

The Mystery of the Gold Torc



This is the East Cambridgeshire gold torc it is Ely Museum's most prized object. It's from the Bronze Age and is around 3000 years old. It measures 126cm and weighs 730g of almost pure gold! It is one of the largest torcs ever found in Britain

This object was found in 2015 by a metal detectorist in a farmers field it sat underground for almost 3000 years! The thing we don't know is why it was buried 3000 years ago?

Why not write a story about how the Torc was buried?

Here are some things we know about the torc

- The torc was likely buried on purpose, someone dug a hole and put the torc in it.
- The torc was likely quite new. There is little wear on the torc meaning it was not used much.
- It comes from the Bronze Age, a period in history when people were using a type of metal called bronze to make tools and weapons.
- It was found near Ely, during the Bronze Age Ely was an island surrounded by fen, a type of swamp.
- It is one of the largest torcs ever found. This would be a very valuable object.

There are some things you could include in your story.

- Perhaps the torc was buried to hide it from invading enemies.
- Perhaps the torc was buried as an offering to an Bronze Age god.
- How did the owner of the torc move around? Did they move by boat or did they move by wading through the water.
- How did they get the torc? Did they make it, did they buy it, did they steal it from an enemy or was it a gift.
- Gold is not naturally found in Ely It must have been bought or traded? Imagine traders from distant parts visiting you and offering you gold. What would you offer them for gold?
- What do you think the original owner of the torc would think about the torc being in a museum?

Inspirational pictures:



A Bronze Axe Head



Beaker pottery from the Bronze Age



A gold ring from the Bronze Age