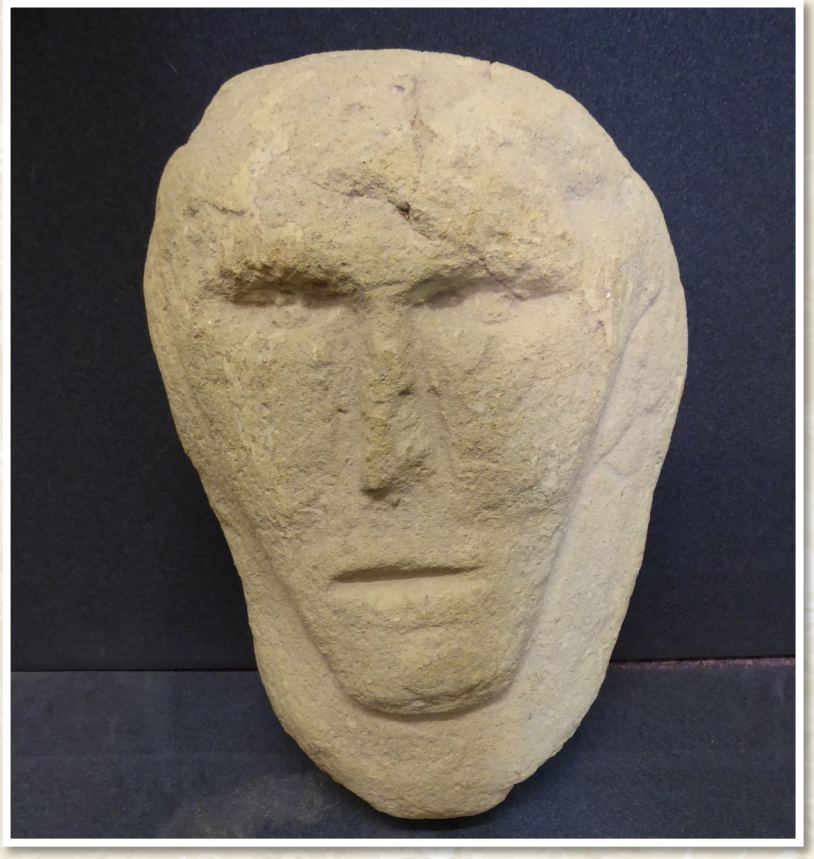
TOP TREASURE



Find this at

NEWPORT ROMAN VILLA

Education Contact:
estelle.baker@iow.gov.uk

Questions

- What do you think it is? Can you describe it?
- What do you think it is made from?
- How big do you think it is?
- What do you think it was used for?

FACT FILE

Carved Stone Head

What is it?

A carved or sculpted stone head.

Basic facts

Size: length 35cm

What is it made from?

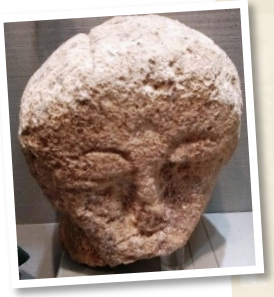
It is carved from a stone beach boulder. It is a type of stone called Greensand.

How old is it?

We are not sure but it is either Iron Age or Roman so made between 700BC to 410 AD.

Significance

It was found at the bottom of a cliff at Luccombe on the Isle of Wight.



There have only been two other stone heads from Iron Age/ Roman times found on the Isle of Wight. One was found very close to Newport Roman Villa.

The other head is much smaller and represents the god Janus and was found on Culver Cliff. It has a face carved on both sides.

Other facts

Janus was the Roman god of beginnings and transitions (change), doors and gateways. The Romans believed he looked over events such as planting crops at harvest and the new year. Janus is sometimes shown holding a key. It was a key to unlocking the past and the future.

Carved stone heads have been found in Iron Age and Roman temples. At Littledean Roman Temple they have found many carved stone heads. There was a water shrine there so maybe they were offerings were made to gods and goddesses? Some archaeologists think that some the heads show injuries to the face. So perhaps people leaving the heads at the shrine were hoping to be healed?

Why don't you?

- Use the Isle of Wight examples and others found online as inspiration for your own carved head. It could be of the god you created yourself. You could carve a bar of soap (watch: tiny.cc/soap-carving), make it out of clay, junk materials or draw/paint it. Visit: tiny.cc/celtic-heads and tiny.cc/caerwent.
- Janus was the god of transitions or change. What are three things that you would change?
- If you were a god or goddess what would your power be? Draw a picture of them and create a fact file or fill in the 'Create a God or Goddess' worksheet.

TOP TREASURE

The Isle of Wight Museums and Schools programme is supported by Arts Council England, funded through the Department for Education.

Supported using public funding by
Department for Education
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

4787 NBH 2/21 LF