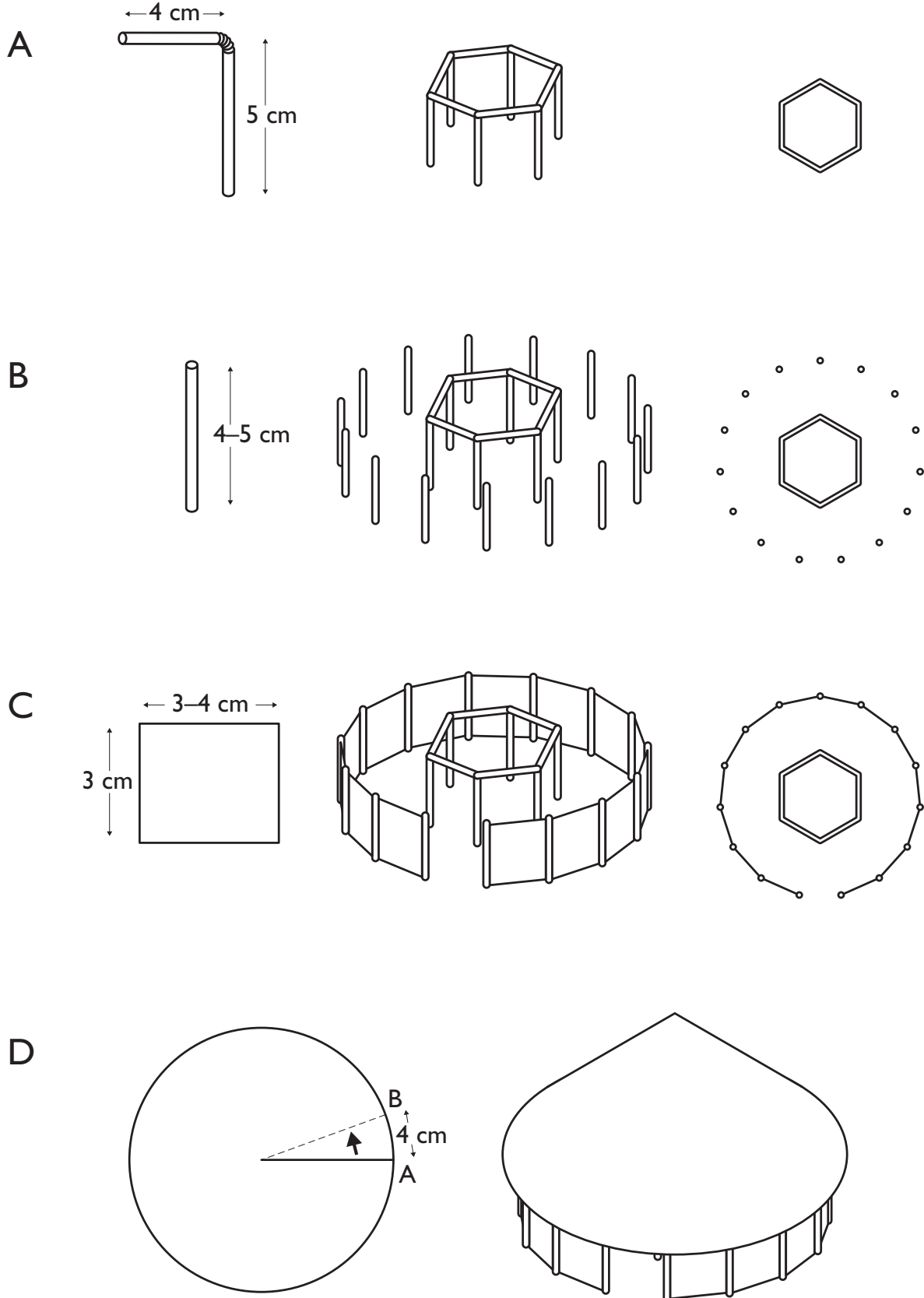


# Make a roundhouse



## Make a roundhouse

### Objectives

- To use simple materials carefully.
- To make a model of the basic structure of a roundhouse.
- To relate the structure to the remains (the post holes) after the structure has been removed (rotted away)

### Cross-curricular links

#### History

- 2a** Characteristic feature of the period and society studied.
- 4a** To find out about people from an appropriate range of resources.

#### Design and technology

- 2d** Measure, mark out, cut and shape a range of materials, and assemble, join and combine components and materials accurately.

#### ICT

- 3a** Sharing information by making a display of photographs.

### Resources

Each child or group will need worksheet **4**, about 10 straws with flexible ends, strips of card about 3cm wide and 20+cm long, scissors, a sheet of paper, a pair of compasses and pencil, a ruler and a bowl of sand (slightly damp).

You will need a camera for the children to use to photograph their work.

### Starter

Remind the children of the previous activity and tell them that they are going to make a model of a roundhouse which was used throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages. Tell them that they will also discover what the remains of such a house looks like thousands of years after it has rotted away.

### Main activities

1. Issue worksheet **4** and go through step A. Tell the children to cut six straws to the dimensions shown and arrange them in the bowl of sand as the pictures show.

2. Tell the children to cut up the straws to make twelve pieces 4–5cm long and arrange them as the picture shows.
3. Tell the children to cut out rectangles of card about 3–4cm long and rest them against the outer ring of straws (as you did with their frames of wattle and daub in the previous activity). They may need to trim the card if the straws are not all the same distance apart. One space should be kept clear to represent the door.
4. Ask the children to set a pair of compasses to make a circle with a diameter of 8cm and draw it out on a piece of paper. Tell them to draw in one diameter and about 4cm further round put a mark on the circumference as A and B show.
5. Tell the children to cut out the circle and into the centre along the diameter they have drawn. They should then move A to over B and secure with sticky paper and slowly lower the roof over the inner ring of taller straws.

### Plenary

Let the children compare their houses. If they want to make adjustments let them. They could then photograph their houses.

Tell the children that in time all the materials of the houses rotted away. Ask them to simulate this by carefully removing the roof, the side panels and the inner and outer ring of straws (posts). Ask the children what evidence is left of the house and look for an answer about post holes. Tell the children that this is all that archaeologists find but from this evidence they have deduced how the houses looked. Let the children photograph their post holes before clearing away.

The children could then make a wall display of their houses and post hole patterns.

### Outcomes

The children can:

- Make a model of a roundhouse.
- Appreciate how archaeologists can interpret finds and use their interpretations to construct buildings.