

# Ironbridge Coracle Trust

## The **CORACLE CHALLENGE**



**TOMMY ROGERS**



**HARRY ROGERS**



**EUSTY ROGERS**



.com  
illustration

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT:  
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IRONBRIDGE CORACLE TRUST:  
MARION BLOCKLEY

Made possible with  
**Heritage  
Fund**



## Can you complete the Three Coracle Challenge?

There are 3 challenges in total:

**Where in the World?**

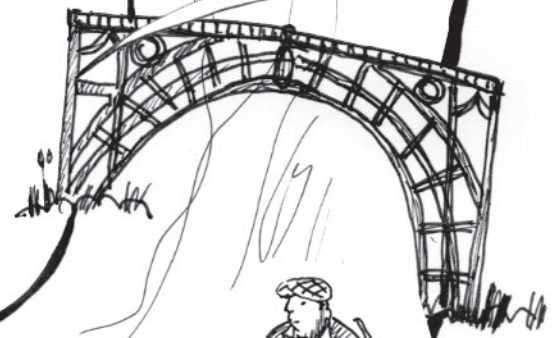
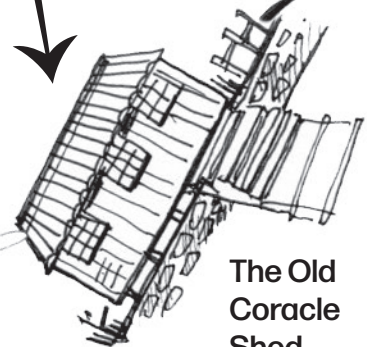
**How to make a coracle?**

**The Shed of Curiosities**

Eusty, Harry and Tommy were  
all coracle makers.

Harry was Eusty's father and  
Tommy was Eusty's grandfather.  
They all lived in Ironbridge.

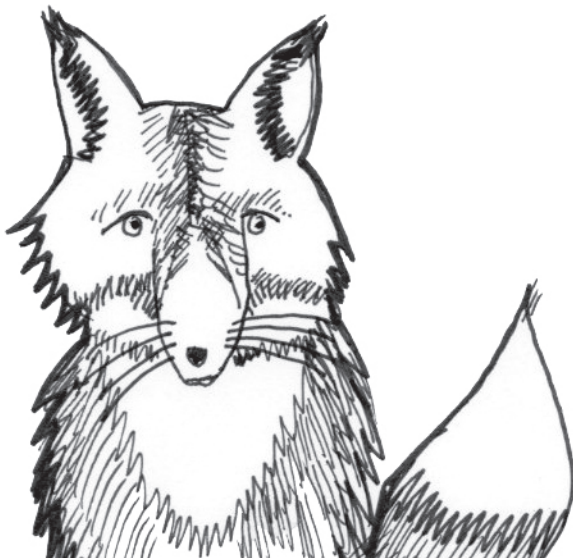
Many of the objects you will  
see today came from Eusty's  
shed down by the Iron Bridge.







HARRY ROGERS AND BILLY



## Did you know?

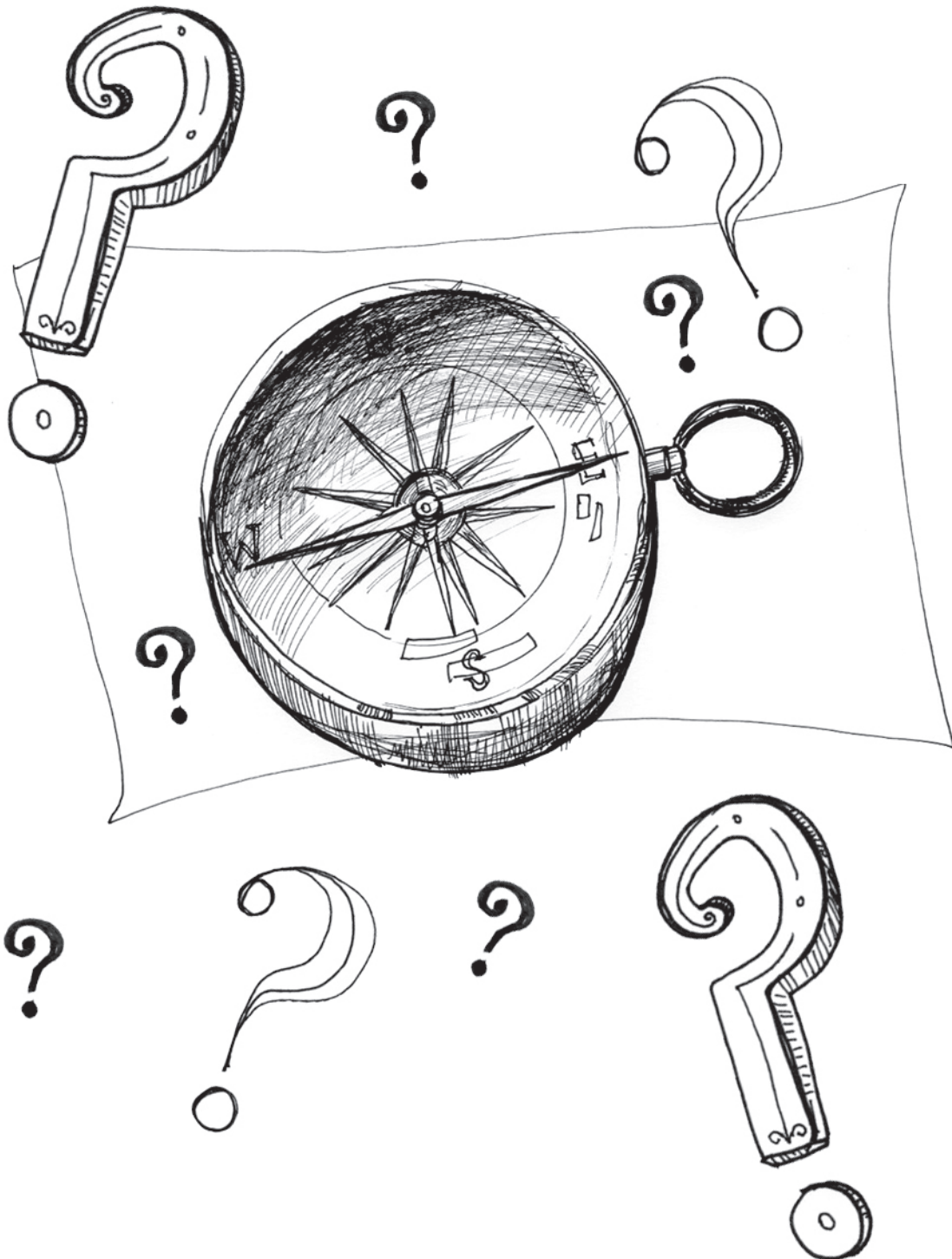
Harry Rogers had pet foxes and he always called them 'Billy'!

What would you call your pet?

.....

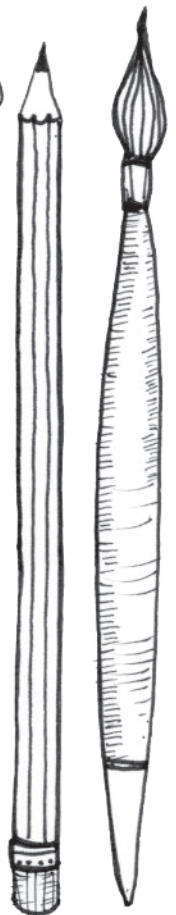
.....

**CHALLENGE 1:  
WHERE IN THE  
WORLD?**





**ACTIVITY 1:** The Ironbridge Coracle is traditionally painted with black waterproof paint called bitumen and it's basket is traditionally green. Can you find one on display and draw it here:



Did you know?

The Ironbridge Coracle is a small round boat!

**ACTIVITY 2:**  
Press the green button!

**HARRY ROGERS**

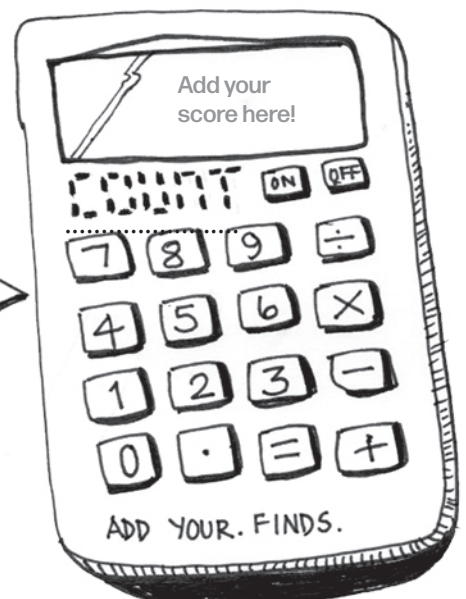


WATCH HARRY ROGERS FISHING IN A CORACLE

**ACTIVITY 3:**  
There are lots of different coracles on display here at the New Coracle Shed.

Everytime we count them we find some more!

How many can you count?  
Add your score into the calculator.



ACTIVITY 4:

Can you think of 3 words  
to describe how it feels  
in a coracle?

1.....

2.....

3.....

Is it easy or difficult to  
climb in a coracle?

*pretend to paddle  
down the river*

Do you think it would  
be relaxing or tiring?

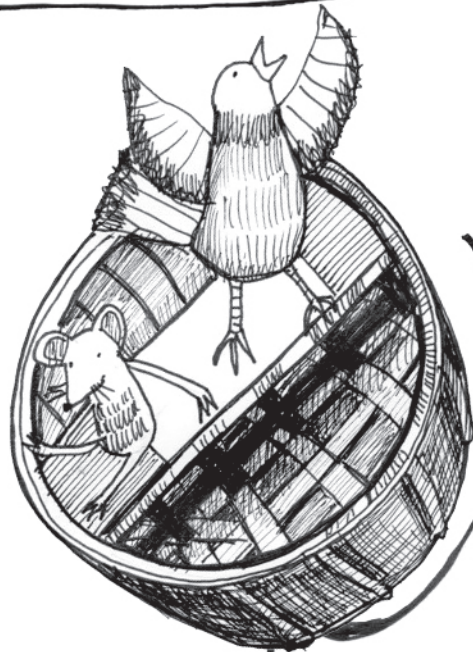
What coracle difficulty rating would  
you give trying to navigate the river?



?



**SIT IN A  
CORACLE!**



Did you know...

Coracle makers recommend  
making a coracle with a  
flatter base not a very  
round base.

Why?



Answer.....

**PRESS THE  
BUTTON**

*Have a go!*

Which is easier?  
To paddle down river with  
the flow or up river against  
the flow? **Why?**

Answer.....

Did you know...

Coracles have been  
used in Ironbridge for  
hundreds of years.  
They were used for  
fishing, transport  
and poaching...



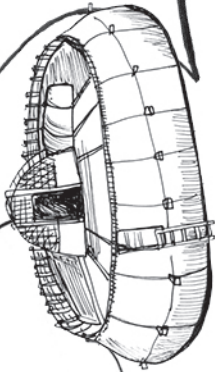


## ACTIVITY: 5

### WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU FIND THESE CORACLES?

**DID YOU KNOW...**

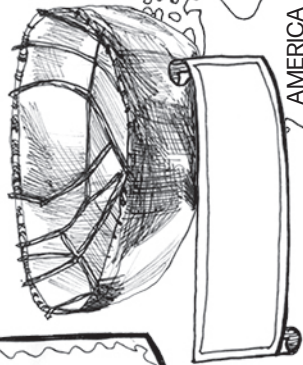
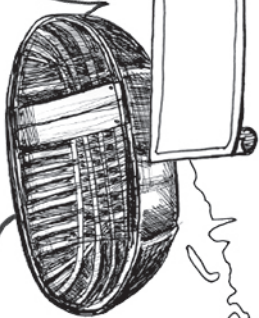
Coracles have been used  
around the world  
for thousands  
of years?



**Did you know?**

Noah's Ark was probably  
a giant Coracle!

Moses's mother hid him in a  
small coracle when he was  
a baby so he could escape  
from the pharaoh.



AMERICA

IRELAND

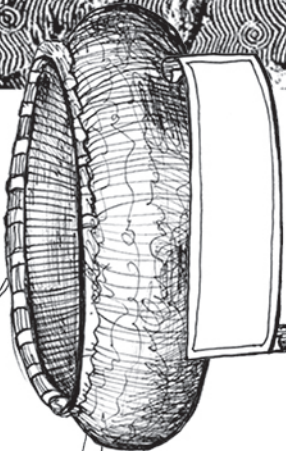
WALES

ENGLAND



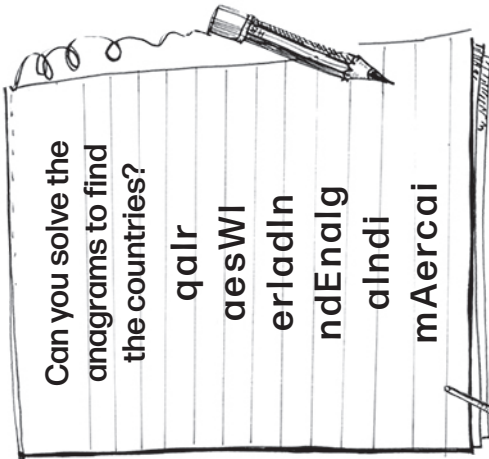
**TIP:**

Don't just  
look for the model!  
coracles also look  
at photographs and  
pictures on display!



IRAQ

INDIA



Can you solve the  
anagrams to find  
the countries?

qalr

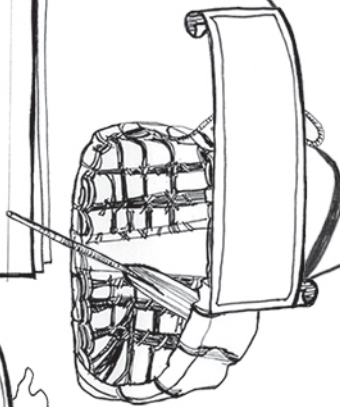
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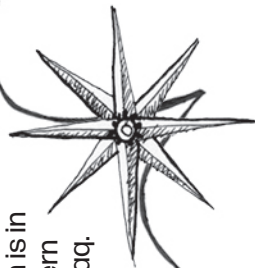
alndi

mAercai



This stone carving  
of a coracle was  
found in Sennacherib's  
Palace in Nineveh.

It is about 3000  
years old!  
Nineveh is in  
modern  
day Iraq.





# ACTIVITY 6:

## CORACLES OF GREAT BRITAIN



SEVERN

BOYNE

### DID YOU KNOW?

Coracles have been used in GB for over 2000 years and are still used today.

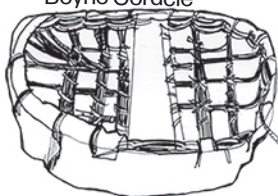
River.....



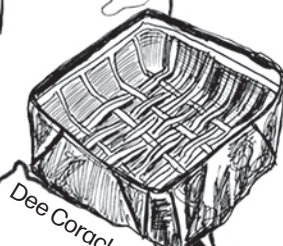
Spey Coracle

IRONBRIDGE

Boyne Coracle



TEIFI

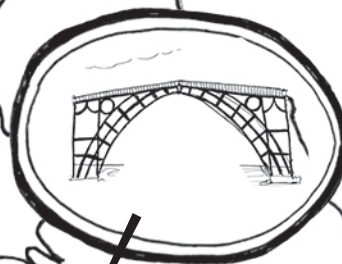


Dee Coracle

ENGLAND

TOWY

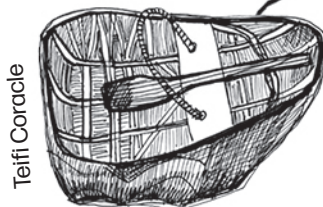
SPEY



River.....

DEE

IRELAND



Teifi Coracle

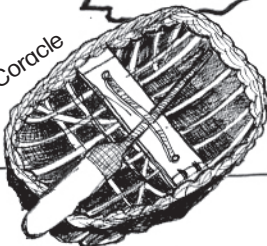
River.....

WALES



Ironbridge Coracle

Towy Coracle

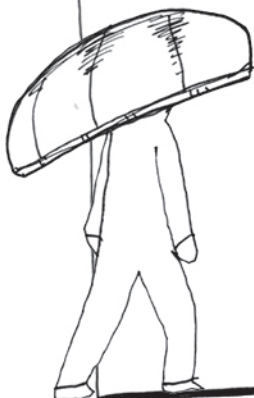


River.....

### DID YOU KNOW?

Coracles in Great Britain are named after the places they were made.

Can you find the coracles on display and name the rivers on the map?



Can you think of the reasons why the coracle design might be slightly different in each area?

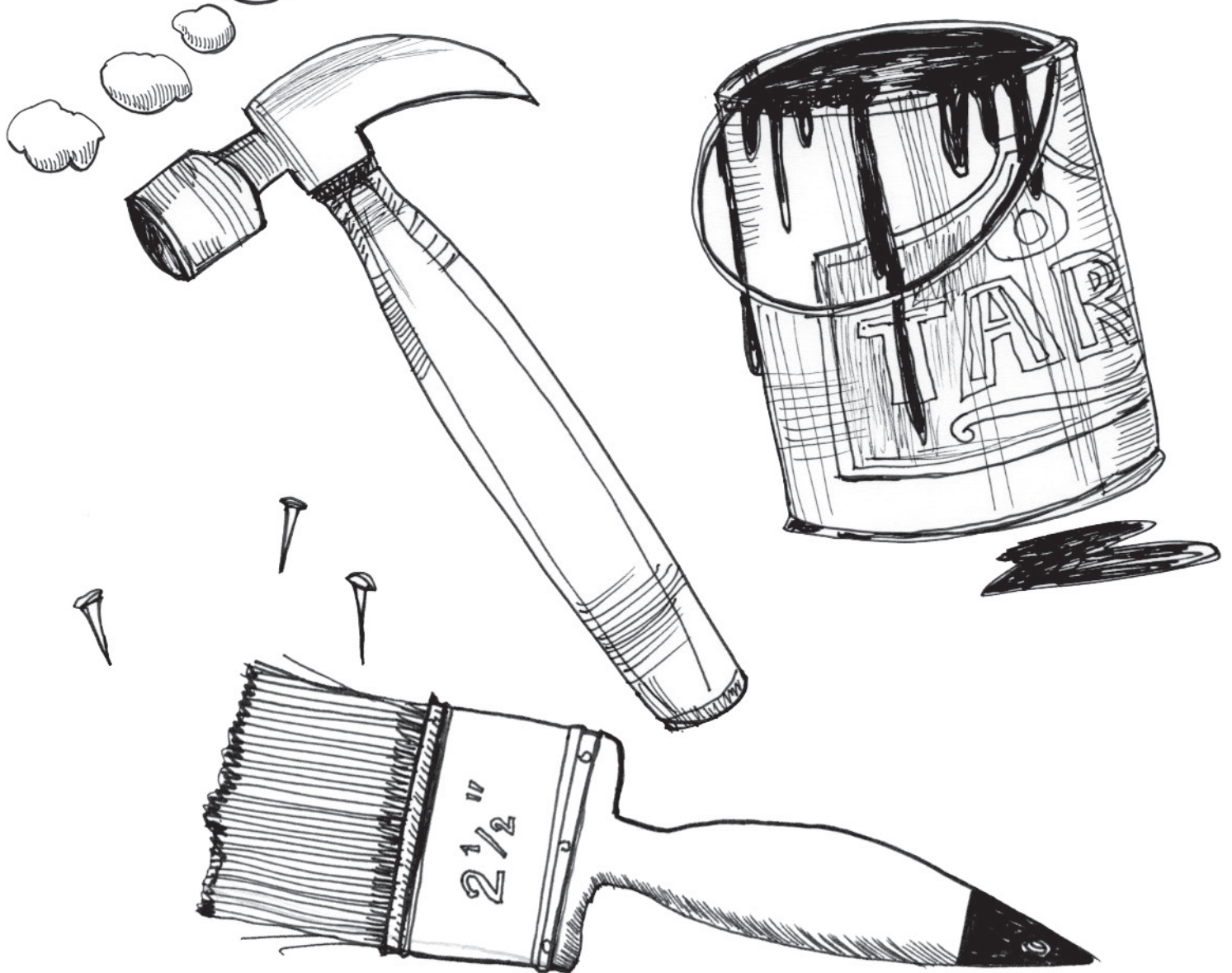
Lined area for writing answers.



## CHALLENGE 2: HOW DO YOU MAKE A CORACLE?

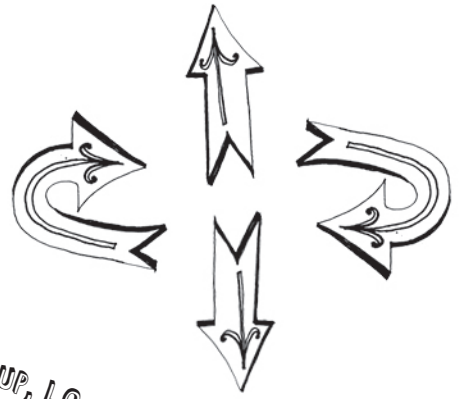
Watch the  
video on our website or  
in The New Coracle Shed.

[www.ironbridgecoracles.org](http://www.ironbridgecoracles.org)



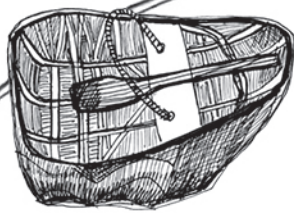
# ACTIVITY 1:

## WHAT ARE CORACLES MADE OF?

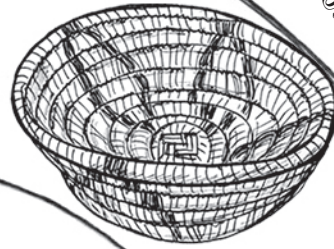


LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN, LOOK ALL AROUND!

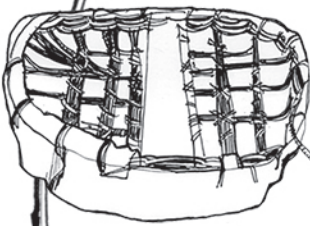
CAN YOU FIND THE CORACLE MODELS?



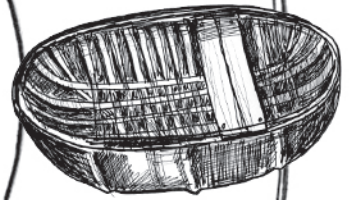
The Teifi coracle has a framework of cleft willow.



Example of coiled basketry used in Iraqi coracles.



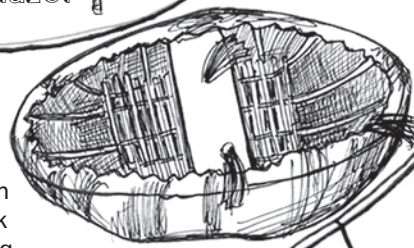
Woven willow framework covered in hide. A Boyne coracle.



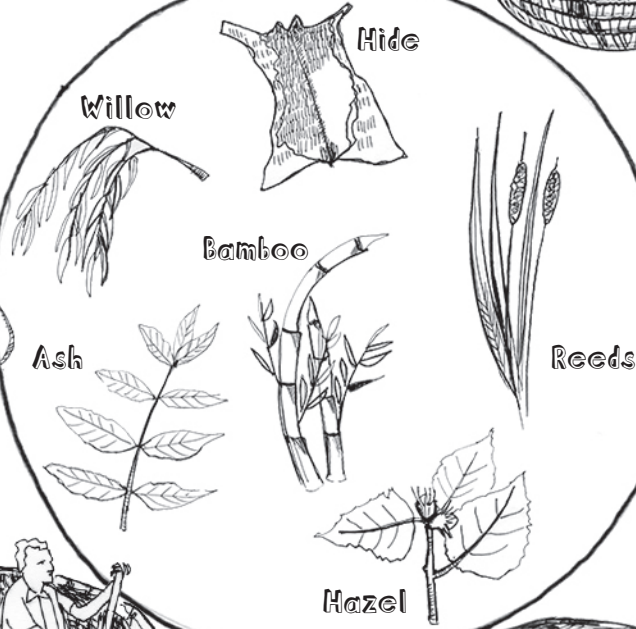
Ironbridge coracle made from ash laths.



Traditional woven split bamboo mat over a bamboo frame. An Indian Parisal.



Prehistoric style coracle with hazel framework and hide covering made by Eusty.



LINK THE CORACLES TO THE MATERIALS



# DESIGN

## A

# CORACLE

## ACTIVITY 2

### THINK...

What shape will it be?

How will you design the frame?  
Why?

Will your coracle be painted  
like Ironbridge coracles?

What colour(s) will you use?

### WONDER...

Could you use modern  
materials?

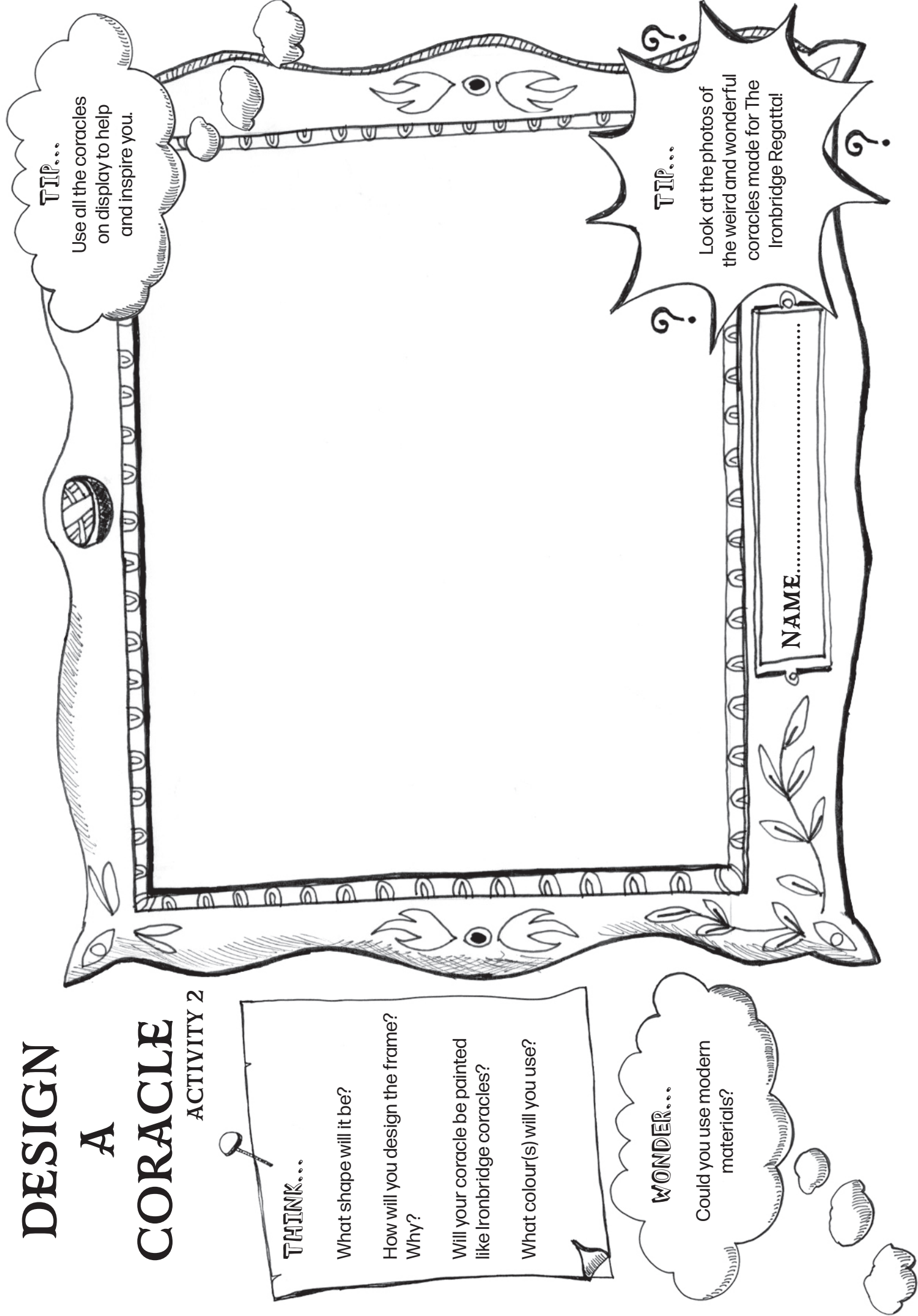
### TIP...

Use all the coracles  
on display to help  
and inspire you.

### TIP...

Look at the photos of  
the weird and wonderful  
coracles made for The  
Ironbridge Regatta!

NAME.....



**CHALLENGE 3:  
THE SHED OF  
CURIOSITIES**

HARRY  
ROGERS  
CORACLE  
MAN





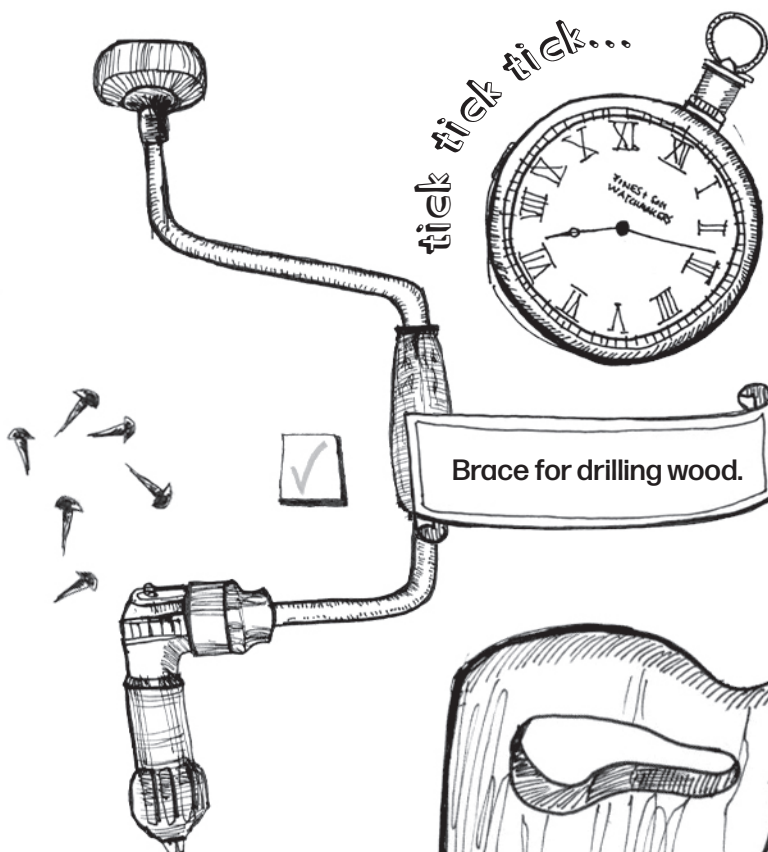
# TOOLS

HOW MANY TOOLS CAN YOU  
SPOT IN THE CORACLE SHED?

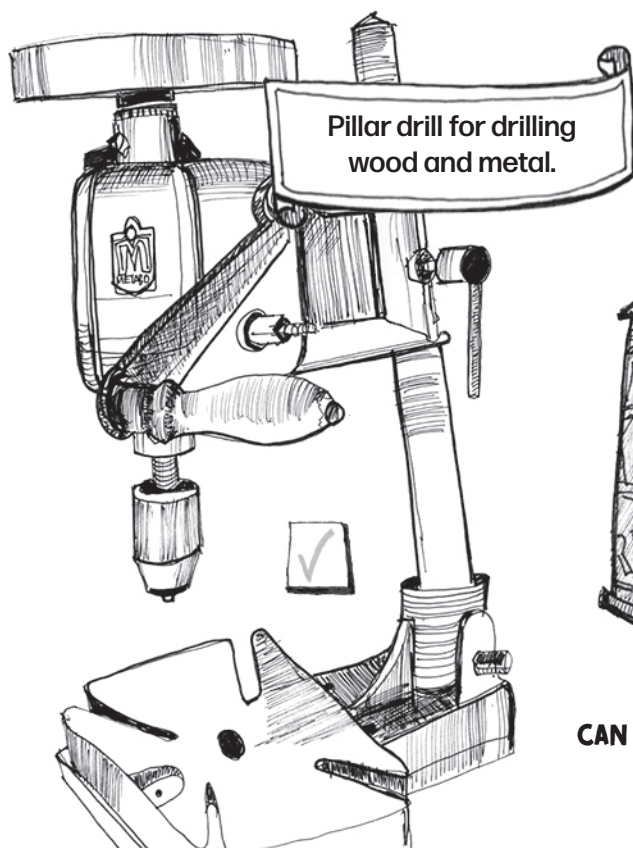
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE  
TO FIND THEM?

TIME YOURSELF!

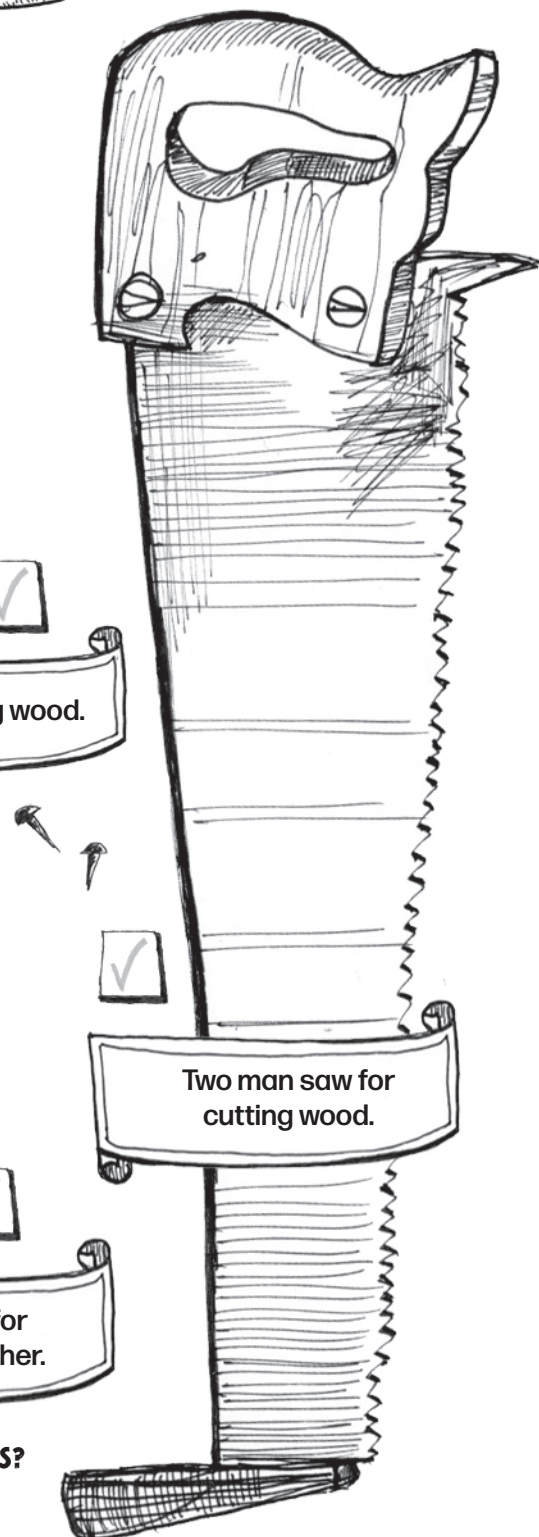
## ACTIVITY 1



Tacks for joining wood.



Harness oil for softening leather.

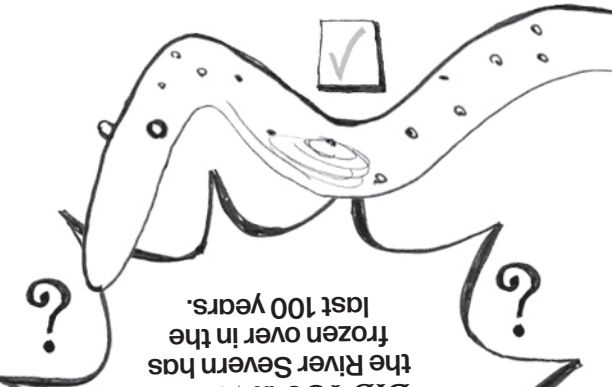
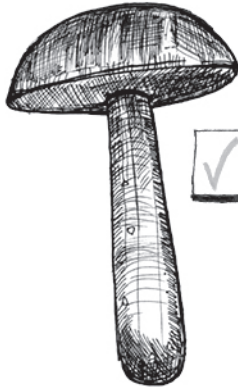


CAN YOU FIND ANY MORE TOOLS?



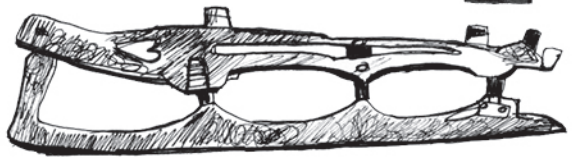
# MYSTERY OBJECTS

## ACTIVITY 2



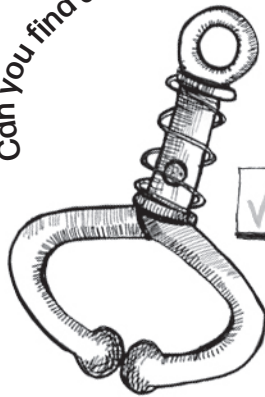
**DID YOU KNOW ...**  
the River Severn has  
frozen over in the  
last 100 years.

CLUE



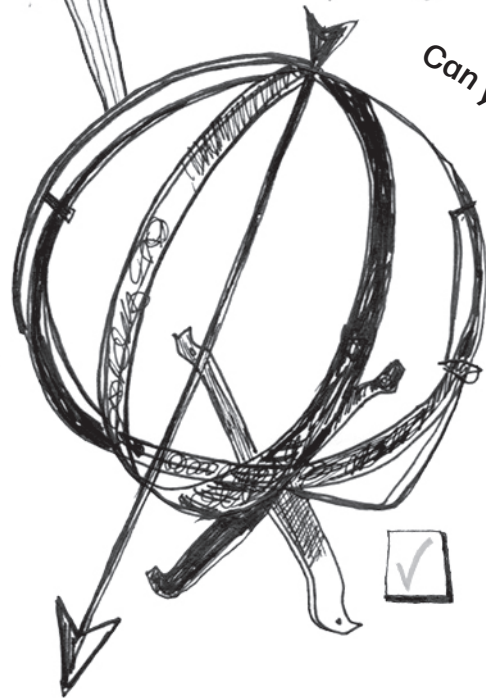
Can you  
find these  
mystery  
objects?

Can you find a snake?



A darning mushroom  
to help you mend  
your clothes.  
People would always  
mend their clothes  
rather than throw  
them away.

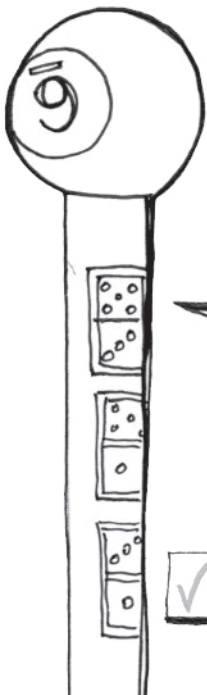
CLUE



Can you find a monkey?

A sundial for telling  
the time.  
Look carefully and you  
can see the numbers  
stamped on the  
frame.

CLUE



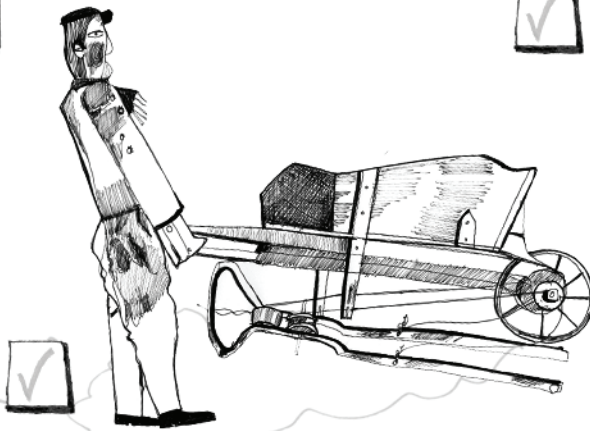


### ACTIVITY 3: PUPPETS

Inside the old coracle  
shed were strange  
puppets and  
mechanical  
models.



These flew across the  
river on a high wire  
from one bank to  
the other.

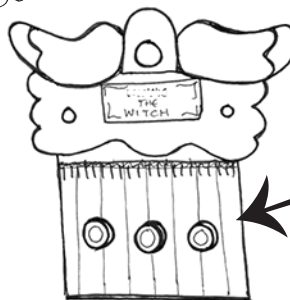
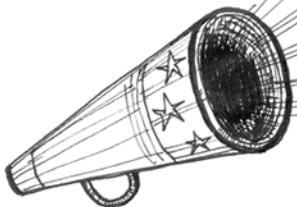


The two ferrymen  
floated on the river.  
The flow of the river  
turned their paddle  
wheel and made  
them hammer.



**ROLL UP!  
ROLL UP!**

Can you find  
the puppets  
and models on  
display today?



Why don't  
you ...  
watch the sad  
story of Annie  
the Witch?

## ACTIVITY 4:

If you could create a shed with lots of objects and pictures to tell your story and describe your life today what would you include?

Imagine  
someone looking  
in your shed in  
50 years time...

What would you include so  
they could find out about  
everyday life?

Think about what  
you enjoy doing?

Do you like making things?

Do you play sport?

Do you like listening  
to music?

Would you include any  
'mystery' objects?

What would  
they be?

DRAW YOUR SHED HERE

THE.....SHED.





Congratulations  
You have completed

***The  
Oracle  
Challenge***

NAME:.....