

## Iron Age Mirrors

One of the most amazing types of artefacts we find in the British Iron Age are mirrors made from iron or bronze. Have a look at the 3D printed mirror to see a small version of a real Iron Age mirror!



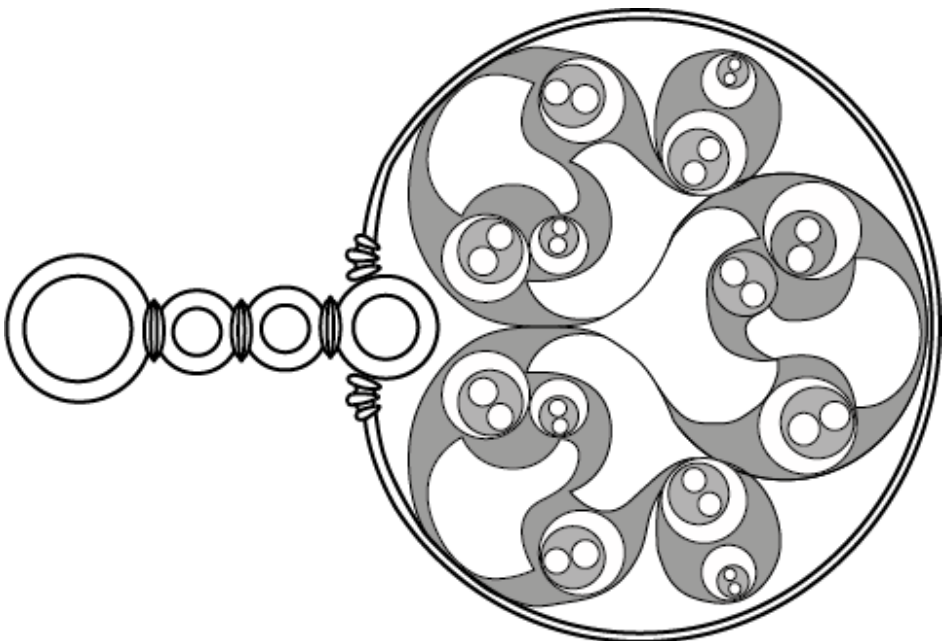
### Iron Age Mirror fact file

- Iron Age mirrors have amazing decoration on them, called 'La Tène' artwork.
- The decorations are complicated, flowing designs, which experts think are inspired by things in the natural world, such as plants, animals and leaves, even birds' beaks and owls' faces!
- Some experts think these decorations may have almost been 'hypnotic', and seen as magical in the Iron Age.
- The mirrors would not have worked as well as mirrors you might have today. They would have given a dark, blurry and warped reflection – archaeologists think Iron Age people might have used these mirrors to try and see into the future, or into shadowy or scary parts of their world or the afterlife.

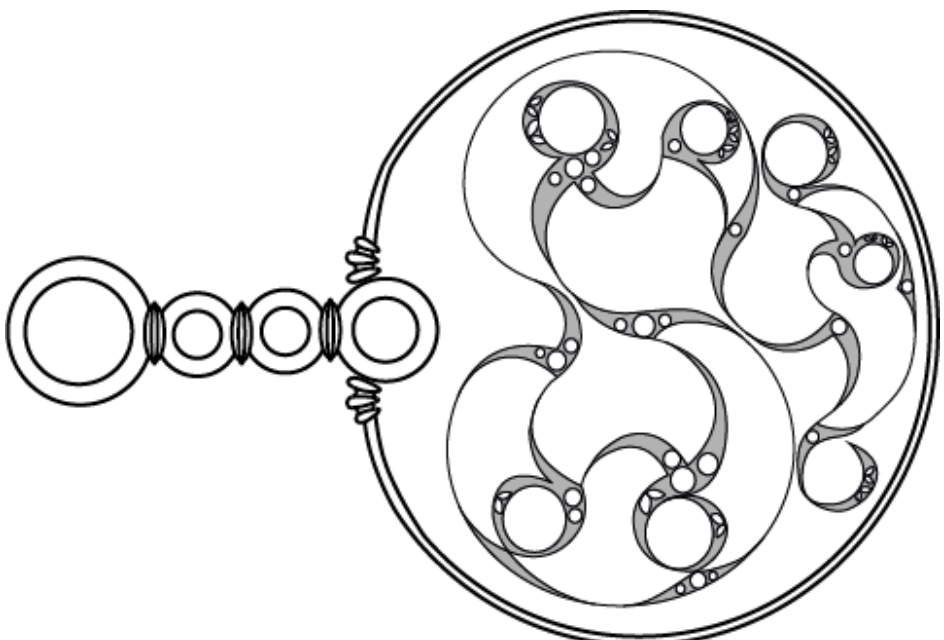
### Activity

Use the blank mirror outlines to design your own decorations

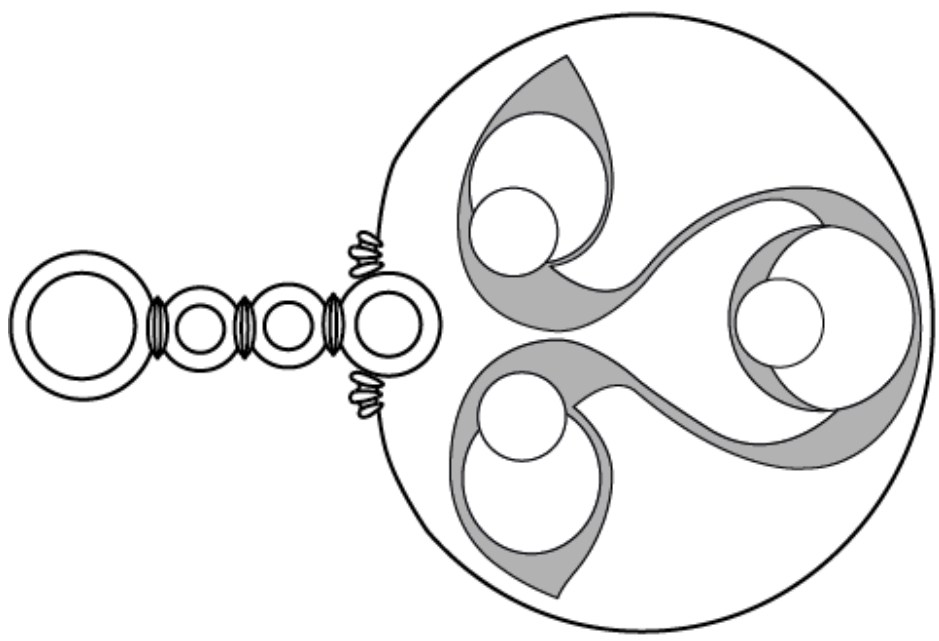
1. Study the Portesham, Aston and Oxfordshire Iron Age mirrors to get inspiration for your design – think about using lots of flowing lines, circles and curves.
2. Think about using things from the natural world in your design-notice in the examples that the Aston mirror looks like a face (look at it upside down), and the Oxfordshire mirror has tiny leaves in the design.
3. Once you have finished, do you think your design would make your mirror powerful or magical? What would it be used for, and who would get to use it?



The Portesham Mirror



The Oxfordshire Mirror



The Aston Mirror