

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MUSEUMS
& BOTANIC GARDEN

BRONZE AGE POTTERY:



Among its many amazing objects, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology has examples of pottery from all over the world. Here, you'll find out more about some that have been found in Britain from a time we call the Bronze Age, 2500 – 800 BC.

SUMMER ~~AT~~ ^{with} THE MUSEUMS

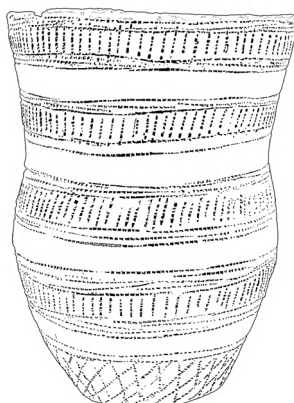
DID YOU KNOW?

People started making pottery around 8000 years ago!

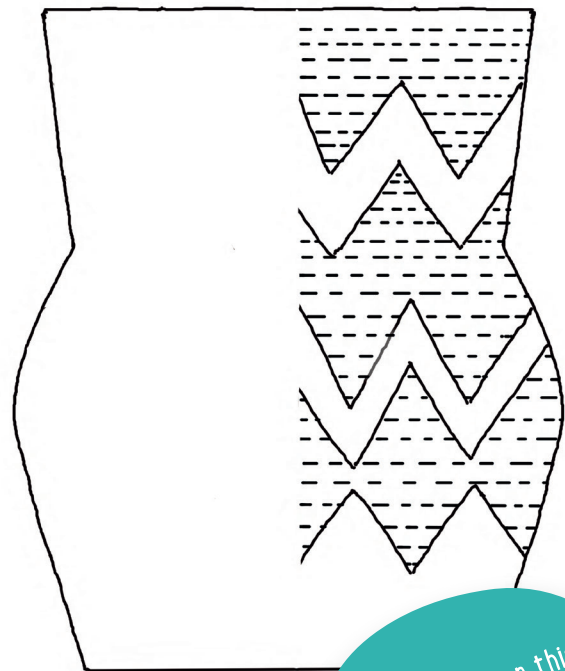
Archaeologists love to find pottery when excavating a site. It helps them work out when people were living there because they know when different types of pottery was being made and used.

BEAKERS

Beakers first appeared in Britain around 4400 years ago. They are often beautifully decorated with complex patterns. Although we cannot be sure what they were used for, some archaeologists think they may have held special drinks. Around this time, people were often buried with a Beaker. It is also the first time people began using metal tools made from copper. This Beaker was found in Cambridgeshire.



Look how carefully it has been decorated, it must have taken a long time. What could have been used to make these patterns?



The decoration on this beaker hasn't been finished. Can you complete it?

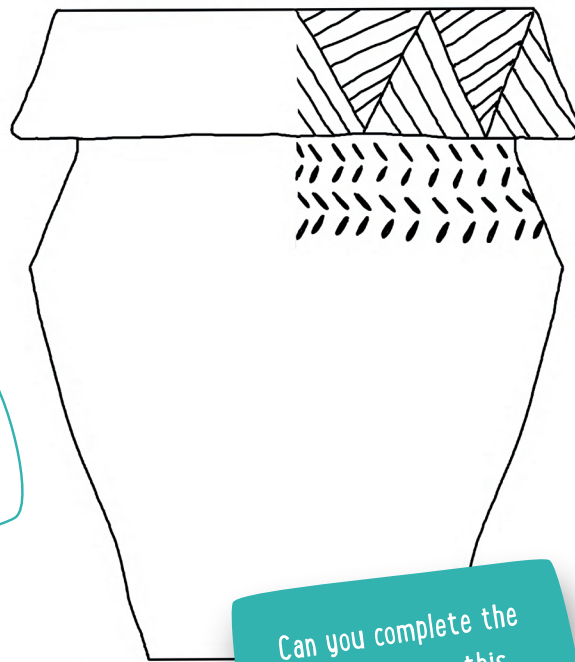
COLLARED URNS

People living in Britain began making Collared Urns around 4200 years ago. The one below was found in Cambridgeshire. They used them for cooking and storing food. They were also used to hold the ashes of someone who had died and been cremated. They come in a range of different sizes from small to very large and were often decorated using sharpened sticks or by pressing twisted cord into the soft clay.

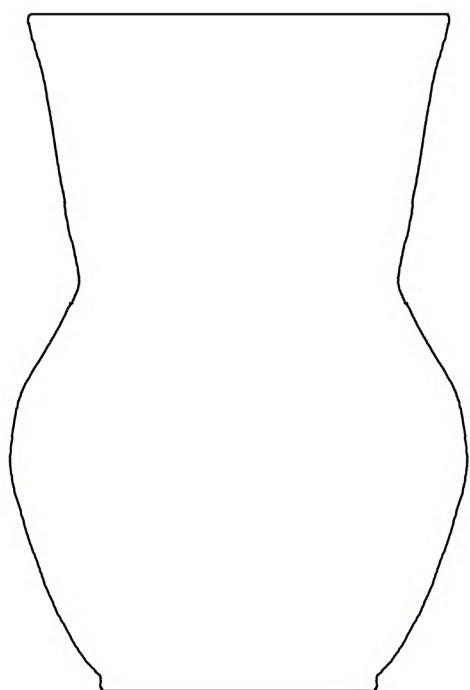


? Why do you think archaeologists called them Collared Urns?

The decoration on this one was made using twisted cord, which is similar to string.



Can you complete the decoration on this Collared Urn? Look carefully at the repeating patterns.



**DESIGN
YOUR OWN
PREHISTORIC
DECORATION!**

