

Year 3 – Making a Roundhouse Construction

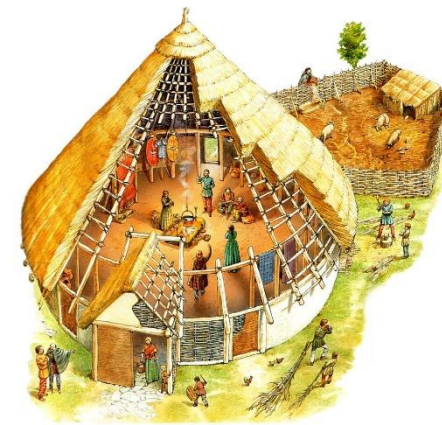
Design specifications:

- Choose suitable techniques to construct products or to repair items.
- Strengthen materials using suitable techniques.

Key vocabulary and information

Roundhouse	Roundhouses were the standard form of housing built in Britain from the Bronze Age throughout the Iron Age, and in some areas well into the Sub Roman period. The people built walls made of either stone or of wooden posts joined by wattle-and-daub panels, and topped with a conical thatched roof.
Thatched roof	Thatching is the craft of building a roof with dry vegetation such as straw, water reed, rushes, heather, or palm branches, layering the vegetation so as to shed water away from the inner roof.
Wattle and daub	A material formerly or traditionally used in building walls, consisting of a network of interwoven sticks and twigs covered with mud or clay.
Central pole	The roundhouse would, indeed, have a central post for support but only during construction. The main rafters would be attached to one or more circular ring beams high in the building which would also be attached to the central pole.
Fire	It is quite dark inside the roundhouses with most of the light coming from the doorway during the day. In the centre of the roundhouses there were fireplaces.

Thousands of years ago, during the Stone Age, humans lived in caves and jungles. During this period, there were two main things that people needed to do – to find and make shelter and to gather food. Hunter-gatherers, as they are sometimes referred to, often sheltered in caves but when there were no caves to live in, they would have to make their own shelters. They would need to be waterproof and windproof and they would use leaves, branches and animal skins. Become a hunter-gatherer and design and make your own Stone Age shelter!



Internet Resources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zqxtsbk>  
[https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/teaching-resources/build-your-own-prehistoric-roundhouse-beeston-castle-teachers-kit\\_ks2-3.pdf](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/learn/teaching-resources/build-your-own-prehistoric-roundhouse-beeston-castle-teachers-kit_ks2-3.pdf)