

# WHAT THE BADGERS

## SAW 1

The events in history that badgers in County Durham have seen over the centuries.

Hello. Our names are Motte and Bailey. Our sett is near an archaeological site in County Durham.

Our ancestors have lived here for many years, and we are going to tell you about some of the things they have seen.



If you look carefully at a map of County Durham, you will see that our county has three main rivers. The River T\_\_\_\_\_ is on the northern border, between Durham and Northumberland. The River T\_\_\_\_\_ forms part of the southern boundary with North Yorkshire. The river W\_\_\_\_\_ rises in the Durham Dales and runs, near to our sett, through the middle of the county, meeting the sea at S\_\_\_\_\_.

On the eastern boundary of the county is the North Sea. (If you sailed due east from County Durham, which country would you come to?)

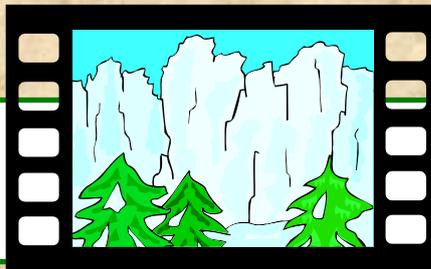
On the other three sides are hills and mountains. To the north of the whole northeast region are the Cheviot Hills. To the west are the P \_\_\_\_\_, and to the south are the Cleveland Hills.

Brrr!

Thousands of years ago, our region was covered by large ice sheets. The main valley of the River Wear is covered in 'glacial drift' - rocks and clay brought down by a glacier. Ice also brought blue clay to Teesmouth.

A remarkable rock formation of Northumberland and Durham was caused by volcanic action. This is the Whinsill. It is a ridge of whinstone or basalt, which is a dark grey in colour. If you travel up Teesdale, you can see it at the famous waterfall of High Force.

Worth a visit!



Underground in County Durham are a number of important minerals. One was, of course, c \_\_\_\_\_. Others were salt, iron and lead. They were mined for many years to keep Britain's industries moving!

What note do you get if you drop a piano down a mineshaft?  
A flat minor! Get it?

Oh, dear!  
You get worse!

Sometimes, the old mines make great lying-up places!

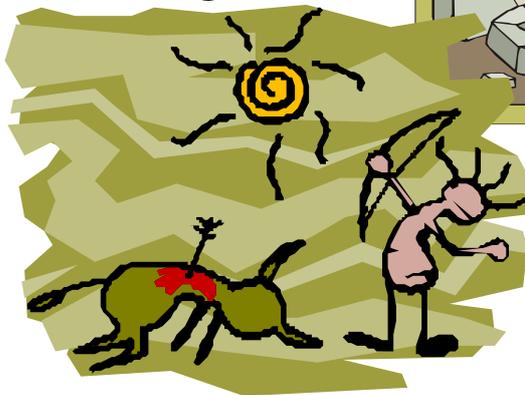
Prehistoric Durham None of the people who lived here in prehistoric times could read or write, so we have no written records of what happened. We know about them because of what we can find in archaeological digs. Lots of tools and weapons, and other everyday goods have been dug up to tell us a little about their lives.

The Stone Age Stone Age people in County Durham used weapons and tools made from f\_\_\_\_. County Durham was covered in forests and undergrowth. People, (and badgers), tended to live on the edges of woodland and open spaces. Their burial places are marked by mounds of earth. We call them 'barrows'.

Eventually, people began to keep animals rather than just hunting them, and that allowed them to live more settled lives. As they weren't travelling around, they could then have more possessions. They made pots called 'beakers', so we call them the 'Beaker people'.

Sometimes we dig things out of our setts!

No, not like wheelbarrows!



The beaker people were hunters, herdsmen and traders. They were good archers, and they tipped their arrows with flint heads

The Bronze Age Copper was the first metal to be used for tools, as it is soft and can easily be hammered into shape. Bronze is made from copper with t\_\_\_\_, and is much harder.

Bronze was brought to our region by invaders from Europe. They improved life for the native people in many ways.

One of the best finds in County Durham was made at Heathery Burn Cave, near Stanhope, in 1861. Lots of bones and shells were found, along with weapons, tools, a bronze bucket, gold ornaments and pottery. There were also the first signs of the use of horses and chariots in Britain!



If they'd asked, we could have dug them up for them!



The Iron Age Iron objects were probably brought to Durham from Holland, about 600 BC. The people who brought them were Celts.

Burial places of rich Iron Age men often contained important goods, such as chariots, horse harnesses, iron daggers and broadswords, hairpins, brooches, ankle bracelets and bronze mirrors.

People who explore historical sites are called 'archaeologists'. They are very clever! They can tell by the seeds they find what sort of plants were growing in ancient times. From fossils and bones, they can tell a lot about the animals that were around. This can tell them about the climate at the time.



Climate change has happened before, you know, just not as quickly as it is now!

