

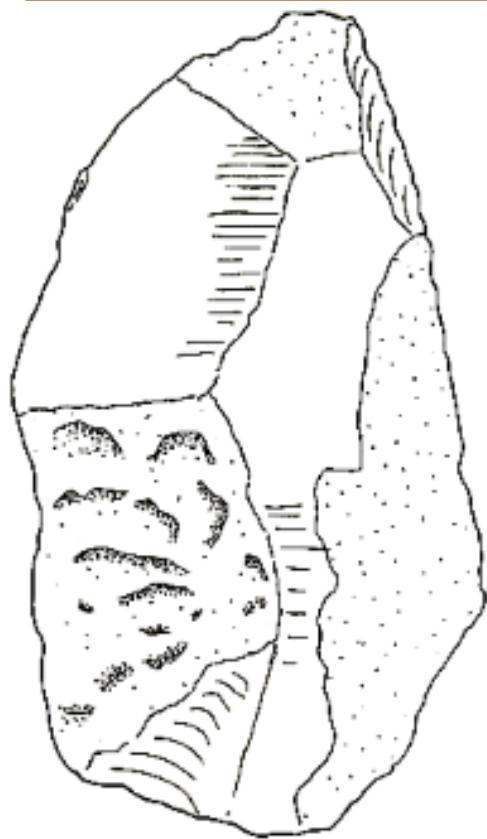
# colour the past



# Mysterious stone objects

This object was made from a stone we call obsidian. Obsidian is a natural volcanic stone, usually dark in color. It is formed by the rapid cooling of lava with no time for crystallization. It is very easily shaped into precise tools and weapons which is why it was very popular among prehistoric populations. When shaped into an object, it can be very sharp. It thus became a highly sought-after raw material for trade and exchange throughout prehistoric Europe.

Color the stone by the example!

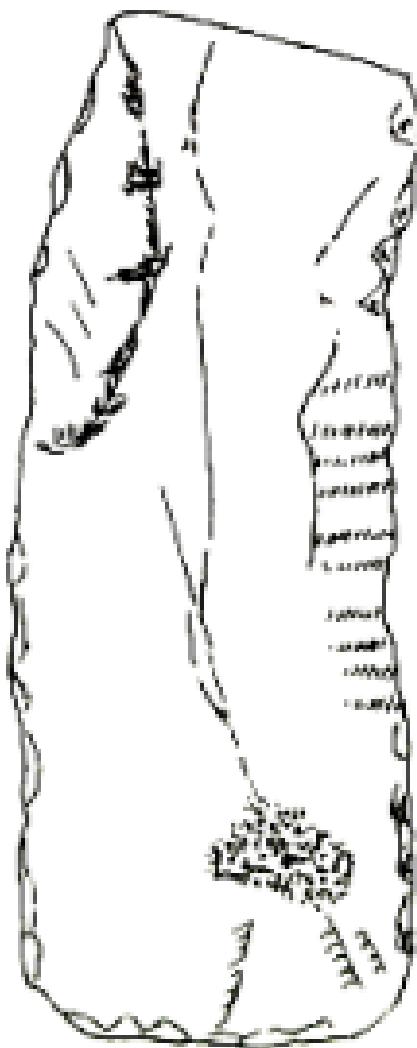


What do you think, what was this object used for?



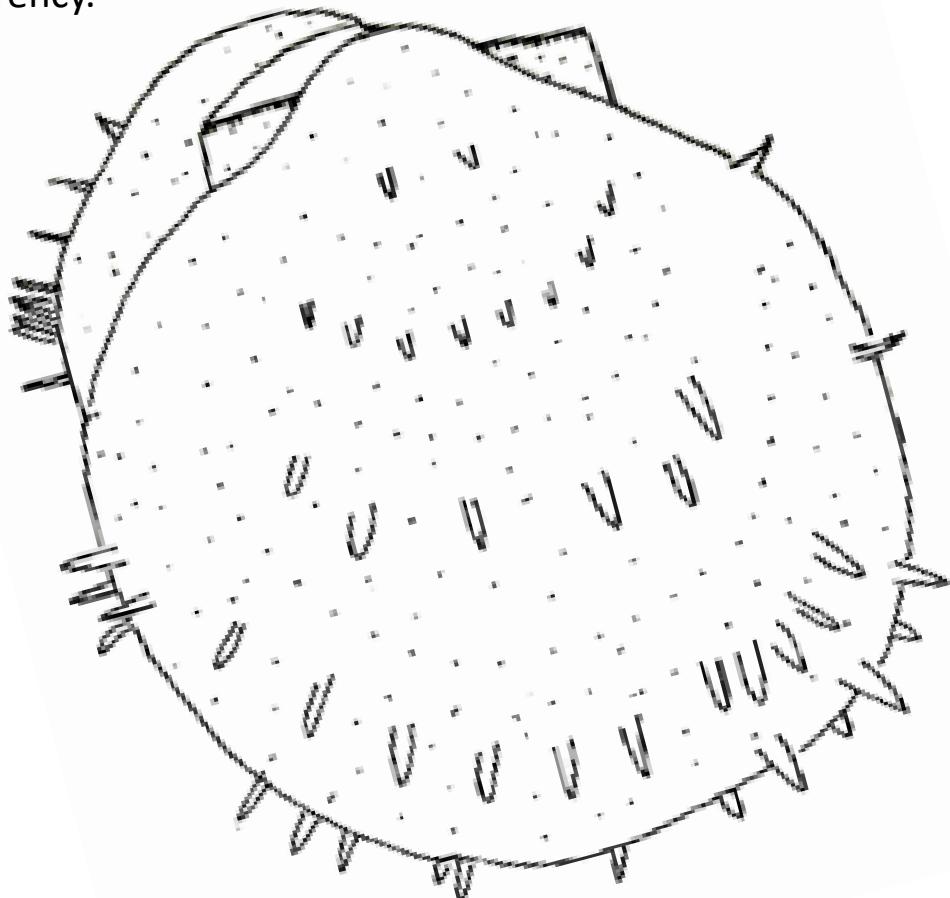
In prehistoric times, tools were often made of stone. The stone was carefully selected after which it was broken. This procedure required a lot of knowledge and skills. Stones of different types and properties were used, and of course different colors. However, in prehistory, flint was used most often because it has very good properties for making tools for various purposes. Such tools could be used for cutting animal meat, leather, making tools from other materials, such as wood or shells, making jewelry and ornaments, farming activities, making weapons (e.g. spears), and other daily activities.

Color the object with your favorite colors!



# Colorful seashells

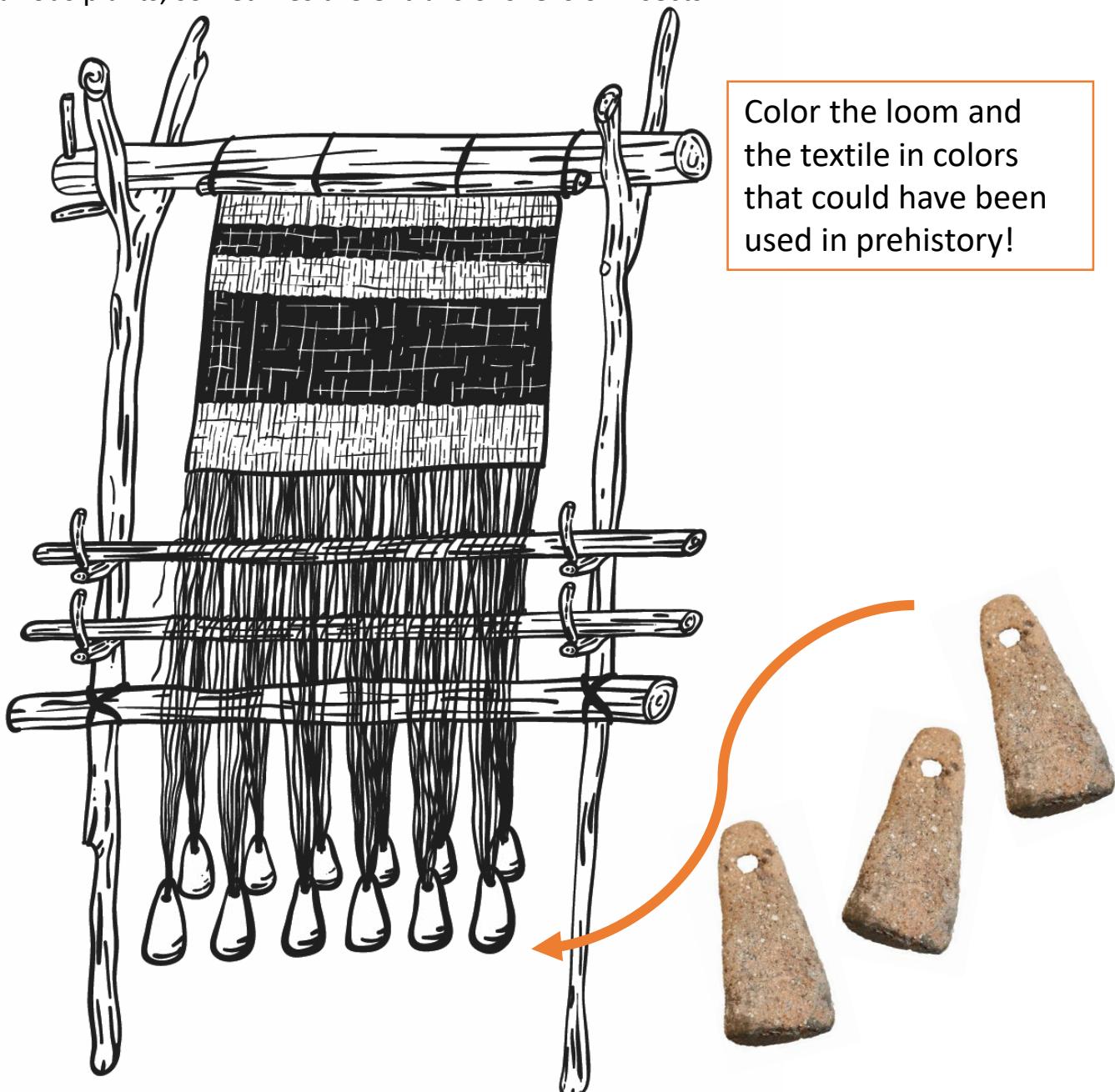
*Spondylus gaederopus* is a shellfish that lives in the Mediterranean Sea. From this shell, a crimson color was obtained, and because of its thick shell, it was a favorite raw material for making various kinds of jewelry. Although it is of Mediterranean origin, shellfish finds at prehistoric archaeological sites deep in the European continent testify to the developed exchange and trade. Some authors consider it the first currency.



What do you think, what was the color used for?

# From thread to textiles

In prehistoric times, textile was most often produced from wool and the flax plant. The whole production process was performed by hand, for example, raw wool had to be first spun to obtain yarn and then thread by thread weaved into the fabric on the loom. Archaeologists most often find fragments or complete objects related to the process of textile production, such as spindle whorls used for spinning or weights used to stretch threads on a loom. Numerous such weights were found at a Bronze Age site located at Mount Kalnik. The loom could be made of wood, as a simple frame. The fabrics were dyed with natural pigments that can be obtained from various plants, sometimes the entrails of shells or insects.



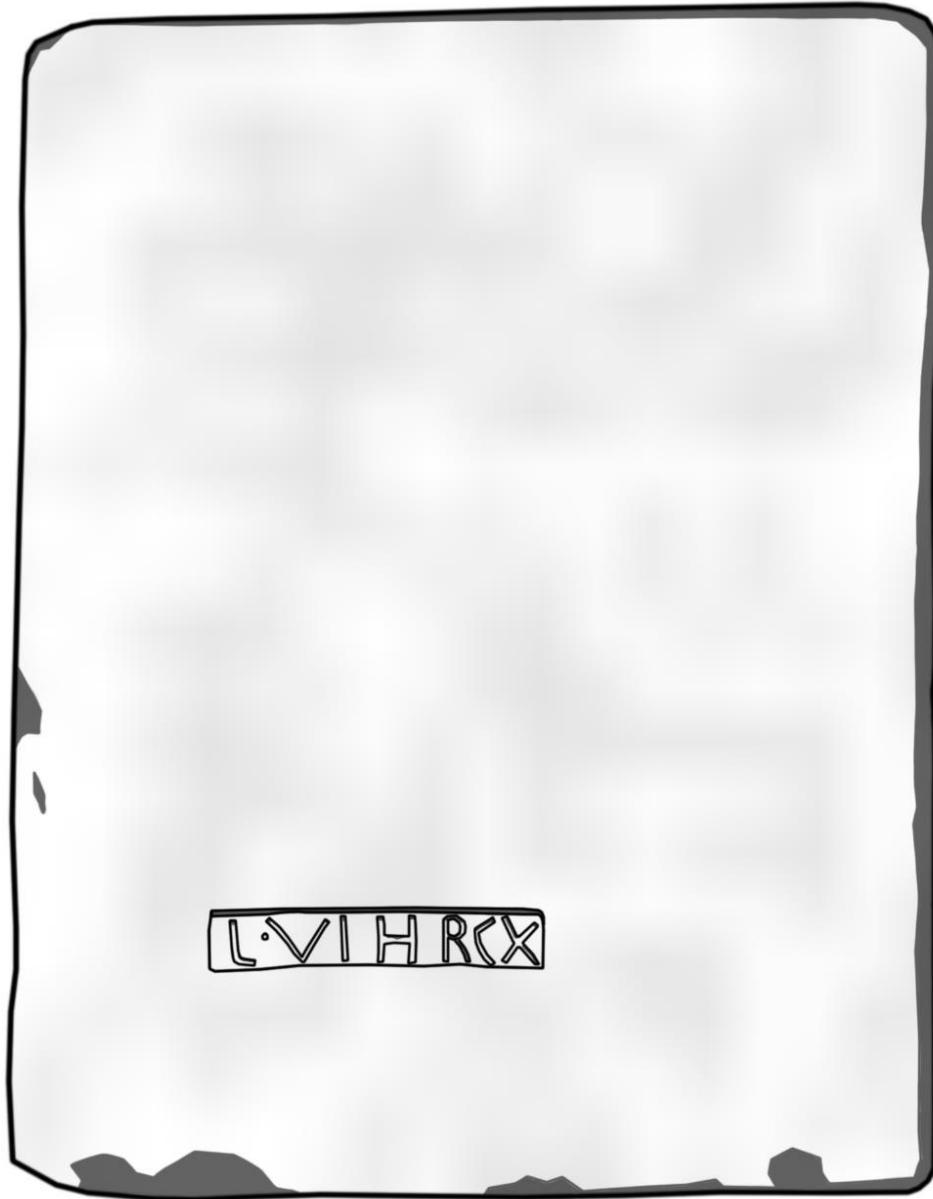
# Legionary obligations



Roman bricks, like the one you see here, were made by Roman soldiers (legionaries) when they were not at war. They marked their bricks with a stamp of a workshop or their unit, to know who produced them. The stamp contained numbers and letters. Romans wrote numbers a bit differently than we do today. Can you distinguish and read the numbers on the stamp? Like today, the bricks were made of baked clay and were orange-red in color.

Color this picture of a Roman brick, but be careful not to hide the stamp!

Identify the numbers and color them in different colors!



## ROMAN NUMBERS

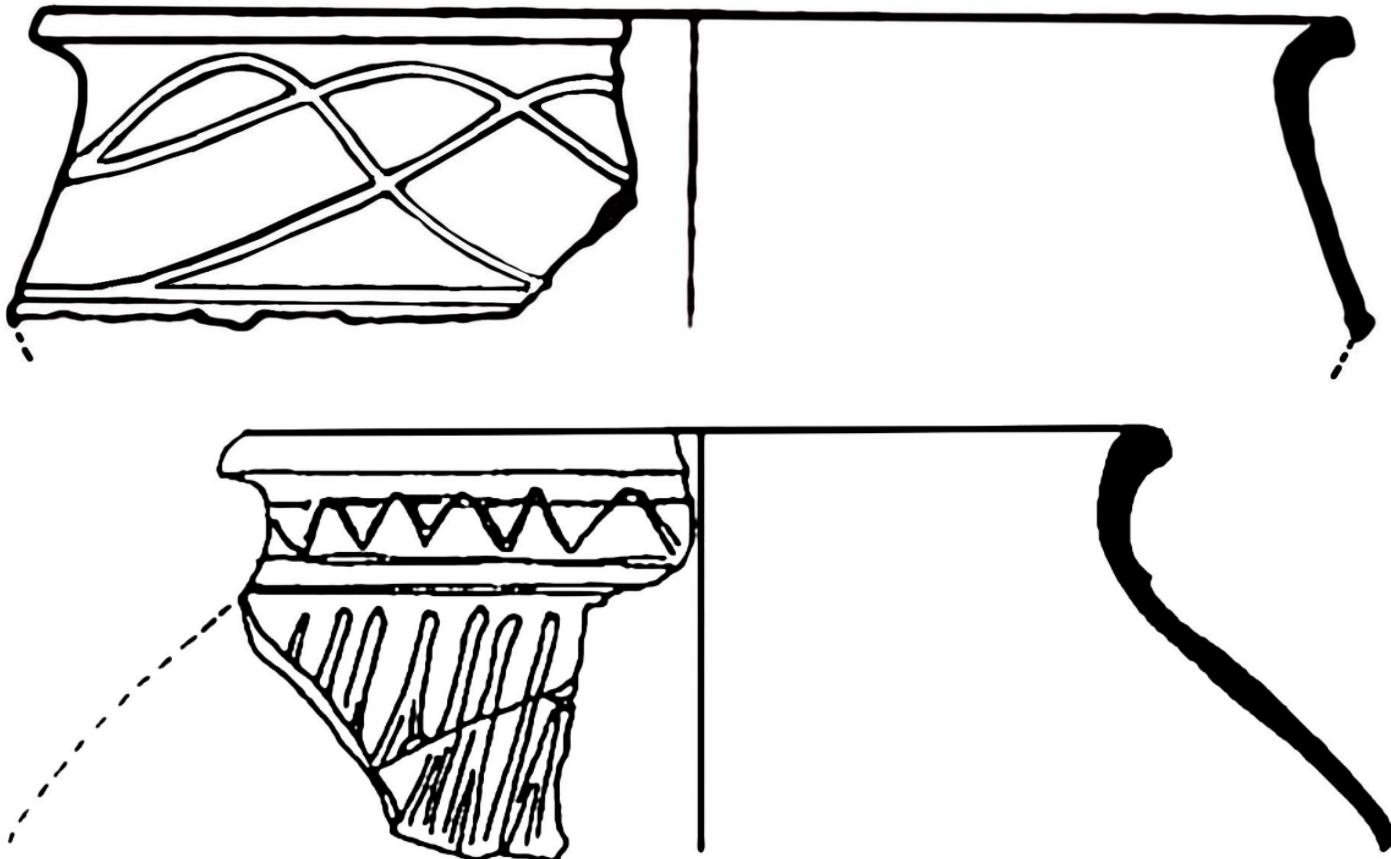
I	-	1
II	-	2
III	-	3
IV	-	4
V	-	5
VI	-	6
VII	-	7
VIII	-	8
IX	-	9
X	-	10

# Playful potters

One of the most common archaeological finds are fragments of ceramic vessels. Thus, near the town of Osječenica, at an archeological site located on the road from the Una River to the present-day city of Sisak, the important Roman city of Siscia, fragments of vessels were found that were used long ago, in ancient times, in the 4th century. These vessels were decorated with incisions in the shape of irregular weaves, and were most commonly used to store food.



Help archaeologists follow the "thread" from Late Antiquity, draw the rest of the decorations on the pots! Color the pottery fragments and decorations!



# Warriors from the East



In the Early Middle Ages, numerous new groups of nomads appeared in Europe, among them were the Avars. Avar material culture has left its mark, on over 60,000 graves, two-thirds of which belong to the 8th century, making it one of the best-documented early medieval cultures in Europe. The arrival of the Avars in the Carpathian Basin in 567 is linked to the appearance of new technological solutions in war equipment and the way of warfare (heavy cavalry). In Croatia, most of the Avaric period sites are located in Eastern Slavonia, and some peculiarities have been noticed, such as the painting of the decorative belt fittings in blue.



Color your Avaric warriors,  
light cavalryman and  
infantryman!

The light cavalry man had a long cavalry spear and next to him hung a quiver for arrows. The horseman was able to fire 20 arrows per minute at full gallop, according to historical sources.

Remember that the decorative shackles of the Avaric warrior's belt and the harness of his horse were very important symbols of his position within the community.



The infantryman had a quiver and a shield (on the left) and a bow for arrows (on the right): from one belt a sword and a dagger hung, which could also be decorated with shackles.  
Our infantry man had two belts.



# Stories told through images

Archaeologists call these objects ceramic stove tiles. They are named after the material they were made from, but also after their purpose. Stove tiles were part of the stoves used to heat rooms during the Middle Ages. Can you imagine a stove like this? The stoves were lined with ceramic tiles that served to retain heat and heat the space for a long time. They were often real works of art, and the motifs on them reflect the spirit of the time in which they were created. On the medieval fortified town called Vrbovec, a multitude of stove tiles created in the 15th century with various visual representations were found.



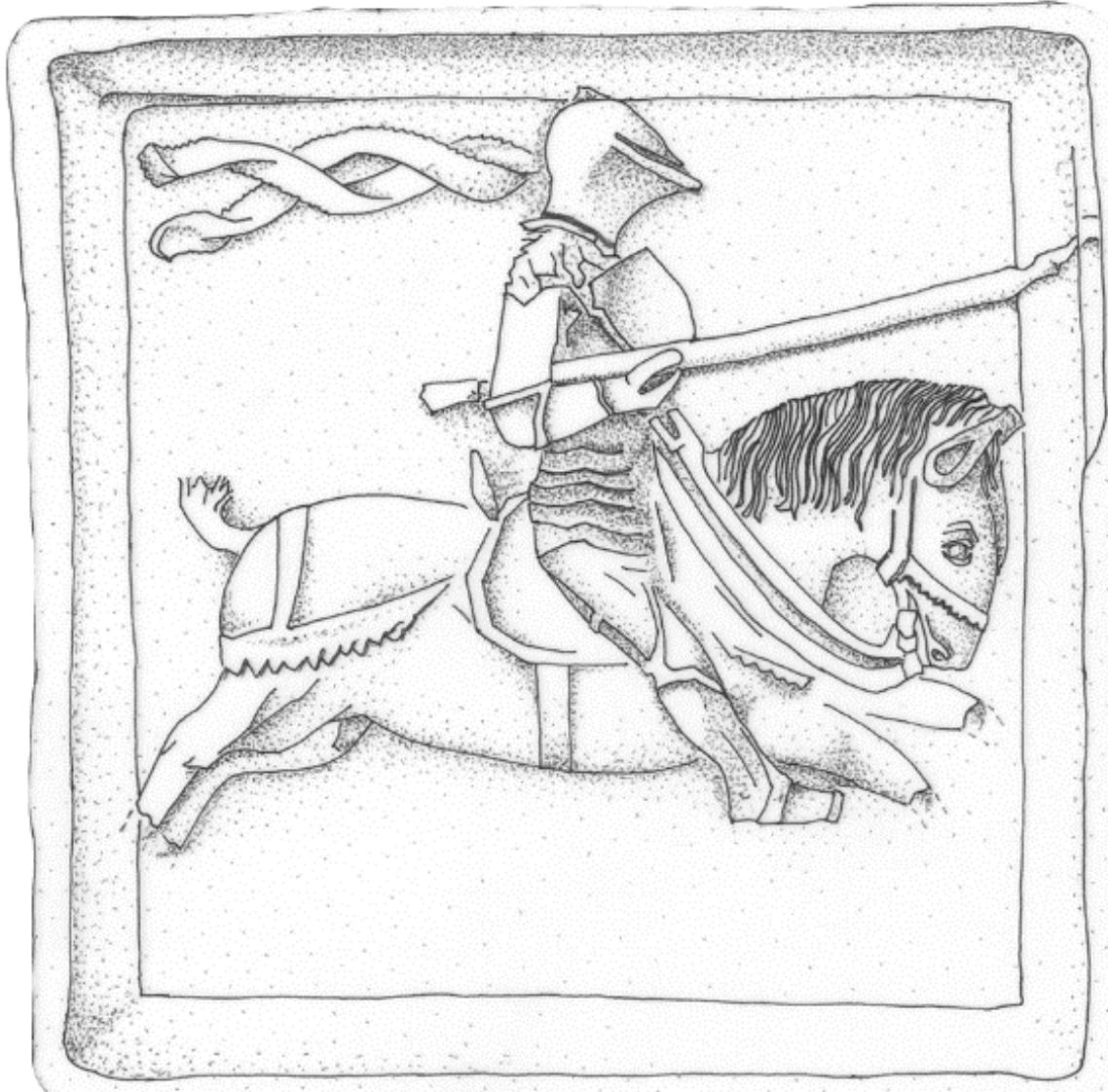
Find out what is shown on the stove tile, color and complete the missing parts, imagine and tell the story!



What kind of story do you think this stove tile is telling us? Who is the girl and who is the young man? Where are they located? What are they doing?

In the Early Middle Ages there were knights. Not anyone could be a knight. They served the king or a more powerful feudal lord, and as a rule they were wealthier members of society who could take care of their own horse and procure expensive military equipment. Any wealthier man could become a knight but in time the circle of knights closed up and remained reserved only for the nobility. In the late medieval society, chivalry played an important role in spiritual and cultural life. Because of the influence of the Church and Christian values, chivalry was bound by a code of honor. Knights were not allowed to attack the weak and unarmed, they were obliged to protect the helpless, help the poor, punish injustice, and treat the socially inferior with dignity. Courtesy was especially appreciated, that is, respect for court maidens, to whom they often sang and played songs, and they also proved themselves in tournaments.

This stove tile depicts a knight on a running horse participating in a tournament.



Color the  
knight!

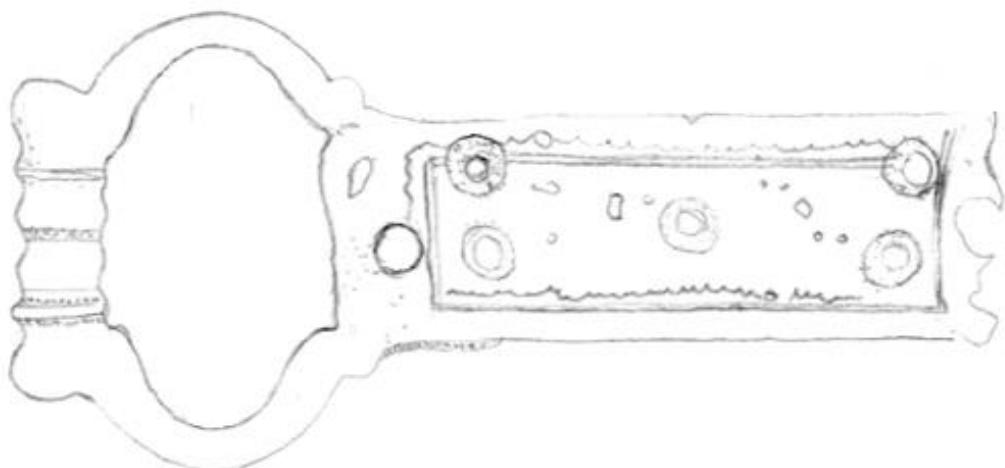
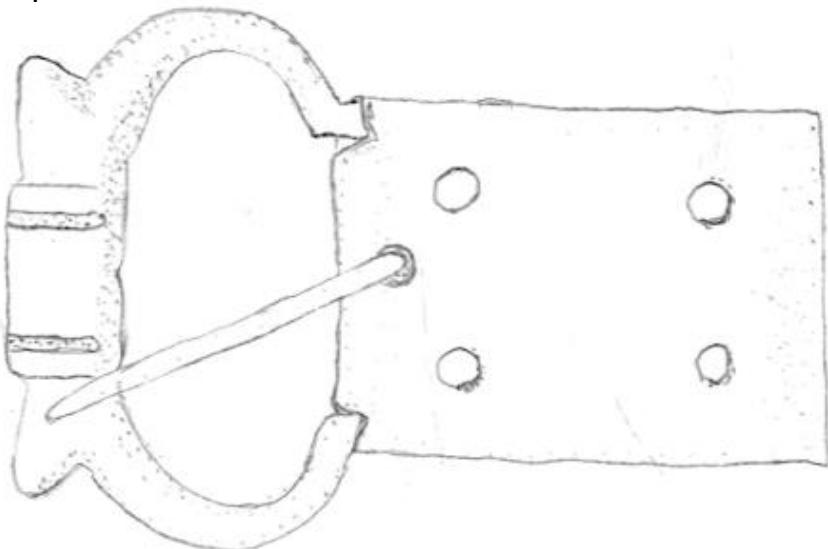


# Fashion in the Middle Ages

As today, in the Middle Ages clothes sometimes had to be belted. Often the belt buckles were made of metal (in this case, copper alloy) and were attached to a leather or textile belt. These belt buckles were found at the site of Gora and were used by someone during the 13th and / or 14th century. At that time, the Knights Templar lived at the site of Gora, and later also the Knights Hospitaller.



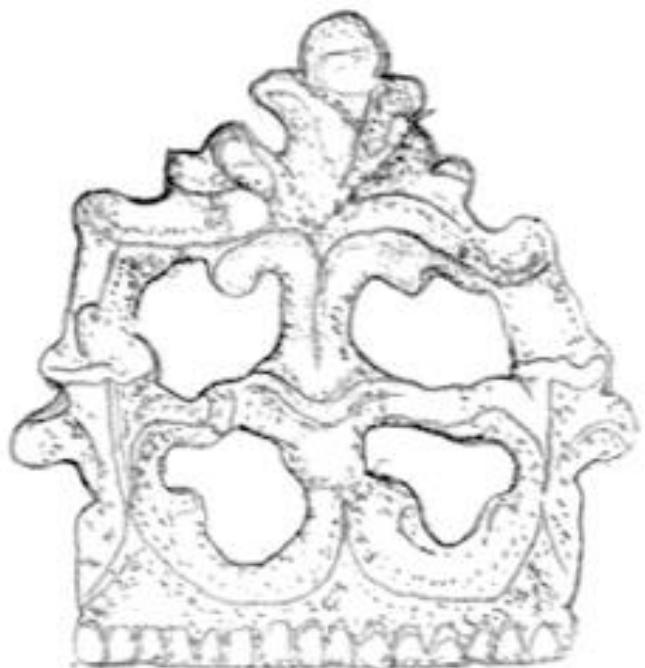
Decorate these special items with your ideas!





Two almost identical objects that give archaeologists a lot of trouble are in front of you. Our assumption is that they are a decorative but also a functional items that were part of the clothing. We think that decorative items could be, for example, belt tongues, that is, objects that were on top of the belt, or perhaps attached to clothing as buttons or something similar. What do you think they could have been used for? The overall shape is crown-like with depicted lilies. They are made of precious gilded silver.

Color the objects and help the archaeologists shed light on this mystery!





# Unique rings

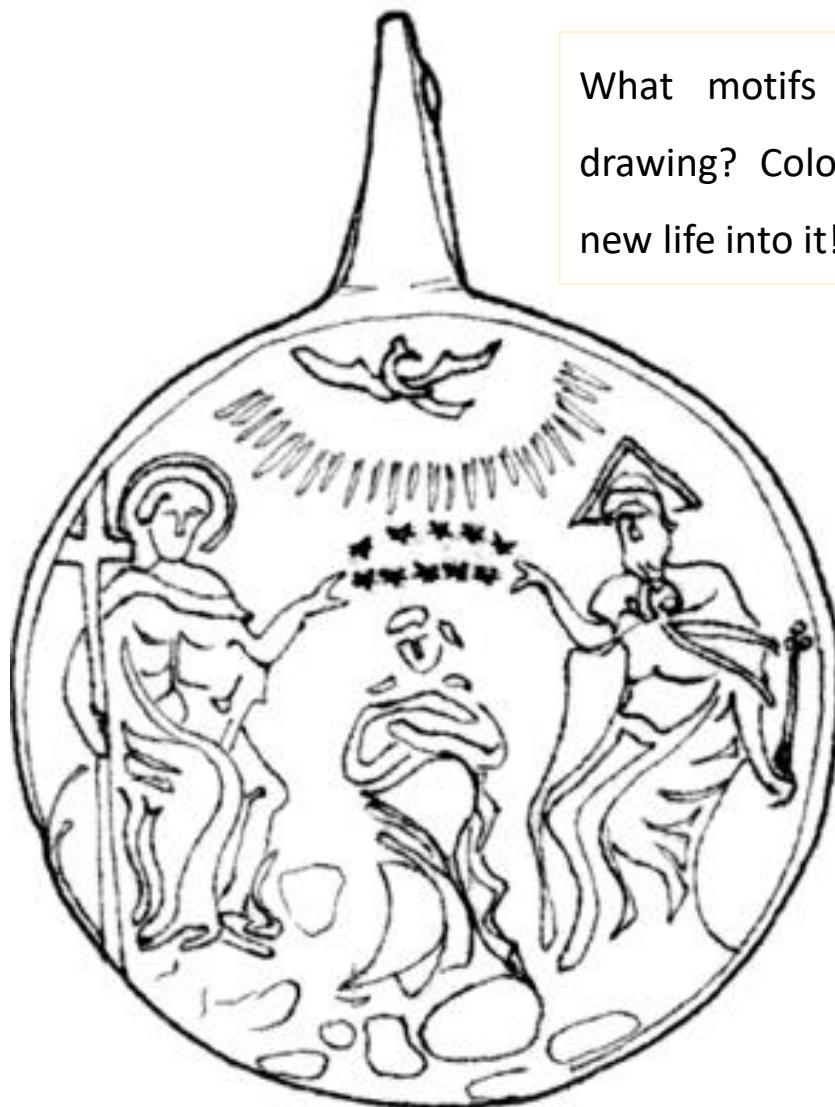
Two beautiful silver seal rings that were found at the site of Gora are in front of you. As the name suggests, they are not ordinary rings, but a kind of identity cards or fingerprints of wealthier members of the late medieval society. By pressing the ring into the melted wax and drying it, the owner of the ring actually signed various documents, which were often compiled by special scribes. Due to their signature role, there are almost no two identical copies of the ring. The seal was decorated, and on these two rings, lily flower is depicted. On one ring around the lily flows text, most likely the name of the owner, and at the top, there is a cross. Can you recognize these motives?

Color the seal rings and help the archaeologists discover their owners! Who do you think the ring owners were? What could have been their name?



# Sacred medals

The inhabitants of the Catholic parts of Europe were extremely pious in the early modern period, and they often expressed their faith by wearing religious medals either as a pendant around their necks or as part of a rosary. The main purpose of such objects was to strengthen the faith in God, who would, it was believed, help the man in trouble through the medal. They were worn as protection from various diseases and other troubles. The medals usually contained depictions of Jesus, Mary, saints and events described in the Bible. This medal shows The Coronation of Mary. The medal is made of cast bronze, and most likely it is from the 17th century. It belonged to a devout resident of Torčec in Podravina, where it was found.



What motifs do you recognize in the drawing? Color the medal and breathe a new life into it!



## **Illustrations:**

starline / Freepik (*Front page, Warriors from the East, Playful potters*)

Mario Kolarić (*From thread to textile*)

## **Drawings and photographs taken from:**

Tkalčec, T. 2010, *Burg Vrbovec u Klenovcu Humskome: Deset sezona arheoloških istraživanja*, Muzeji Hrvatskog Zagorja – Institut za arheologiju, Zagreb. (*Stories told through images*)

Ožanić, I. 1998, Gradina Osječenica – antičko razdoblje, *Opuscula archaeologica*, Vol. 22, 27–80. (*Playful potters*)

Kudelić, A., Karavidović, T., Ceković, M. 2019, Brončano doba Turopolja – život na vodi, katalog izložbe, Muzej Turopolja, Velika Gorica. (*From thread to textile*)

## **Other drawings and photographs:**

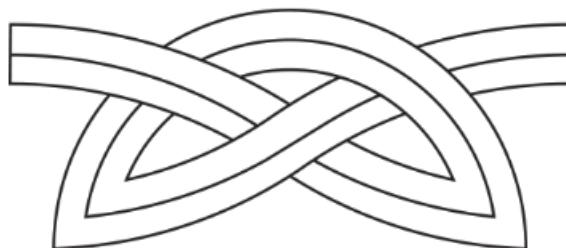
Archive of the Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia

Marina Korić (*Legionary obligations - brick*)

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