

Personalise your Object

Step 1.

It's time to add **your** identity to your object. Physically mark it as yours. Grab some stickers, labels, ribbons and more, and decorate your object however you want. Make it your own!

Step 2.

While you decorate, pick a narrator. They will read aloud for you. If there is a storyteller around this is a perfect task for them! But make sure to share this responsibility. It's a big one.

Step 3.

Now you are ready to discover how the people of Neolithic Çatalhöyük lived and worked. Archaeologists believe that Neolithic Çatalhöyük was an egalitarian (pronounced ee-gal-ee-terry-in) society. But what does that mean?

Step 4.

Together choose which of the following you think is an egalitarian community. When you are done decorating, head to House One to discover the answer.

- A. A society that is entirely communal and shares everything.
- B. Everyone would live together and get along perfectly.
- C. A community where everyone has equal access to resources like food and shelter.
- D. Isn't that a thing where people only eat eagles?

House One

Step 1.

What is an egalitarian society? The answer was C! In egalitarian societies everyone has equal access to food and other resources.

Step 2.

You have now found yourselves at the centre of life here at Çatalhöyük, the household. Look around... As residents of Çatalhöyük, you would be very familiar with this type of house and the things inside. But, unlike today, ownership of these things took on a different meaning.

Step 3.

Working together was important to the society of Çatalhöyük. If you ran out of resources, there was a whole town of others around you to help. Each household had their own personal tools and food, which could be shared in times of need. Can you find the food storage in this house?

Hint: it looks a little like this.



Step 4.

In order to survive in a society like this, you must be willing to share what is yours to help others in your community. It's your turn to try! You and your companions must now swap objects with one another. Make sure that everyone gets a new item. After all, in this town, what's mine is yours.

Ready to move on? Time to head to House Two!



House Two

Step 1.

Let's keep exploring what society was like. Fair warning - there's more to it than sharing only with your family and friends!

This house has been decorated with lots of wall paintings. Can you find this one? Be careful this image is only a small piece of a larger picture!



Step 2.

You will see that art in homes across the town was similar without being exactly the same. In this town, people shared artwork, decoration, food and supplies between houses. These shared links helped keep people close and comfortable with one another.

Step 3.

Let's try creating these links now. Give one of your objects to the community. Together discuss which one of your items you will leave behind. Why did you choose to leave that one behind?

Step 4.

Now choose an item from the community pile to take with you on your journey. Check with your teacher if you can't spot the items to choose from. How did it feel to leave something behind?

When you are done, let's move on to House Three.



House Three

Step 1.

Welcome to House Three. Look around. Do you see the platform on the floor in this home? This is a burial. It is also a bed.



People from Çatalhöyük buried the dead underneath the floor, then closed the grave and slept on top of the platform. In this way, life and death were shared.

Step 2.

Don't look so sad! Death and burial here may mean something different to what you expect today. There is lots of evidence of bones being taken out of burials under the floors and moved between homes. It seems this society was very comfortable with people, both living and dead.

Step 3.

People also shared items with the dead, creating connections across time and space. So you and your companions are asked to give two of your objects to the grave. If there are only two of you, please give only one. Think carefully. Placing an offering with a grave is not done lightly in this town. Why choose these objects?

Step 4.

People took items and bones from graves to share between households. You are responsible for carrying on this tradition. The people in your group who shared their objects must now choose different objects to take with them. Let them decide what to select, then pick the two items up to carry with you on your journey.

Get ready to explore these connections one last time.
Head to House Four.

House Four

Step 1.

Here you will experience one last challenge of living in a society with shared rights over objects. Look around.

Step 2.

Here's where it may become difficult. To be successful in Çatalhöyük, you need to be able to give to others without expecting anything in return.

- If you are working in a group of three or more then two of you must leave your objects behind.
- If you are working in a group of two, one of you must leave your object here.

Between yourselves, choose what you wish to leave behind. What will you offer to society? Choose wisely!

Step 3.

After you've put your objects down, your group must choose either to keep your remaining object, or exchange it for another.

Step 4.

In this experience you have been asked to trade, exchange, give away, and leave behind objects which may or may not have been important to you.

How would this have been different if the object you were asked to give away was your phone? Or your favourite possession?

This is a community which lived in an egalitarian way, with little or no difference in power, wealth, or social class. People were linked in life and death, sharing their food, art, bones, and even their children.

Your experience doesn't end here.
Follow your teacher's directions to continue your journey.