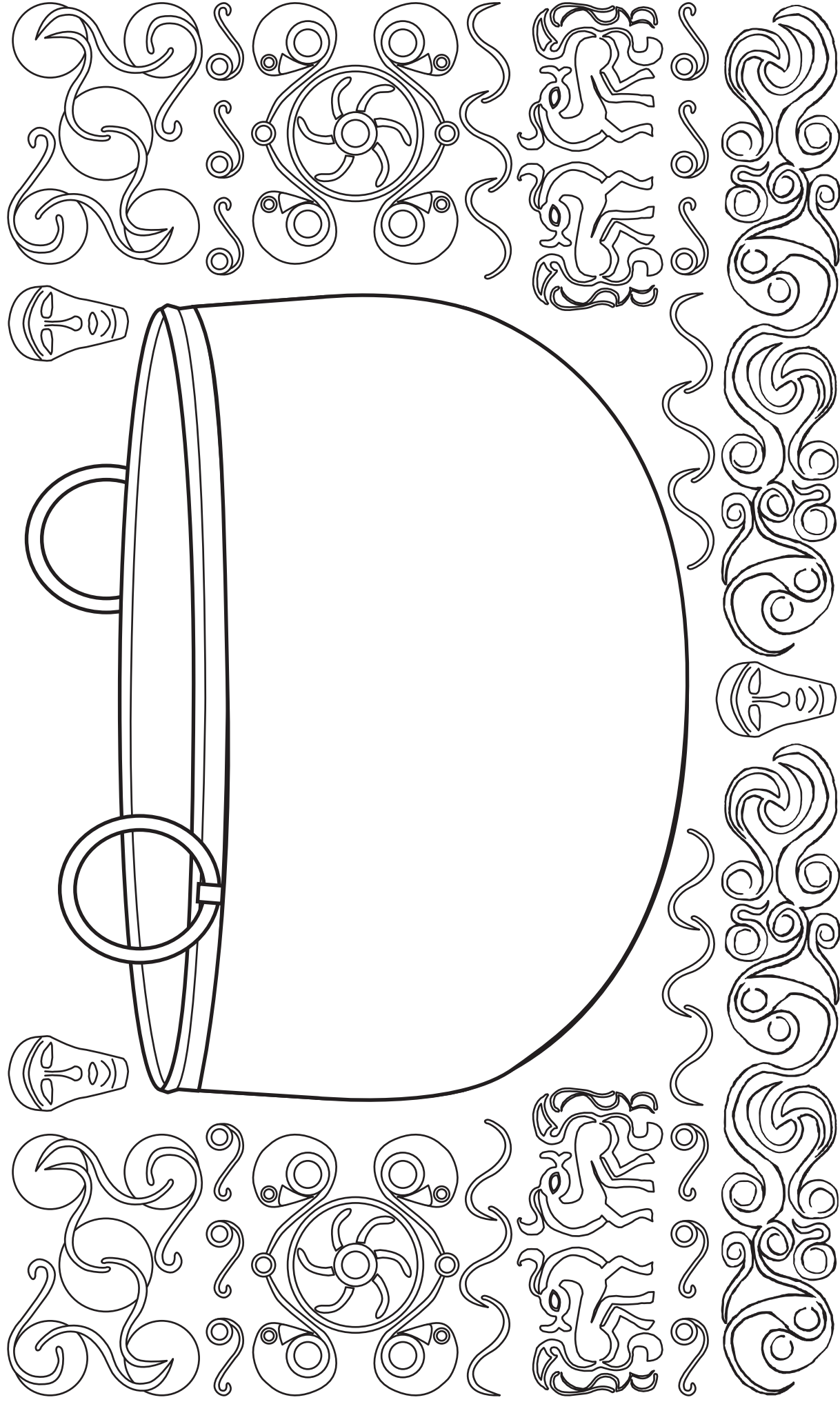
This Celtic mirror was found in Dorset and shows the delicate spiral designs used by the Celts

### Extension activity

Write the Mystery of the Chiseldon Cauldrons. Think carefully about why the cauldrons were buried in the ground. What had they been used for? Who did they belong to? Why were they buried together? Write your story in the outline of the cauldron.



# Design your own Celtic Cauldron






## Activity 2

# Celtic Cookery

Study the food cards to learn about Iron Age foods. Now look at the picture of the Iron Age settlement carefully (found on a separate worksheet). Can you see any of the foods, or evidence of them, in the Celtic village? Colour in any that you can see.

### Extension Activities

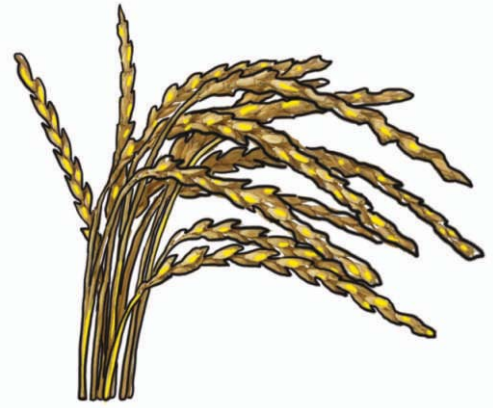
- Colour in anything in the Iron Age settlement picture that you think might survive buried under the ground for an archaeologist to investigate thousands of years later.
  - The Celts would have made delicious stews in their cauldrons. Using what you have learnt from the 'Celtic Cookery' activity, make your own recipe for stew. Write it inside the outline of the Celtic Cauldron found in this pack. Do you think it is something you would like to eat?
  - The Iron Age period ended when the Romans came to Britain. Look carefully at the picture of the Roman kitchen found on a separate worksheet – what foods can you see being prepared in the kitchen? How did the Romans cook their meals? What differences can you see between food and cookery in the Roman Kitchen and the Iron Age village?
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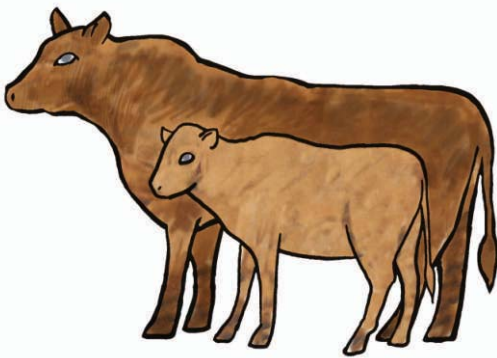
### Elder

The flowers and berries of the elder tree can be used in cooking, but the bark of this tree is poisonous.



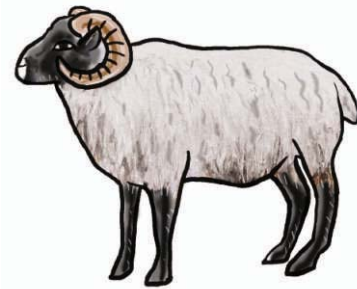
### Spelt Wheat

Spelt was common in the Iron Age and would have been dried, threshed, and ground to make flour.



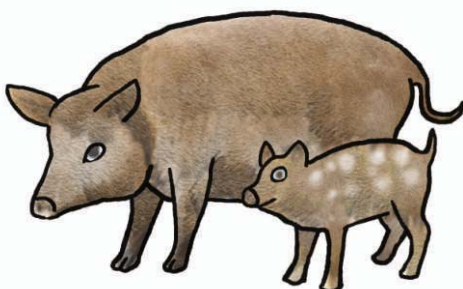
### Cattle

Cattle were popular in the Iron Age though their meat would only have been eaten on important occasions. What else do cows provide?



### Sheep

Sheep were probably the most important animal kept by people during the Iron Age and would have provided manure for fields, wool, milk, and eventually meat, sinew, bone and skin.



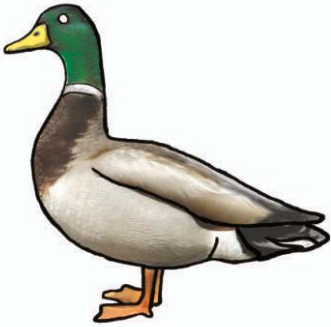
### Pigs

Pigs were only kept in small numbers during the Iron Age.



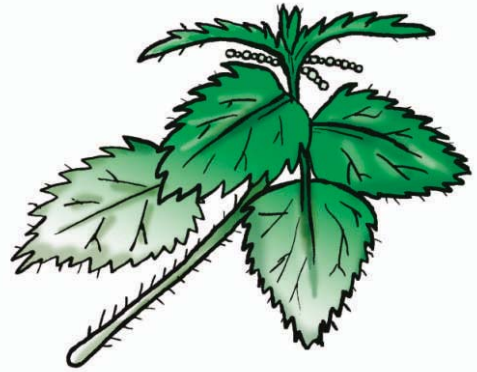
### Deer

Iron Age people hunted red deer for food and for their skin. Like cattle, deer would only have been eaten on special days.



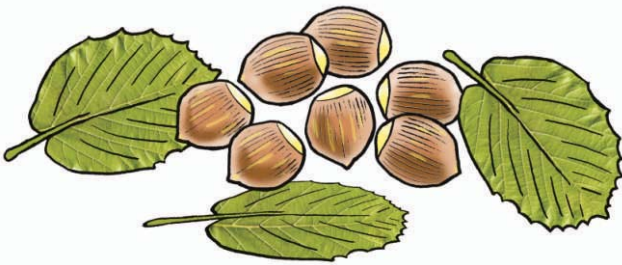
## Duck

The bones of duck and other birds such as swan, raven and red grouse have been found on Iron Age sites.



## Stinging Nettle

Stinging nettles can be cooked and eaten just like spinach, or used to make nettle tea.



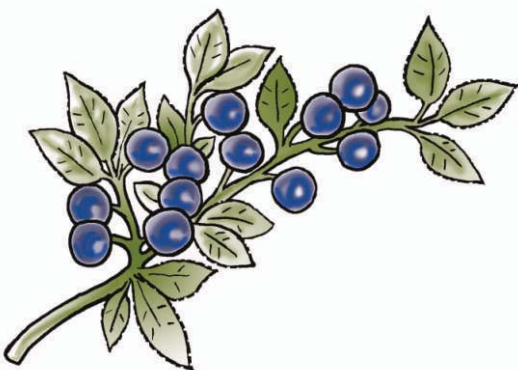
## Hazelnut

Hazelnuts come from hazel trees and were probably eaten during the Iron Age.



## Honey

Honey may have been used to sweeten food or might have been made into a boozy drink similar to mead.



## Blackthorn and Sloe Berries

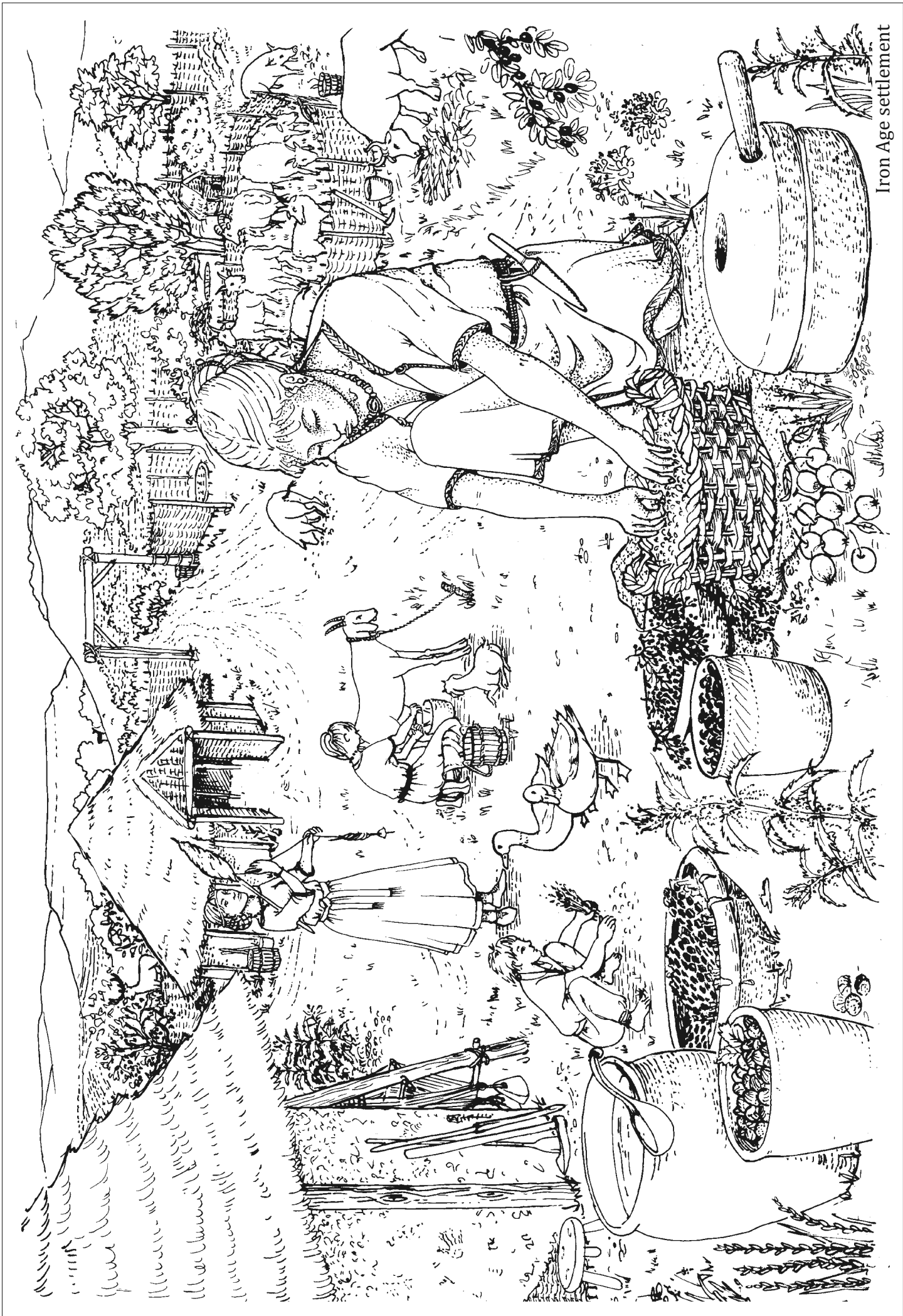
Blackthorn trees produce sloe berries that can be harvested in the autumn. The leaves of the tree can also be used to make a tasty tea.



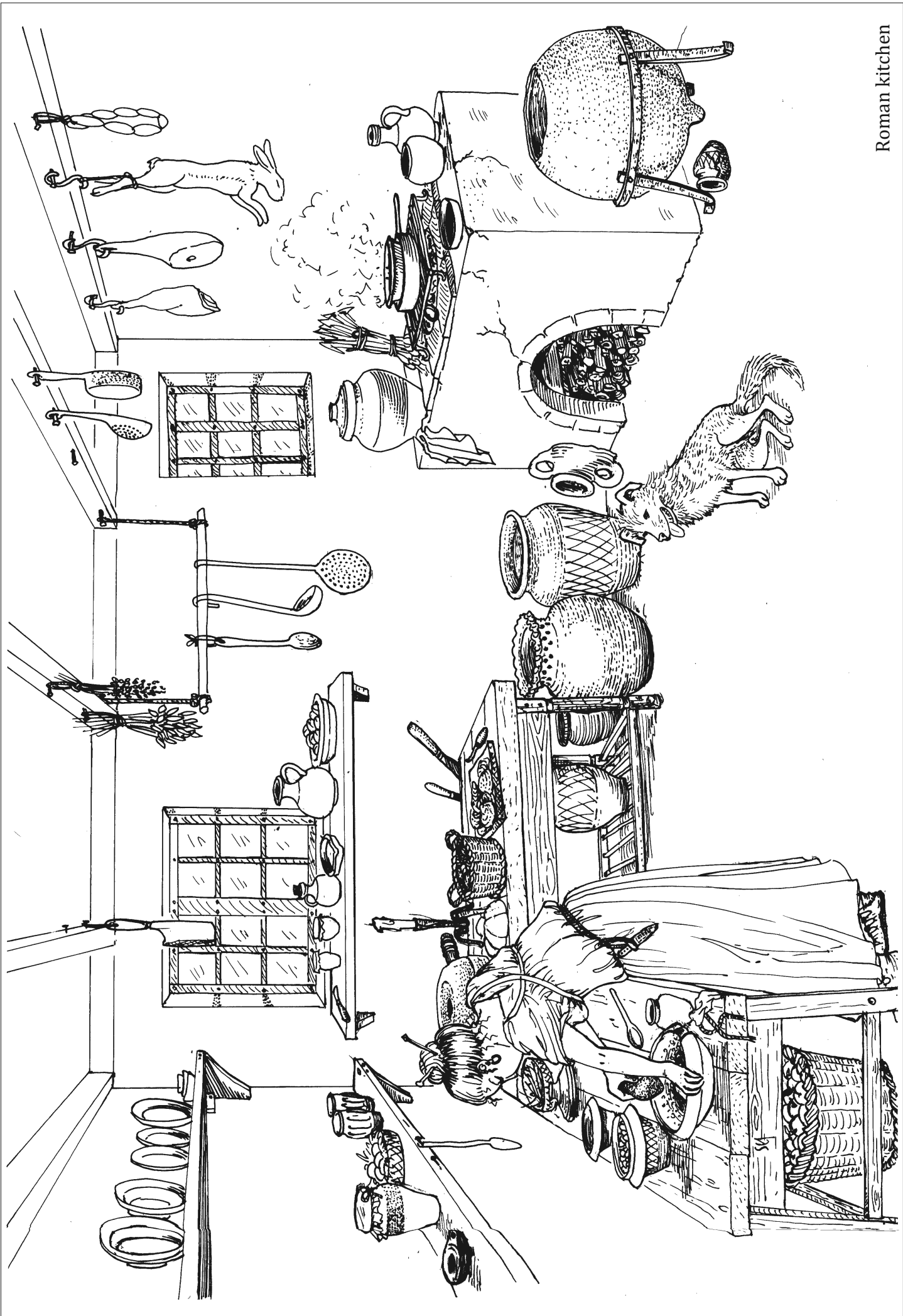
## Crab Apple

Crab apples taste sour when raw but are deliciously sweet when cooked.





Iron Age settlement



Roman kitchen





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