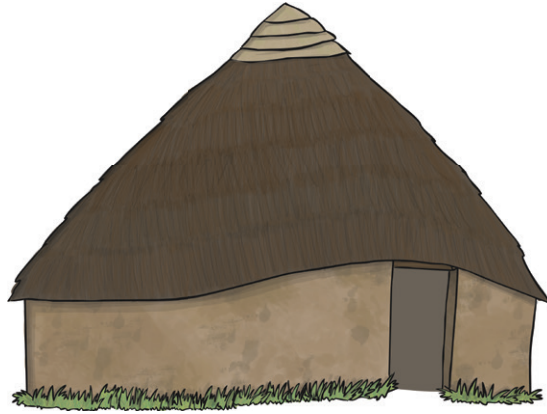


A Celtic Roundhouse



The Celts lived in round huts with pointed roofs called roundhouses. The walls of a roundhouse were made of wattle and daub (woven wood plastered with straw and mud).



There was a pole in the centre of the round house which supported other poles that spread out to form the roof. The roof was thatched with grass or straw. The door of the roundhouse was decorated with carvings and plants or herbs that would keep evil spirits away.

The roundhouse was one large room and more than one family could stay there. A wealthy family might have more than one roundhouse.

The roundhouse was lit and heated by a fire built into a clay pot in the centre of the floor. The fire burned all the time. A metal (bronze or iron) cauldron would hang above the fire for cooking food. Food that had been preserved in salt would hang from the roof. There were no windows in a roundhouse.

Around the walls of the roundhouse were benches covered with animal skins, which would have been used for sleeping on. Animal skins covered the floor. Other furniture, such as low tables or chests, would have been made out of wood. The Celts would have carved decorations on their furniture.

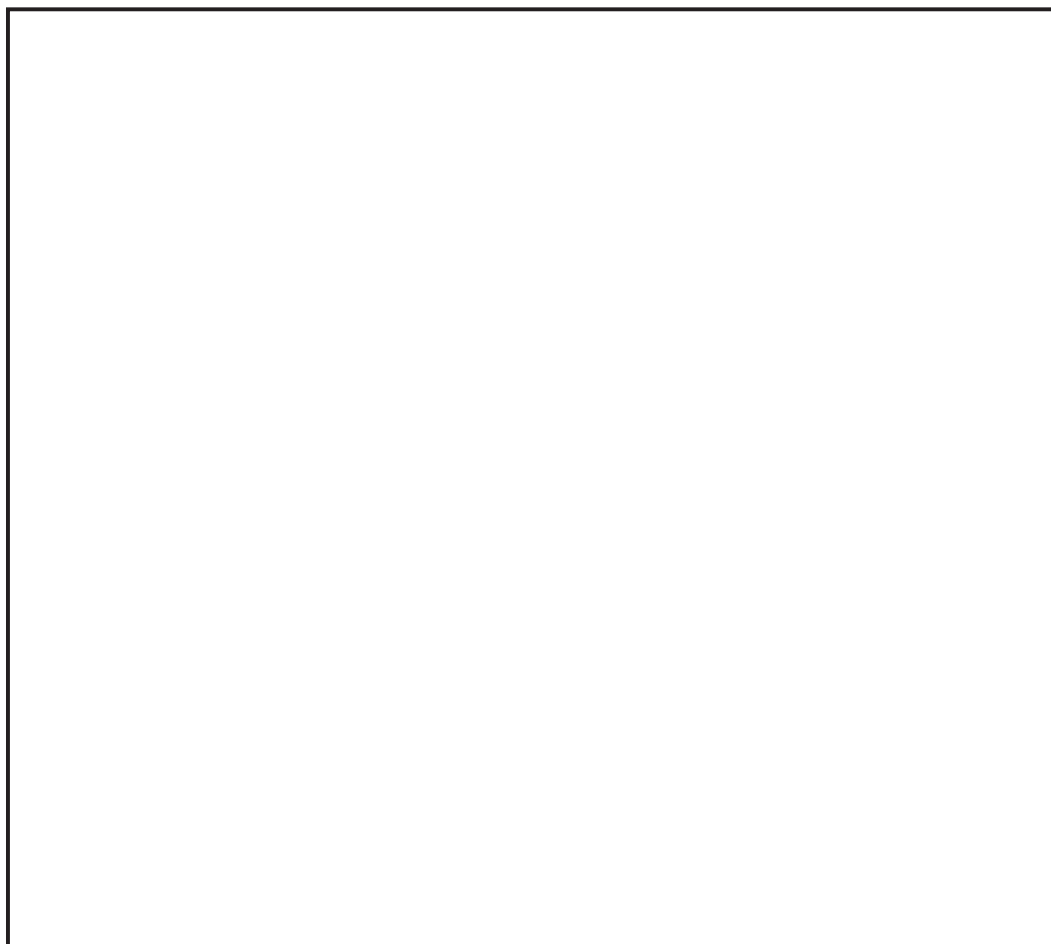
There might have been a loom in the roundhouse for weaving. The Celts wove their clothes; they were usually brightly coloured and patterned.

A Celtic Roundhouse

Now draw a Celtic roundhouse.

Remember to include:

- a thatched pointed roof;
- wattle and daub walls;
- herbs or plants hanging at the door;
- a door with Celtic carvings on it.



A Celtic Roundhouse

What might it have looked like inside the roundhouse? Can you complete the plan?

Remember to include:

- a central pole;
- fire and cauldron;
- benches;
- animal skins;
- low wooden table;
- wooden chest;
- loom.

Is there anything else you can add to your plan?

