

CAVE STORY

Suitable for:	KS1-KS2
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1 storyteller + 1 to helmet and set group off
Duration:	1hr15 – 1hr30

Brief Description:

The group is given a Health and Safety introduction at the Visitor Centre and everybody is given a helmet and light by a member of museum staff.

The group sets off alone in the direction of the gorge.

An Ice Age person appears and introductions are made. The group are invited to visit the person's home (cave).

Children are given the opportunity to explore some of the cave and are then invited to sit for a story told by the Ice Age person.

Additional Information:

Older KS2 children may find a guided Cave Tour more suitable than a story.

LIFE IN THE ICE AGE CAVE TOUR

Suitable for:	KS2-FE/HE
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1
Duration:	1hr15 – 1hr30

Brief Description:

The group is given an introduction to the site at the Visitor Centre and everybody is given a helmet and light by a member of museum staff.

The group is then led by a guide to and around Robin Hood cave

This tour gives a good introduction to the site, its Ice Age past, and the archaeological research from the last 150 years.

Additional Information:

The tour can focus on a particular topic to meet the group's requirements, for example Rocks and Soils for KS2 Science.

The tour can be tailored to the group's ages/abilities, for example more archaeological detail for a University group.

ARCHAEOLOGY 'DIG' AND BONE SHOW

Suitable for:	KS1-KS2
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1
Duration:	1hr30

Brief Description:

Children are divided into small teams and each team is given a 'trench' (sandpit) to excavate for 'Ice Age artefacts' (replica flints, plastic animal bones).

Jobs at the 'trench' include excavating, shovelling, analysing finds, cleaning and recording.

Children then come together for a show and tell session. Animals are identified where possible (e.g. carnivore/ herbivore from teeth) and they try and work out what the tools could have been used for.

Children then get the opportunity to see real animal skeletons (lion, hyena and/or wolf). They can be encouraged to determine things like age and way of life.

Additional Information:

For a shorter session the bone show can be omitted.

ICE AGE SURVIVAL SKILLS

Suitable for:	KS2-KS3
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1 for basic activities
Duration:	1hr

Brief Description:

The group is taken to the Outdoor Classroom and they discuss what is needed to survive (i.e. warmth, food, shelter etc.) and how people would have done this during the Ice Age.

A combination of activities normally consisting of spear-throwing, shelter building and using Ice Age fire-starting kits (to produce smoke).

Additional Information:

This activity can be developed to include a real fire and food demonstrations (cooking fish, berry identification). An additional member of staff would be needed to do this and there would be an additional cost to cover staff hours and any food bought.

This activity can also be shortened if the group just wants to do one element e.g. just 20 minutes spent spear-throwing.

ROCK ART TOUR

Suitable for:	KS2-HE/FE
Max. Group Number:	24 (2 x 12)
CHT Staff required:	1
Duration:	1hr

Brief Description:

The group starts from the Visitor Centre, where helmets are given out and is then led down to Church Hole cave. The group is given an introduction to the Rock Art and hears the story of its discovery.

A group of 12 or less can be taken into Church Hole as one to view the Ice Age engravings, which are 13,000 years old.

A group of more than 12 will need splitting into two at Church Hole and taken in one at a time.

Additional Information:

Can be linked with Art Activities (see below).

This activity is only available March-October, as at other times bats are hibernating in Church Hole cave.

ART ACTIVITIES

Suitable for:	KS1-KS3
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1
Duration:	30mins – 1hr

Brief Description:

Creswell Crags can be a great place for inspiring art activities and the staff can lead a range of activities, depending on the group's learning objectives and/or needs.

Art activities can take place indoors or outdoors.

Art activities can be (but do not have to be) Ice Age inspired.

They could include clay carvings, soap sculptures, wall art, collages and more.

Additional Information:

Can be linked with a Rock Art Tour (see above).

May be an additional cost if the Trust has to buy in specific materials, e.g. clay, fabric etc.

Keep an eye on our Temporary Exhibition programme to see if any of these inspire art activities.

ROCKS AND SOILS

Suitable for:	KS1-KS2
Max. Group Number:	25
CHT Staff required:	1
Duration:	1hr

Brief Description:

A number of small experiments are set up on tables in the Education Room.

After an introduction to each experiment the class is divided into smaller groups. They rotate around each table carrying out the experiments and recording their results.

The experiments test the following: the permeability of different types of soil; the pH of different soils; the hardness of different types of rock; and, the presence of calcium in some rocks.

The class is also introduced to Magnesium-Limestone, which is the rock of Creswell Crags. Different uses of this type of rock are looked at.

Additional Information:

This activity complements an Ice Age cave tour, which can focus on how our Ice Age ancestors used the properties of the rocks around them (for example, to make different stone tools).

TEACHER-LED GORGE WALK

Suitable for:	KS1-FE/HE
Max. Group Number:	N/A
CHT Staff required:	0
Duration:	30mins – 1hr30

Brief Description:

Many teachers like having their own time to explore the gorge and site with their class to cover different learning objectives.

Creswell Heritage Trust can provide maps, images of the gorge at different times in the past, and/or information sheets for either teacher or pupils to read out.

Younger children could take the opportunity to follow the brass-rubbing trail around the gorge. We can provide materials for this activity too.

Additional Information:

Teachers may also wish to build in some personal time with their class at the end of the day for reflection on the day's experiences, or simply to visit the gift shop!