Ellie’s Stone Age Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and categorise tools, lifestyles, and food sources from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.

Ellie the Elephant has been digging through the archives! She has found a collection of items and descriptions from the Stone Age. Look at the list provided and sort each one into the correct period: Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), or Neolithic (New Stone Age). Write the item in the correct column of the table below.

Word bank: Nomadic hunter-gatherers · First permanent farming settlements · Hand axes made of flint · Domestication of animals like sheep · Using dugout canoes to fish · Cave paintings · Polished stone tools · Living in temporary tents or shelters

1. Draw a table with three columns labelled 'Palaeolithic', 'Mesolithic', and 'Neolithic'. Place the items from the word bank into the correct period based on how Stone Age people lived. (6 marks)

2. Why did the lives of humans change so much when they moved from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic period? (2 marks)

3. If you were living in the Palaeolithic period, would you be able to buy bread from a shop? Explain why using the term 'hunter-gatherer'. (2 marks)

4. Which period do you think was the most important for human history and why? (2 marks)

5. Ellie found a flint arrowhead. Why were flint tools so important for survival before metal was discovered? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Neolithic farm. Include a small group of timber houses, a fenced area for sheep, and a field of wheat crops to show how life changed from the hunter-gatherer days.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Stone Age explorer. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing your day, including at least one tool you used and one type of food you gathered.