

Life in the Stone Age with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the lifestyle and survival methods of early humans during the Stone Age.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Think about how the evidence Ellie finds helps us learn about history.

Ellie the Elephant loves visiting historical sites to uncover the secrets of the past. During the Stone Age, which lasted for thousands of years, humans lived very differently from how we do today. At first, people were nomadic, meaning they moved from place to place to follow herds of animals and find seasonal plants. They were expert hunters and gatherers, using tools made from sharpened flint to cut meat and scrape animal hides for clothing to stay warm.

As time moved into the Neolithic period, life began to change. People stopped wandering and started to build permanent settlements. They discovered how to farm the land, growing crops like wheat and barley, and keeping animals such as sheep and cattle. Ellie finds these changes fascinating because they show how humans became cleverer at controlling their environment. By digging up ancient artefacts like stone axes and clay pots, archaeologists can piece together the story of these early ancestors. Even without modern machines, Stone Age people were incredibly resourceful, using the natural world to survive, build, and create their own communities.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Neolithic · Nomadic · Settlement · Flint · Artefacts

1. What does the word 'nomadic' mean, and why did early humans choose to live this way? (2 marks)

2. Name two items that early humans made from flint or clay, according to the text. (2 marks)

3. Why was the discovery of farming a significant turning point for Stone Age people? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why do you think archaeologists like to find old tools and pots? (2 marks)

5. Do you think life would have been harder in the Palaeolithic or the Neolithic period? Give a reason for your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Neolithic settlement. Include a small farm with crops, a stone-built house, and a person using a tool made of flint.



Extension challenge: Research what 'Skara Brae' is. Write three sentences explaining why this site is important to our understanding of the Stone Age.