Stone Age Survivor: The Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To sequence key developments across the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods and understand how human life changed.

Ellie the Elephant has been digging through history! She has found several important milestones from the Stone Age, but they are all jumbled up. Using the word bank to help you, place the events in the correct chronological order from earliest (1) to latest (6) to show how humans evolved from nomadic hunter-gatherers to settled farmers.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherers · Agriculture · Permanent settlements · Cave paintings · Stone tools

1. 1. Humans live as nomadic hunter-gatherers and create the first simple stone tools. (1 mark)

2. 2. Early humans begin to create intricate cave paintings to record their experiences. (1 mark)

3. 3. The climate warms up, and humans begin to fish and use microliths (tiny sharp stones). (1 mark)

4. 4. Humans begin to domesticate animals and grow their own crops (the start of farming). (1 mark)

5. 5. People build the first permanent settlements and stone houses. (1 mark)

6. 6. Advanced stone technology leads to the end of the Stone Age and the dawn of the Bronze Age. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a 'Then and Now' scene: On the left, draw a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer looking for berries. On the right, draw a Neolithic farmer standing next to their circular stone house and a patch of wheat.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) from the perspective of someone living in the Neolithic period, explaining why moving from hunting to farming changed your family's life.