

# ? Who were the first people to live in the area?



Teacher's Pet



Historic England

## The Dagenham Idol

In 1922, the Dagenham Idol was found in marshland on the north bank of the River Thames, south of Ripple Road in Dagenham. The ground was being dug to lay sewer pipes when it was discovered near the skeleton of a deer. It was around 3 metres below the surface.

Historians cannot be certain what it was used for but some believe that it was a fertility symbol buried with the deer in the hope that it would bring successful and healthy food crops.



The Dagenham Idol has one damaged eye which leads some people to believe that it is in some way linked to the Norse god, Odin, who was one-eyed.



The statue is a similar age to the stone circle at Stonehenge.



The statue was carbon dated and found to date back to 2250 BC. This is sometime between the end of the Neolithic and start of the Bronze Age.



The statue is made of a wood, called Scots pine, and is 46 cm tall. It had been preserved by the peaty mud for over 4,000 years.

The Dagenham Idol was, at first, housed in the Colchester Castle Museum but has been on loan to the Valence House Museum since 2010.

This artefact is one of the oldest human representations ever found in Europe.



**Barking and Dagenham**

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# Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.

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Historic England



Teacher's Pet

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## Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

## Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.