

Hoard

What is a hoard?

A hoard is a collection of objects, often valuable, that have purposely been buried together in the ground. Some were hidden with the intention of being recovered later. Others were deposited for ritual purposes and were even added to over time. You also get hoards that were accidental losses, for example a purse of coins.

Hoard are a relatively common phenomenon across the United Kingdom and many have been recorded on the PAS database after being reported through the Treasure process. The majority of hoards discovered so far are coin hoards, but other objects do appear in hoards, including jewellery, ingots and axeheads.

The hoards recorded on the database span a wide range of historical periods, from the Bronze Age to the modern period. They tend to be buried in times of political or economic upheaval, such as the Viking raids on Britain or the English Civil War.

Important Hoards

Here is a list of important hoards that have been discovered in the United Kingdom. They could be used as the basis for an interesting research project in the classroom. All of these hoards have greatly contributed to our knowledge of the past and many are on display in museums around the United Kingdom.

- Bedale Hoard
- Bitterley Hoard
- Cheapside Hoard
- Coleraine Hoard
- Colwinstin Hoard
- Corbridge Hoard
- Cuerdale Hoard
- Cunetio Hoard
- Frome Hoard
- Galloway Hoard
- Hackney Hoard
- Hallaton Hoard
- Havering Hoard
- Hoxne Hoard
- Lenborough Hoard
- Malone Hoard
- Malpas Hoard
- Mildenhall Hoard
- Rogiet Hoard

- Salisbury Hoard
- Shropshire Piano Hoard
- Snettisham Hoard
- Staffordshire Hoard
- Stirling Hoard
- Tregwynt Hoard
- Trevelin Hoard
- Vale of York Hoard
- Watlington Hoard
- Westerham Hoard

Create your own hoard activity

Type of activity: Crafting

How many people required (minimum): 1+

Safety Measures: Be careful using the scissors!

Ages: All ages (younger children will need some help)

Time Required: 2 hours (plus the time for your papier mache and paint to dry)

Materials Required

- Old newspapers or magazines
- One balloon
- Sellotape
- Scissors
- PVA glue
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Empty tub
- Cup or beaker (preferably disposable as it will get mucky!)
- A protective covering for your table as things will get a bit messy!
- Some treasure to hide in your pot!

Steps

1. Tear your newspaper or magazine pages into thin strips (3cm wide is a good size). You will need quite a few!
2. Inflate the balloon until it is roughly 20cm across and tie a knot in the end. Place your balloon into the empty cup/beaker with the knotted end pointing into the cup. This will keep the balloon steady while you work on it.



3. Take one strip of newspaper, fold it in half lengthways a couple of times to make it thicker and then twist it into a ring shape roughly 8cm across. Use sellotape to fasten the ends together and then fix the ring onto the top of the balloon with some more sellotape. This will form the base of your finished pot.



4. In the empty tub mix together some PVA glue and water – a 50:50 ratio makes a strong enough mixture. Now for the messy bit! Take another strip of newspaper and dip it into your glue mixture. Using your finger and thumb, wipe off the excess mixture. Then lay the wet strip onto your balloon and smooth it flat. Repeat this process with another strip and keep building up the layers until your balloon is covered (except for the bit that is in the cup). The more layers you have, the stronger your finished pot will be but the longer it will take to dry.



5. Leave your balloon to dry overnight. Once it is dry, it is ready to paint. Use your paints to make the balloon look like a pot. We have chosen to keep ours plain but you can decorate yours however you want. Why not look on the PAS database for inspiration? Leave to dry (this may take a couple of hours).



6. Once dry, it is time to remove the balloon. Lift it carefully out of the cup – you might need some help as it may have become stuck to the cup. Turn your pot over and stand it on its base. Carefully snip the knot off the balloon and as it deflates, it should come away from your papier mache pot.



7. Use the scissors to trim the rim of your pot so that the edge is tidy. We gave ours a jagged edge and added some more twisted paper to make it look like it had been broken during burial. If you have time, you can make a lid for your pot using the same papier mache technique described above.



8. Your pot is now ready for some treasures to be hidden inside. We filled ours with chocolate coins!

