

Question 2

Archaeology students at University College Dublin (UCD) built a medieval round house based on an 8th century house uncovered during excavations in Co. Antrim. Look at the sources below and answer the questions which follow.

Source 1: Photographs of the UCD medieval round house.



Source 2: Information about the UCD medieval round house.

- The house required 250 vertical hazel posts, 1,600 horizontal hazel rods, 4 oak timbers for the doorway, 4 oak planks for the door, 1.5 tonnes of heather for the roof, and lots of grass, moss, bracken and weeds to line the walls.
- If the outside temperature was 8°, the inside temperature could be 18-21°, but the temperature dropped fast if the fire went out. Smoke drifted out through the roof. Carbon sensors recorded smoke pollution inside the house as quite low but the house stank.
- The house was alive with beetles, spiders, woodlice, birds and even a pygmy shrew. Archaeological evidence from Co. Antrim indicates that the beds would have been warm and dry but full of lice.

(a) Which of the following years are in the 8th century? Tick (✓) **one** of the following.

700s AD

800s AD

900s AD

(b) If you were an archaeology student, what would you learn from the experience of building and using the round house? Use evidence from the sources to support your answer.

(c) What are **three** differences between a medieval round house and a typical house or apartment in Ireland today? Refer to the sources in your answer.

1.
2.
3.

(d) Explain the aspects of medieval life which lowered average life expectancy during medieval times.
