

Avalon Marshes Timeline—KS1 & LKS2

Overview

Description	The Avalon Marshes has many layers of ancient history below its surface. This activity will help your pupils understand some of the wetlands' past. You can adapt this activity to different levels by choosing which cards to include in the activity.
Equipment	Picture cards. You could use string and pegs/paper clips to display the finished timeline.
Time	30 minutes (plus extra for extension activities).
Curriculum	KS1 History— Significant historical events, people and places in their locality KS2 History— Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British and local history (links to Stone-Age, Iron-Age, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, and British history beyond 1066).
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore key periods and important events in the history of the Avalon Marshes. • Create a timeline showing a chronological history of the wetlands
Learning outcomes	<p>Following this activity pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe at least one important event or place in the history of the Avalon Marshes • Give at least one example of change that has been seen in the wetlands over time
Linked resources	<p>Introduction to the Avalon Marshes</p> <p>Pick & Mix: Getting to Know Peat; Life in the Iron-Age Marshes; Mapping the Marshes; Colouring the Marshes; Creative Response to Landscape; Avalon Marshes Quiz</p> <p>Audio: Avalon Marshes—A Peatland Story</p> <p>Film (YouTube channel): Sights & Sounds of the Marshes (films about prehistory, Anglo-Saxons and Romans).</p> <p>Specialist equipment: Avalon Marshes Floor Map; Marshes Water Model; Avalon Marshes Peat Dig; Avalon Marshes Ruckles</p>



Teachers' notes -

Prepare the activity by printing out the cards. They are designed to be printed double sided! Or for the information sheets to be stuck onto the back of the picture sheets. Choose which cards you want to use, based on the level of your pupils and the focus of your lesson.

Introduce the Avalon Marshes to your pupils. Explain that there have been many changes in the Avalon Marshes over thousands of years, and that lots of different people have lived there at different times. They have had very different lives to our lives now. Lots of things from the past have been preserved by the set soil (peat) in the Marshes, and archaeologists have discovered a lot about how people lived in the past, by studying the artefacts.

Discuss with you class what BC and AD mean when talking about time. On the board discuss some examples of years, and place them on a simple timeline.

Put your class in pairs and give each pair a card. Choose one side/corner of the room to be 4000BC, and the opposite side/corner to be present day. Challenge the class to get into chronological order without your help. Go through the timeline to check the order, and discuss the changes that have happened over time. Whilst doing this, write on the white board the different periods of history, and for each one ask pupils to pick out the highlighted words on their card, and write them on the board.

Once you have discussed all of the cards, peg them on string across a wall, so the timeline can be seen by all pupils.

To end:

- Ask pupils to give an example of a significant point in the Marshes' history
- Ask pupils to describe how the Marshes have changed over time

Extension:

Included in this document is a page to print so that pupils can write/draw their own Avalon Marshes timeline.

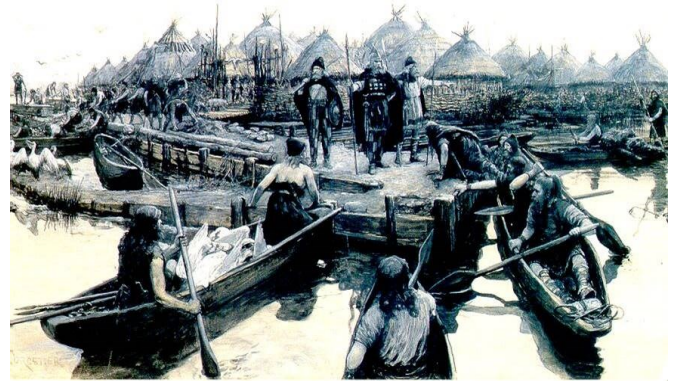
Choose a period of time and discuss in more detail what life might have been like. Role play life in the Marshes during that period. Draw a picture of what you think it looked like in the Marshes at that time.

Use the Avalon Marshes floor map (for hire from the Avalon Marshes Centre) and place the cards on the map to show where different events have happened.



Photo: E Mortlemans

Stone-Age



Iron-Age



Image: South West Heritage Trust

Tidal wave



Romans

Glastonbury Lake Village

250BC

The **Glastonbury Lake Village** was built by people in the **Iron-Age**.

People lived in **roundhouses**, and used **canoes** to travel around the Avalon Marshes.



The Sweet Track

3806BC

The **Sweet Track** was built in the **Stone-Age**, using stone tools.

It is a **wooden track-way** that was used by people to cross the **wet marshes**.



The Romans

43AD

The Romans arrived in Britain in 43AD. They made **salt** in the Avalon Marshes! They also make **fake coins**.



Tidal wave

1607

A huge wave, called a 'tidal wave' or '**tsunami**' (*soo-nar-me*), hit the coast of Somerset in 1607. **Water** reached as far as Glastonbury.





Photo: English Heritage

Meare Fish House



Anglo-Saxons



Vikings



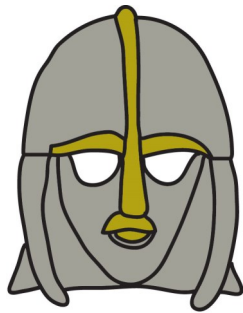
Normans

Anglo-Saxons

450AD

The Anglo-Saxons built the first church at **Glastonbury Abbey**.

They gave **Somerset** its name, because the Marshes were too wet for people and animals in the winter (but not in the summer!).



Meare Fish House

1322AD

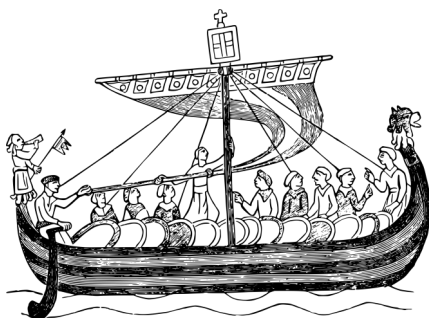
Meare Pool, in the middle of the Avalon Marshes, provided fish for the Abbots of Glastonbury.



The Normans

1066AD

The Normans made **motte-and-bailey** castles including **Fenny Castle**, next to the Avalon Marshes.



The Vikings

793AD

When the Vikings invaded Britain they had lots of **battles** in Somerset.

King **Alfred the Great** beat them in a battle 878AD.





Photo: WC Eyers Collection, via SGRDT

Railway

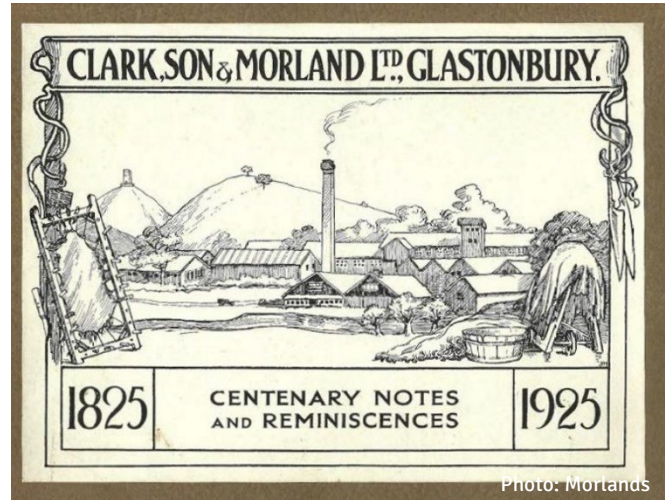


Photo: Mortlands

Clarks Shoes



Photo: Peter Alaexander

Peat



World War Two

Clarks Shoes

1825

Leather was made in Glastonbury and Street, using animal skins from local farms.

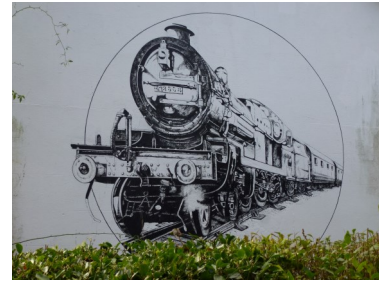
Clarks shoe company started in 1825.



Railway

1854

There used to be a **railway line** between Glastonbury and Highbridge. There was also a **station** in Shapwick.



World War Two

1939

During the war a factory was built to make **explosives**.

Gold Corner pumping station pumped water from the Marshes into the **Huntspill River**.

The water was used to cool-down hot metal in the factory.



Peat

1960

Peat is a **dark soil** that has been dug for hundreds of years. People burned it to warm their homes.

Since 1960 big diggers have been used, and people have used peat for **gardening**, not for burning.

Peat is still dug today, and lots of big **holes** are left!





Now



Archaeology

Archaeology 1960—now

Peat diggers have found lots of old items (artefacts) in the soil, left behind by people that lived in the Marshes hundreds or thousands of years ago.

The Avalon Marshes is an important place for archaeology, because these artefacts have taught us about the past.



Now

The Avalon Marshes is home to lots of special **wildlife**.

The holes left by peat digging have filled with water.

There are beautiful **nature reserves**, that lots of **people** visit.

People come to see wildlife, discover history, walk, cycle and have fun!



Avalon Marshes Timeline



4000BC

Now