

Shared reading Friday 12th February 2021

The Pottesham Mirror- an online text.

Read through the page with your learning partner and then answer the questions below:

<https://www.wessexmuseums.org.uk/collections-showcase/portesham-mirror/>

Buried with her treasures

The grave, dating from the 1st century AD, contained an elderly woman's body, lying in a crouched position. As well as the mirror, she was buried with two brooches, glass beads, coins, tweezers and nail and ear cleaners.

The lavish grave goods indicate that the woman was an important figure in her community.

Mystical mirror

The mirror is made of polished bronze with an engraved back. But some experts believe that such mirrors weren't connected with personal appearance, but more to do with ritual, seeing the future, or a symbol of religious power. So the swirly Celtic art decoration on the back might have been designed to bestow the mirror with magical powers – patterns like these are used on other powerful Iron Age objects like swords and shields.

Fewer than 30 of this type of mirror have been discovered in the UK.

Retrieval:

- a. Describe the contents of the grave.
- b. Select the statement that is true:
 - i. The mirror was made of glass.
 - ii. The Iron Age people decorated their items with Celtic art.
 - iii. It is thought that Iron Age people believed mirrors to have magical powers and could help them see into the future.

Vocabulary:

- c. The grave goods are described as being **lavish**.
The Queen wore a **lavish** dress.
Mrs Hill cooked a **lavish** banquet for her class.
What is the meaning of lavish?
- d. The swirly Celtic art decoration on the back might have been designed to **bestow** the mirror with magical powers. Can you explain the meaning of the word bestow? Have you heard it before? Where?

Inference:

- e. Can you think of a different story in which a magical mirror helps to tell the fortune of a Queen?
- f. The elderly lady was an important person in the community. Agree or disagree? Support your answer. I think that she was/ wasn't important because...

