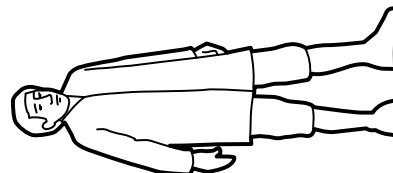
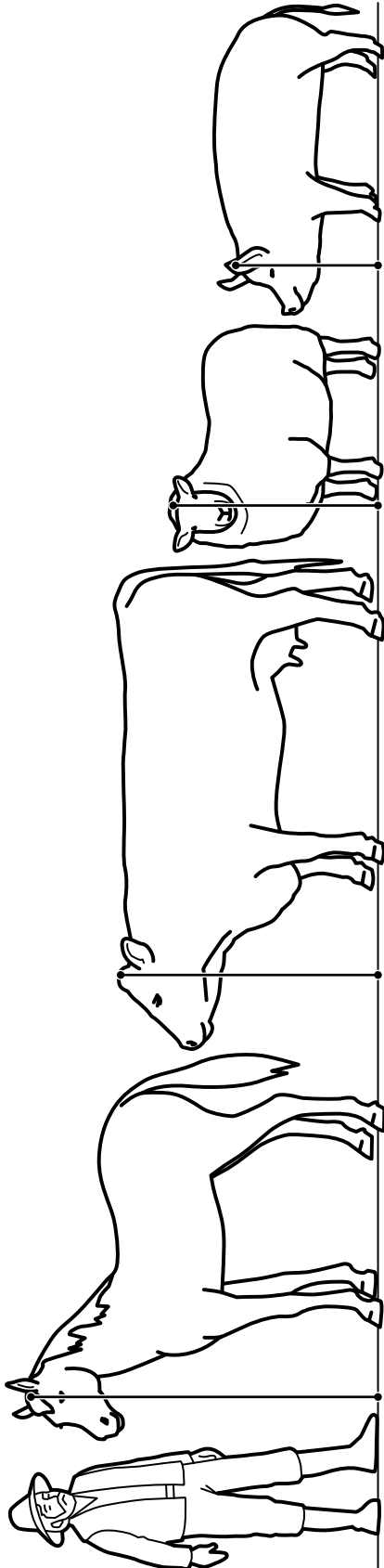


Celtic farming



Celtic farming

Objectives

- To learn about the size of farm animals.
- To identify grains used by Celtic farmers.

Cross-curricular links

Science

Sc2

- 4b Group living things according to similarities and differences.

Maths

Ma3

Use standard units to make sensible estimates.

Resources

Each child or group will need a copy of worksheet 2, a ruler and pencil, pictures of pigs and wild boars. A sample of potting compost containing a selection of seeds but including grains of wheat, barley, rye and oats. A card with wheat, barley, rye and oats held with sticky tape and labelled, a plastic beaker of water, a bowl or deep tray and spoon.

You may like to display some animal bones such as chicken or bones obtained from a butcher. They should be cleaned as directed in *Be Safe! Third Edition* published by the Association for Science Education (ISBN 978-0-86357-324-8) page 25 after consulting your school policies.

Starter

Tell the children that archaeologists have found out about Celtic farms by examining the soil and identifying and measuring the animal bones found there. You may show the children some bones and ask them to guess the animals the bones came from.

Main activities

1. Tell the children that archaeologists use water to wash soil and separate its components. Ask them to put the soil at one end of the tray and pour the water onto it and spread the soil out with the spoon. The children should look through the soil for seeds and grains and collect them into groups on paper towels.
2. Ask the children to use the prepared cereal grains to identify the grains in the soil.
3. Issue worksheet 2 and tell the children that the farm animals in Celtic times were up to a fifth (20%) smaller than today. Ask them to measure the height lines of the horse, cow and sheep in the top picture then construct height lines a fifth shorter in the bottom picture and draw in the animals at the new smaller height.
4. Tell the children that pigs in Celtic times were more like wild boars and let them draw one in using wild boar pictures to help them.

Plenary

The children should consider the height of the Celtic horse and realise it was more like a pony than a horse. They should remember this when considering the chariot in activity 8A and 8B. If the children wish to explore the soil in the locality it should only be collected from sites which are free of dog excrement and broken glass.

Outcomes

The children can:

- Recognise the grains of the cereal plants used in Celtic times.
- Make drawings showing the approximate size of Celtic farm animals.