



Could you live in the past?

Book band: Lime

This book explores what it was like to live during the Iron Age, Roman and Viking times. It looks at various aspects of life including housing, food, education and games.

Skills focus

- 1a Draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts
- 1b identify / explain key aspects of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as characters, events, titles and information
- 1d Make inferences from texts
- Monitor understanding

Guided reading session

You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Could you live in the past?*
- Reading Journals

Tune in

Ask children to look at the front cover of the book and to read the title.

Ask: What does the title mean to you?

Discuss what children think the photograph is showing.

Read the back cover blurb.

Ask the following questions:

- What do you know about Iron Age, Roman and Viking times?
- What kind of book do you think this is? (*non-fiction*)
- What features do non-fiction books normally have? (*contents, glossary, index, captions*)

Ask children to find the contents page and then the section called 'Could you live in the past?'

Check children understand how a timeline works.

Discuss the information that the timeline gives.

Ask: Why do you think the word 'invasions' is in bold? (*It's in the glossary.*)

Challenge children to use the contents to find the glossary and to read the entry for 'invasions'.

Ask: Why would you use a glossary? (*to find out the meaning of words*)

Focus on the index.

Ask: Why would you use an index? (*to find information*)

Ask children to find the entry for Iron Age houses in the index and to turn to the relevant pages (pages 4 and 5).

Ask children to point out the heading and subheading on page 4 and discuss their role as signposts – telling the reader what the section and paragraph are about.

Draw attention to the captions, checking that children understand they tell the reader what the image is.

Ask: Why do you think these are reconstructions of Iron Age houses?

Read the text on pages 4 and 5.

Ask: What have you learnt about Iron Age life?

Heads together

Ask children to read pages 6 to 11 and to note down in their Reading Journals three fascinating facts that they have learnt.

Wrap up

Take feedback from the reading activity, encouraging children to explain why they chose their particular fascinating facts.

Return to the image on page 11 and read the caption.

Ask: Why do you think these are replicas?

Ask children to summarise what they now know about life in the Iron Age.

Vocabulary boost session

You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Could you live in the past?*
- Flipchart or whiteboard
- A4 whiteboards and pens

Vocabulary table

Focus word	Child-friendly explanation	Example sentence	Tell me...
powerful	A powerful person is able to control people and events.	The ruler of a country is a very powerful person.	Tell me about someone who you think is powerful.
obeyed	If you obeyed someone, you did what they told you to do.	My dog obeyed me when I told him to sit.	Tell me about a time when someone has obeyed you.
important	If someone is important, they have power in an organisation.	The head teacher is an important person in a school.	Tell me about someone who you think is important.

Tune in

Ask children to remind you what this book is about.

Ask: Which three times in the past does the book look at? (*Iron Age, Roman and Viking*)

Read pages 12 to 15 aloud, briefly explaining the meaning of the focus words as you read them. You may wish to use the information in the Vocabulary table above to help you.

Ask: What have you learnt about Roman times so far?

On the flipchart or whiteboard, write up the focus words and example sentences.

Ask children to read them and revisit the explanations of the words.

Heads together

Use the ‘Tell me’ prompts to develop children’s understanding of the focus words.

As they respond, ask questions to help build on their understanding.

Wrap up

Challenge children to develop their own sentences that include the focus words. They can write these on their whiteboards and hold them up. Use this as an opportunity to check they understand the meaning of the words.

Ask children to choose one of the focus words as their word of the week. Challenge them to use it as often as they can – both at home and at school.

Follow-up independent sessions

You will need

- Multiple copies of Collins Big Cat *Could you live in the past?*
- Multiple copies of Resource sheet: Quiz.

Children can read pages 16 to 19.

They can then answer questions 1 to 3 on Resource sheet: Quiz.

Children can read pages 20 to 23.

They can then answer questions 4 to 6 on Resource sheet: Quiz.

Children can read pages 24 to 27.

They can then answer questions 7 to 9 on Resource sheet: Quiz.

Resource sheet



Name: _____

Quiz

1. What new fruits did the Romans bring to Britain?

2. What was the Romans' favourite sauce made from?

3. What did Romans use to write on?

4. How many rowers were there on a Viking longship?

5. What animals did Vikings keep?

6. What did Vikings use as a plate?

7. Did Vikings wear trousers?

8. What were Viking boys trained to be?

9. What alphabet did Vikings use?



5. cows and sheep

4. up to 60

3. wax tablets

2. rotting fish

1. cherries and plums

9. the runic alphabet

8. warriors and hunters

7. Viking boys did

6. bread

Quiz answers