Primary School Visits to Creswell Crags

Learning Programme for KS1 - 2

SANDFORD AWARD
THE QUALITY MARK FOR HERITAGE LEARNING
2023 - 2028

CRESWELL CRAGS

Archaeological Park
caves | gorge | museum

What is Creswell Crags?

Creswell Crags, located on the Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire border, is one of the most important prehistoric sites in Britain. Caves within this gorge have sheltered people and animals for over 120,000 years, with bones, fossils and stone tools all telling the story of the people who visited during the last Ice Age. For more than thirty years, Creswell Heritage Trust has maintained this site, offering engaging tours, activities, and learning opportunities for visitors of all ages.

What time period do we cover?

The archaeology discovered in our caves, and displayed in our museum, shows that people first visited Creswell Crags during the last Ice Age, between 55,000 and 11,000 years ago. This is the period known as the Middle to Upper "Palaeolithic" (or "Old Stone Age").

Years Ago	Time Period & Events
65,000,000	**End of Cretaceous**
	Dinosaurs become extinct
7,000,000	Oldest known fossil of human ancestor
3,300,000	**Lower Palaeolithic**
	Earliest known stone tools
1,800,000	Last Ice Age begins
300,000	**Middle Palaeolithic**
	Neanderthals in Europe
40,000	**Upper Palaeolithic**
	Humans in Europe
14,000	Art in Church Hole Creswell Crags
11,700	Last Ice Age ends
11,000	**Mesolithic**
	Star Carr
5,000	**Neolithic**
	Stonehenge
	Arbor Low
3,500	**Bronze Age**
	Flag Fen
2,800	**Iron Age**
2,600	Maiden Castle Hill Fort
1,900	**Roman Occupation of Britain**

Stone Age

Last Ice Age

What do we offer primary schools?

Designed by a team of educators, archaeologists, and museums specialists, our learning programme provides an exciting choice of activity days through which young people can learn about the Stone Age. With sessions on rocks, art, and animal bones, children not only cover the topic of *Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age*, but also subjects within Art & Design and Science.

All activity days are hands-on and interactive, with an expedition to one of our caves at the core of each visit. Our award-winning Learning Team bring prehistory to life, adapting each session to the needs of the visiting group, and will lead each visit from the moment you arrive to the moment you leave. All of this makes Creswell Crags the perfect place for KS1 and KS2 pupils to bring their learning to life!

"Session delivery is of an excellent standard with pupil engagement and learning achievement levels being very high. This is a site worthy of achieving its second consecutive Sandford Award."
– *Assessor's comment, 2023 Sandford Award Report*

Activity days

Our learning programme consists of six activity day packages to choose from:

Prehistoric Painters
Artsy Ancients
On the Hunt
Cavemen & Creatures
Stone School
Rock Stars

Each package includes a cave visit, outdoor survival skills workshop (or indoor alternative in the event of bad weather), and indoor interactive session. Details of the sessions included in each activity day can be found on the next few pages of this brochure.

We cannot swap and change the sessions within each activity day package, so please select the day which best matches your group's needs and learning objectives.

As part of the booking process, we ask for details on your specific objectives/outcomes for your visit, and how we can best meet the needs of your pupils, including adaptations for SEN. If you have any specific queries about the activity days you wish to ask before booking, please contact us on 01909 720378 or email education@creswell-crags.org.uk

Stone Age Days - Art

Prehistoric Painters

Life in the Ice Age Cave Tour

Journey to our largest cave and see where people sheltered during the last Ice Age. Handle replica Stone Age tools, learn about the humans who made them, and travel into the darkest chamber to hear about the Ice Age animals who lived there.

Survival Skills

Do you have what it takes to survive in the Ice Age? Learn how to make a shelter using natural materials, throw spears like a Stone Age hunter, and see how visitors to Creswell Crags made fire over 12,000 years ago.

Art of the Ancients

Using Stone Age art from Creswell Crags and other European caves as inspiration, have a go at drawing with charcoal, creating hand stencils, painting symbols, and making engravings using stone tools.

KS1 & KS2 CURRICULUM LINKS

KS2 HISTORY: Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
YEAR 3 SCIENCE: Animals, including humans
KS1+2 ART & DESIGN: Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences

Artsy Ancients

Stone Age Cave Experience

Follow our costumed Stone Age guide out to one of our caves, where you will handle replica Stone Age tools, hear about the humans and animals who sheltered in the cave over 12,000 years ago, and have a go at creating the sound effects of the Ice Age.

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Stone Age Days - Animals

On The Hunt

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Stone Age Safari

Become a palaeontologist and learn all about the animals that roamed through Creswell Crags thousands of years ago. Assemble real animal skeletons and discover if they were food or foe.

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Stone Age Days - Rocks

Stone School

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Rocky Relics

Find out the fascinating ways different rocks are formed, handle a variety of rock samples to observe their different properties, and use what you've learnt to identify rock types.

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YEAR 3 SCIENCE: Animals, including humans
YEAR 3 SCIENCE: Rocks

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Important Information

Timings
All activity days run from **10:30 – 14:30**, with a 30-minute break for lunch.

We ask all school groups taking part in our learning programme to arrive as close to **10:00** as possible, so that our Learning Team can give an orientation talk to the group before starting the activities.

Group Size
We can accommodate groups of up to 96 children.

Groups of more than 24 children shall be split into multiple "tribes", with each tribe rotating around all three sessions. We recommend that three adults accompany and supervise each tribe:

Number of Children	Recommended number of adults	Number of tribes
Up to 24	3	1
25-48	6	2
49 - 72	9	3
73-96	12	4

Price
Participation in our Learning Programme is charged at **£12 per child**.

The minimum price we can charge for an activity day is £150, so please note that if you are bringing fewer than 15 children, you will need to pay £150 regardless. This is in order to cover our staffing and resource costs.

Three adults are included for free with every group of up to 24 children. Additional adults, unless required for one-to-one support or as carers, are charged at £12 each.

Creswell Heritage Trust is a registered charity, and all income generated by Creswell Crags supports our charitable work, protecting this fascinating site and teaching people about our distant past.

How to Book

To book, please fill in the enquiry form on our website. Please provide as much information as possible regarding your group, so we can ensure to try and tailor the day to any needs amongst the group. We shall respond to your enquiries form to confirm whether the date you have selected is available or not. Once a date is chosen, we shall send a provisional booking email and a blank booking form for you to fill in and return to us. Without the booking form, we are unable to continue with the provisional booking. You will have two weeks to return the form back to us. If you require an extension, then please do let us know.

Once the booking form is returned, a confirmation email will be sent to confirm date, package selected, number of students, and the anticipated cost. We will also send documentation that contains a timetable, risk assessment, and other vital information about the day. Please ensure all the information in the confirmation email is accurate. Even if you have visited us before, we strongly encourage every adult accompanying the visit to familiarise themselves with this documentation, as some details of the visit may have changed.

If you need to amend your booking or wish to speak further about the booking, then please contact us.

Terms and Conditions

Booking Process
All bookings are made via our booking form, which is emailed out to schools once a provisional date is agreed upon with us, completed by the school, and returned to us via email. No booking is secure until we have acknowledged receipt of the booking form, and emailed the school visit information pack for the visit to the school who has booked.

The school visit information pack we send out to schools with a secure booking includes details of the timetable of the activity day, travel information, risk assessments, the school's agreement with us, and vital health and safety information. By placing a booking, you agree to read the information we send you carefully, and to forward the information to your members of staff involved with the organisation and running of the trip.

Payment
We will issue an electronic invoice before your visit, based on the number of children and adults indicated on your booking form, to the billing e-mail address you have specified. If the number of children/adults attending on the day differs by 5 children/adults or more from the amount stated on the booking form, an additional invoice or a credit note shall be sent to address the difference.

Payment can be made by cheque to Creswell Heritage Trust or by BACS (details will be on the invoice). Payment is due within 30 days of the invoice date. Purchase orders can be emailed to education@creswell-crags.org.uk; for any invoicing queries, please email finance@creswell-crags.org.uk.

Alterations
If any details of your booking change after you have submitted your booking form, especially if the number of children attending has changed, or you wish to make alterations to your booking or special requests for your visit, please email education@creswell-crags.org.uk or call us on 01909 720378 to discuss your options. We cannot guarantee that we shall be able to accommodate all requests or alterations, but we are happy to discuss this with you.

Cancellations & Rescheduling
As our learning programme is very popular, we appreciate as much advance notice as possible if you need to cancel or reschedule your visit.

Cancellations or requests to reschedule your visit made more than 6 weeks before the date of your booked visit will not be charged.

Cancellations or requests to reschedule your visit made within 6 weeks of the date of your booked visit will incur the following charges:

Number of weeks before your booked visit	Percentage of total cost* charged if visit is cancelled or rescheduled
More than 6 weeks	0% (No charge)
6 - 4 weeks	50%
4 - 2 weeks	75%
Less than 2 weeks	100%

*Total cost is based on the number of children due to visit stated on your booking form, at £12 per child

Rescheduling a visit is classed as a cancellation and will still be subject to charges as above.

Cancellations and requests to reschedule must be made in writing via email to education@creswell-crags.org.uk. Once a cancellation or reschedule request has been made, a confirmation of the amount owed, if applicable, shall be communicated to the email address used by the school to make the booking/cancellation.

In the unlikely event that Creswell Heritage Trust has to cancel a booking, no charges shall be due, and a full refund will be issued if a booking has already been paid for.

Terms and Conditions

Responsibility

While the staff at Creswell Crags shall do everything within their ability to keep visitors safe during their visit, responsibility for the health and safety of the group from a visiting school remains with the adults accompanying the group at all times.

Managing the behaviour of the children while attending the visit, to ensure that the sessions are not disrupted or made unsafe, is also the responsibility of the accompanying adults from the school group. Creswell Heritage Trust staff shall support this behaviour management when appropriate, but shall at no point be solely responsible for this during the activity day.

Please ensure that each tribe has a minimum of 2-3 adults (excluding adults providing one-to-one support) accompanying it during the activities, to enable the supervision and safety of your group. If a tribe has fewer than 2 adults allocated to accompany it, we may not be able to visit the cave/deliver all activities as planned, due to our health & safety and safeguarding policies. No refund or deduction in cost of the day shall be given in this event, so please ensure that you provide enough adults to supervise each tribe of up to 24 children you bring.

Group Sizes

While there is no minimum group size we can accept onto our learning programme, the minimum we can charge for each activity day is £150, so for schools bringing fewer than 15 children, this shall work out as more than £12 per child. The maximum group size we can accommodate is 96 children.

Schools visiting with cohorts of more than 24 children and 3 adults shall be split into smaller “tribes”. This to ensure that the maximum capacity of the caves is not exceeded. Once your booking is confirmed, you shall be sent a school visit information pack, which shall include details of the tribes you need to split your group into, and the timetable that each tribe shall follow.

It is very important that you let us know as soon as possible if the expected number of children attending your booked visit changes, as this may affect both our staffing requirements and your schedule for the day. If there are changes to your group size, please contact us at education@creswell-crags.org.uk or phone 01909 720378.

Getting to Us

By Coach

Coaches are welcome to drop off and pick up in our car park.

Coach drivers are welcome to stay on site, however please note our museum cafe is not open Monday to Friday during the winter.

Drink making facilities are available during the winter for a small donation.

By Train

For groups arriving by train, the nearest station within walking distance is located in Creswell. The walk involves crossing two main roads.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about our learning programme, or how we can accommodate your group, please get in touch.

01909 720378

education@creswell-crags.org.uk

Where we are

CRESWELL CRAGS

Archaeological Park
caves | gorge | museum

Registered Charity No. 701683

creswell-crags.org.uk
Crags Road, Welbeck, S80 3LH
01909 720378