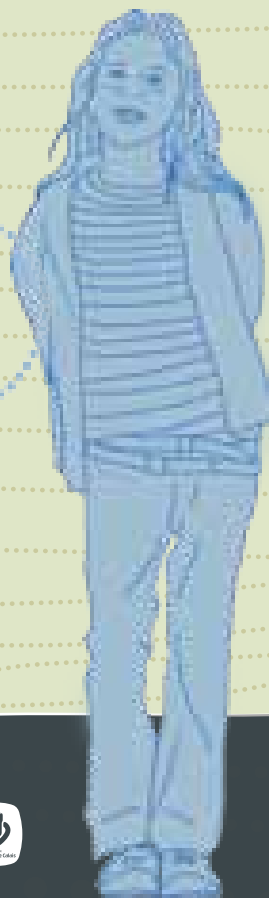


Par-delà l' **Horizon**

Voorbij de

Societies of the Channel and North Sea 3500 years ago
Sociétés en Manche et mer du Nord il y a 3500 ans
Samenlevingen in Kanaal en Noordzee 3500 jaar geleden



Exhibition booklet **CHILDREN**



« Investir dans votre futur »
Programme de coopération
transnationale 2007-2013
co-financé par l'Union européenne
Fonds européens de
développement régional

« Investing in your future »
Cross-border cooperation
programme 2007-2013
part-financed by the European
Union (European Regional
Development Fund)

« Investeren in je toekomst »
Grensoverschrijdend
samenwerkingsprogramma
2007-2013 Medegefinancierd door
de Europese Unie (Europees
Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling)





-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

Introduction

'You're in the Bronze Age!

At that time boats sailed regularly between what is now England and the continent. Men and women in the area knew each other well and had very similar lifestyles, which might perhaps surprise you.

With this booklet, its explanations and the seven sequences of the exhibition,

go on an extraordinary journey through time!

Today
2012 -
2015



'Once upon a time...'

Once upon a time by the sea

Many years ago, the English Channel and North Sea did not exist. One could walk on foot to France. The seas were formed when the Prehistoric glaciers melted during the last climate warming about 10,000 years before today. This might seem a very long time ago, but in fact it's quite recent on the scale of human history, seeing that our oldest distant cousin lived some 7 million years ago and our direct ancestors, the Cro-Magnon, lived about 200,000 years ago. The existence of seas did not stop people travelling.

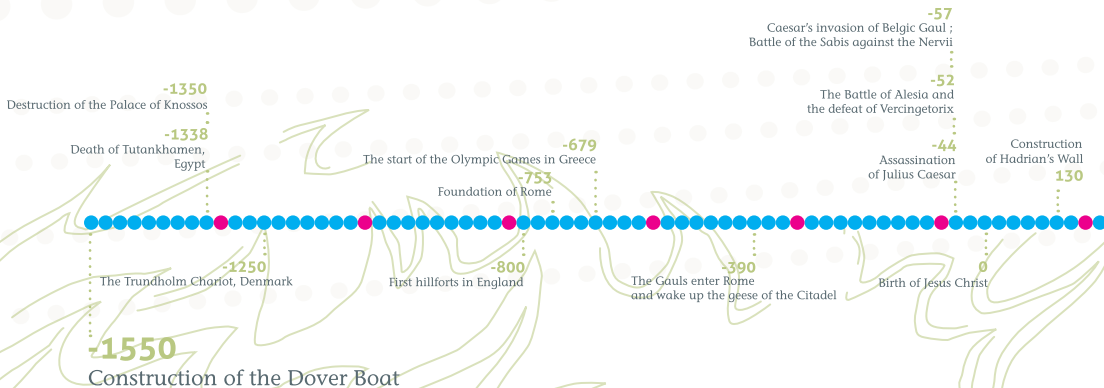


Once upon a time in the Bronze Age

3,500 years ago, people lived on the coasts of the Transmanche zone. They used a new alloy, bronze. In the 19th century, archaeologists christened this period 'the Bronze Age'.

The English Channel and North Sea were thus not a frontier but a highway between the continent and the British Isles. Highly complicated boats were used to make the crossing. In 1992, archaeologists were lucky enough to find one in the port of Dover.

This exhibition tells its story and that of the people that used it.



‘But why is there a rubbish bin in an exhibition about archaeology?’

Every day people throw things away which survive for different periods. Archaeologists study some of the rubbish bins of our ancestors and find out lots of interesting things! Today we throw away rubbish which perhaps will be studied by the archaeologists of the future. We must be careful (and recycle) because we throw away much more than Bronze Age people! This rubbish bin is here to help us understand some aspects of archaeology and to raise awareness of the waste we leave behind.

1. In your opinion, what is the material that would survive best (the longest) amongst the objects shown here?
2. What is the most fragile material that would disappear the quickest and that archaeologists would not find 200 years from now if it was left outside?



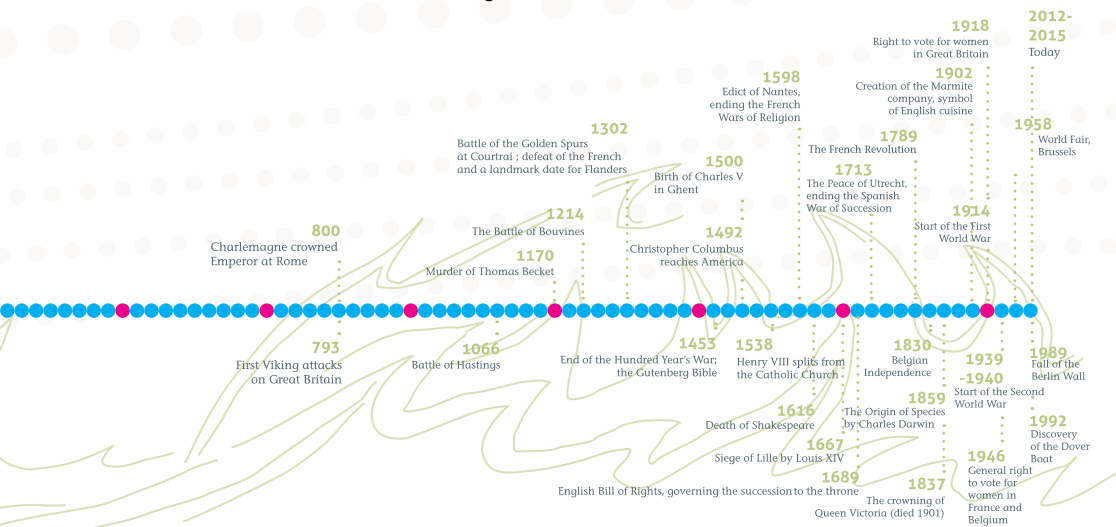
QUESTIONS

The Generation Abacus

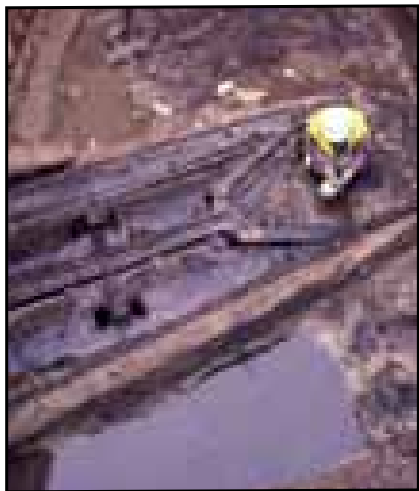
It's difficult to appreciate time in history when everything that happened before we were born seems 'old!' The First World War already seems a very long time ago. But it was only a century ago, the time of our great-grandparents. Here, each ball represents 25 years, one generation. Enjoy yourself; with this game you will become the master of time!

QUESTIONS

3. Look at the Generation Abacus; how many balls separate you from the French Revolution?
4. Look at the Generation Abacus and count how many balls separate the building of the boat and the battle of Alésia.



Discovery



Archaeologists sometimes find remarkable treasures. In 1992, they found an ancient boat buried deep beneath the streets of Dover. To get it out of the ground they had to cut it into pieces and later put it back together like a giant 3D jigsaw puzzle! You can see it at Dover Museum in England.

'Archaeologists on a building site'

At Dover, archaeologists were present on the construction site because there are European laws that protect our archaeological heritage. This is very important because as one excavates archaeological artefacts, the context of the finds is destroyed at the same time. Archaeologists often use the analogy of a book that you rip out the pages as you read them. All that is left of an archaeological

dig are notes, photographs and the objects that the archaeologists collect. They are the guardians of our long history buried in the ground.

A strange boat

This isn't the type of boat you will find in a port in our region. It's called a 'sewn plank boat' because it's made with planks that are held together by twisted withies. The planks were cut from gigantic oak trees which are very rare today.



It is one of the most famous sea-going boats and the best preserved. It is over 3,500 years old. That makes it older than Tutankhamen!

-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

‘But how do you date an old boat?’

Archaeologists use scientific laboratory methods. The wood can be dated by ‘dendrochronology’ or by ‘radiocarbon’. In the first case, researchers look at the annual rings of the wood to find out how old it is by using a reference curve. In the second case, they measure the amount of a specific element, carbon 14, which all living things (plants, animals, people) absorb during their life, but which then decays little by little when they die. The inventor of radiocarbon dating worked out the decay curve in 1950.

LOOK

. The boat was too damaged to be dated by dendrochronology, but have fun by finding a date using this method!

A new Bronze Age boat in 2012

A replica of the boat was made in 2012. It is half scale but still measures over 8 metres long! One can imagine the size of the original boat when it was fully seaworthy.

Archaeologists wanted to reconstruct the boat to better understand how it was made. It’s what we call ‘experimental archaeology’. They go through the same actions with the same tools in a very serious manner in order to study things that have left no trace...because all that survives is the finished boat (not one in the process of being made) and on top of that is damaged!



QUESTIONS

5. What kind of wood is the Dover boat made from?
6. Would it be easy to build an oak boat 16 metres long today? Give reasons for your answer.
7. What does experimental archaeology give us that is not found on an archaeological site?

Today
**2012 -
2015**



Specialist craftsmen of the boat

Specialist craftsmen of the boat

Some of the objects we find are beautiful, and very difficult to make. This is especially the case with a boat. Although Bronze Age societies did not write to tell us how to set up a construction site for this type of boat, archaeologists know, by studying the end product, that specialist craftsmen undertook this work. There must have been at least two specialists: the boat builder for working the wood and the bronzesmith for making the tools. So we know that Bronze Age communities were organised, with different social groups. This is perhaps a far cry from the image you may have had of our distant ancestors!

Men of the metalworking art

Displayed in the museum cases is some very beautiful jewellery and some axes from the experimental metalworking. These objects show that the bronzesmiths and goldworkers of the Bronze Age were exceptional artists. Gold was used for making adornments and decorative items. Bronze, much harder, could also be used to make jewellery, but also weapons, bowls, tools, as well as musical instruments!



Torc

Bronze deposit



-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

LOOK

- . In one of the museum cases; find the different traces that have survived from the manufacture of axes.
- . Metal has a particular colour, smell and texture. Look at and touch a nearly finished axe to check this out!

QUESTIONS

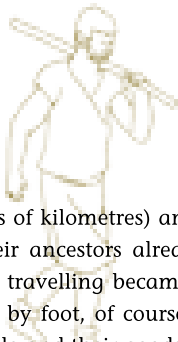
8. What materials could be used to make the bronzesmith's moulds?
9. At what stage of manufacture were these moulds used?
10. What did the bronzesmith do to finish off an axe?



Today
2012 -
2015

Casting during the experiment

Travels in the Bronze Age



Travels in the Bronze Age

Bronze Age people travelled over short distances (a few tens of kilometres) and long distances (thousands of kilometres). This wasn't new, their ancestors already did this; but archaeologists think that at the time of the boat, travelling became more common. By what means did they do this? They could go by foot, of course. They could also go by four-wheeled carts which carried both people and their goods. They used dug-out canoes on the rivers and sea-going boats on the sea, and even the horse during this period!

Frontiers

How do archaeologists know about frontiers at this time? Bronze Age people in temperate Europe did not leave behind written texts, but have left many objects. Identical pottery found in different places show that people were in contact. Outside of this area, different types of pottery highlight the existence of different groups. To identify frontiers, archaeologists therefore study artefacts, house types and cemeteries and compare everything they find. They can thus identify a single community in the Transmanche zone around 1550 BC.

Why travel?

Today we travel to go on holiday, to make family visits, on school trips and so on. Maybe some of these reasons also existed in the Bronze Age...We must also consider the trade of some goods, like metal or amber for example, or even possibly types of pilgrimage or religious ceremonies. We should also not forget that men have waged wars for a long time. We don't know if this was the case in the Transmanche zone at the time of the boat, but the existence of weapons shows that societies were not always peaceful!



-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat



QUESTIONS

11. What was the fastest mode of transport in the Bronze Age?
12. Give two reasons for travelling in the Bronze Age
13. What was the full metal equipment of a Bronze Age warrior?
14. Among these examples, which article of warrior's equipment is not on show in the display cases? Do you know what period it dates to?

c- Breastplate



Today
**2012 -
2015**



a- Helmet

b- Lance



e- Sword



d- Shield

REMINDER :

in the exhibition, don't forget to have your photo taken as a Bronze Age warrior, merchant or princess!

Everyday life in 1550 BC

The importance of pottery

Pottery was made in abundance within the community for many uses: cooking, storage, eating. It is the ancestor of our modern cookware!

It is also one of the most important sources of information for archaeologists. Easily broken, it was thrown away in great quantities and survives well in the soil. The form and decoration of pottery is specific to particular groups of people in the past, and by studying these features archaeologists can learn a lot about Bronze Age communities.

On the family menu

What was on the menu of a Bronze Age family? Farming, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting and foraging allowed them to have a very varied diet, but many modern foods were unknown to these people: no chips, no tomatoes and no chocolate! Instead, they had to eat food made from cereals (bread, porridge, etc.), meat like beef, pork, mutton and game, fruit and vegetables, fish and shellfish.

Usually, the remains of these meals is poorly preserved in cold and damp soils, but by using scientific techniques we can learn more thanks to very small pieces of evidence (bone, cereal grains, pollen). This is the field of 'palaeoenvironmental archaeology'.



Pottery

-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

Looking good!

People dressed in clothes of woven wool and leather shoes, of which fragments have been found. The fabric of their clothes does not survive in our area, but we often find traces of the looms which were used to make it.

Life was not dull. People took care of their appearance, as shown by the beautiful jewellery of bronze and gold recovered from burials and hoards, such as decorated pins, bracelets, necklaces and earrings.

This is a far cry from some popular images of people of this time, which show men and women dressed in animal skins or rags!

'Meals of yesterday and today'

QUESTION

. When handling the food, test your knowledge of the possible menus of the Bronze Age!

All the dishes you love so much, like chocolate, chips, sweetcorn, tomatoes, or things you perhaps love a little less, like green beans, were not on the menu 3,500 years ago. Their origin is related to the conquest of Latin America by Europeans at the end of the 15th century and beginning of the 16th century. These dishes were adopted by the social elites of several countries between the 17th and 18th centuries. The orange has a different origin, imported from the Near East by Arabs. All of these foods, for a long time great luxuries, came to our plates in the aftermath of World War II. In some families, to have an orange at Christmas was a very special treat!!



Amber Bead



Today
2012 -
2015



At home at the time of the boat

Bronze Age people lived in isolated farms or hamlets of a few houses, sometimes surrounded by large ditches or ramparts. A cemetery was often established not far from the hamlet.

The houses were about 20 to 30 metres long with a rounded end. But there were also round houses, that archaeologists only find in the Transmanche zone.

These houses were built of wood and clay, perishable materials that have disappeared over time. With luck the archaeologists find the holes which held the upright posts that made up the framework of the houses. When these posts have left no trace, the holes left by pits are the only clue for the archaeologists that once there were houses



-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

QUESTIONS

15. What materials were Bronze Age houses made of?



a - Bricks

b - Stones



c - Wood



d - Straw



e - Daub

16. What is daub, one of the materials used for house building?

- a - A mix of mud and straw
- b - A mix of mud and cement
- c - A mix of mud and wood

Today
**2012 -
2015**



Bronze Age rituals

The world of the dead

In the Bronze Age, just as today, people had to face the loss of a loved one when a member of the community died. What happened to them? Where did they go? How best to remember them?

Archaeologists uncover evidence of death; skeletons, tombs, grave goods. These finds can tell us much about how our Bronze Age ancestors understood their place in a wider, spiritual world.

A common practice was to bury individuals under a huge earth mound surrounded by a ditch. Hundreds, if not thousands of these mounds once existed in the Transmanche zone, but most have been ploughed flat after thousands of years of farming. Only the elite were buried in this way; most were buried in simple graves that have not survived.

At first the deceased were buried whole, sometimes with grave goods that reflected their identity. Later, the bodies were cremated, with only a small amount of burnt bone placed in the grave as a symbol of the entire person.

The unusual case of metal 'hoards'

People had a custom that is quite strange for us today: they threw away complete or broken metal objects rather than recycling (because metal can be recycled). Why did they do this? Archaeologists have asked this question for a long time and have found it difficult to enter an ancient mindset some 3,500 years old. Today they suggest a number of answers, according to the type of hoard, but they know well that it will take many years of research before we understand the acts and deeds of the people of the Bronze Age.

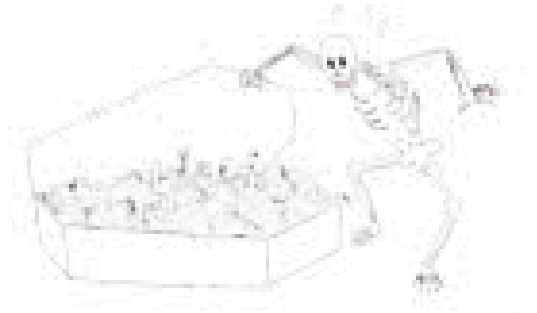


Grave assemblage:
jet button, flint knife, cup

-1550

Construction of the Dover Boat

QUESTIONS



17. What differences do you see between Bronze Age graves and modern graves?
18. In the exhibition, several theories are put forward about hoards. Which seems to you the most probable and why? Which is the most bizarre?

Aerial view of funerary circles



Today
2012 -
2015

Hoard



The end

'Here we are, at the end of the exhibition.

We hope this voyage through the Bronze Age has been interesting and amusing.

A competition for individuals and for school groups is being held whilst the exhibition is open. If you are interested, don't forget to find out more!

This booklet was written by A. Lehoërff, in collaboration with P. Clark, E. Justome, J. Lamart and O. Solon. The French text was translated into English by P. Clark, and into Flemish by J. Bourgeois et G. De Mulder.

Photographic credits:

- Sequence 2: . View of the boat after cleaning, Dover, England © CAT
. Detail of the boat (Dover Museum) © F. Gendre / BOAT 1550 BC
. View of the replica, Dover, England © F. Gendre / BOAT 1550 BC
- Sequence 3: . Bronze hoard, Ghent, Belgium (Musée archéologique de l'Université, Gand) © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
. Flange twisted gold torc shaped as armring, Dover, England (British Museum, London) © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
. Experimental casting by Jean Dubos, specialist bronzesmith © A. Lehoërff / BOAT 1550 BC
- Sequence 4: . Helmet from the Seine, France (Musée d'Archéologie nationale, St-Germain-en-Laye) © A. Lehoërff / BOAT 1550 BC
. Treboul type spearhead, Schellebelle, Belgium (Stadsmuseum Gent) © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
. Cuirass from Marmesse, Haute-Marne, France (Musée d'Archéologie nationale, St-Germain-en-Laye) © A. Lehoërff / BOAT 1550 BC
. Sword from Wimereux, France (Musée de Boulogne-sur-Mer) © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
- Sequence 5: . Vase from Loeuilly, Somme, France © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
. Amber from Courrières, Pas de Calais, France © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
- Sequence 6: . Model of a middle Bronze Age house from Maldegem-Burkel, Belgium © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC
- Sequence 7: . Aerial view of the triple-ditched funerary enclosure from Fréthun « Les-Rietz », Pas de Calais, France © G. Dilly
. Metal hoard, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent, England (Maidstone Museum) © G. Naessens / BOAT 1550 BC

Conception graphique :

- . Graphics: L. Sick / Kascen
. Layout: L. Demay / BOAT 1550 BC . Cover: A. Briffaut / BOAT 1550 BC
. Published June 2012

The exhibition *Beyond the Horizon. Societies of the Channel and North Sea 3 500 years ago* is organized under the project 'BOAT 1550 BC', bringing together seven partners from three countries (France, England, Belgium): the University of Lille 3 and the Maison européenne des sciences de l'homme et de la société (Fr) acting as Lead Partner, the Canterbury Archaeological Trust (UK), l'Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (Fr), Canterbury Christ Church University (UK), the University of Ghent (Be), the Conseil général du Pas-de-Calais (Fr) and the town of Boulogne-sur-Mer (Fr). The project is co-financed by the Conseil régional Nord-Pas de Calais.

SEQUENCE 1

- Question 1: Plastic (probably, it's difficult to be sure as plastic was invented not so long ago)
- Question 2: paper or bread
- Question 3: 7
- Question 4: 60

SEQUENCE 2

- Question 5: Oak
- Question 6: No, trees of that size are very rare
- Question 7: An understanding of actions that leave no material trace (an object, for example, is a 'material trace', one can touch it...)

SEQUENCE 3

- Question 8: Stone, pottery
- Question 9: The foundry

Question 10: Two possible answers; he cold hammered the metal and/or he took a handle and lashing to hold the metal head

SEQUENCE 4

- Question 11: The horse
- Question 12: Possible answers: to visit the family, for trade, to go on pilgrimage, to conquer land during a war

Question 13: A helmet, a breastplate, a sword, a dagger and a pair of greaves

Question 14: The shield. It is Gallic (around 1,000 years more recent than the other weaponry)

SEQUENCE 9

- Question 15: c-d-e
- Question 16: a

SEQUENCE 7

Question 17: The placing of objects in the grave

Question 18: Feel free to discuss this with your family or your teacher.



Where do the objects
in the exhibition come from ?
D'où proviennent
les objets de l'exposition ?
Van waar komen de objecten
uit deze tentoonstelling ?