

Uncovering the Stone Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the chronology and daily life of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods in Britain.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Stone Age to provide detailed answers. Ellie the elephant is ready to help you remember the key facts!

Ellie the elephant has spent years studying the history of the Stone Age. She knows that this vast period is divided into three distinct stages based on how humans lived, what tools they used, and how they found their food. From the early nomadic tribes to the first farmers, the Stone Age shaped the landscape of Britain forever.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Settlement · Flint · Chronology

1. Identify the three main periods of the Stone Age. Which of these periods saw the introduction of farming and permanent settlements? (2 marks)

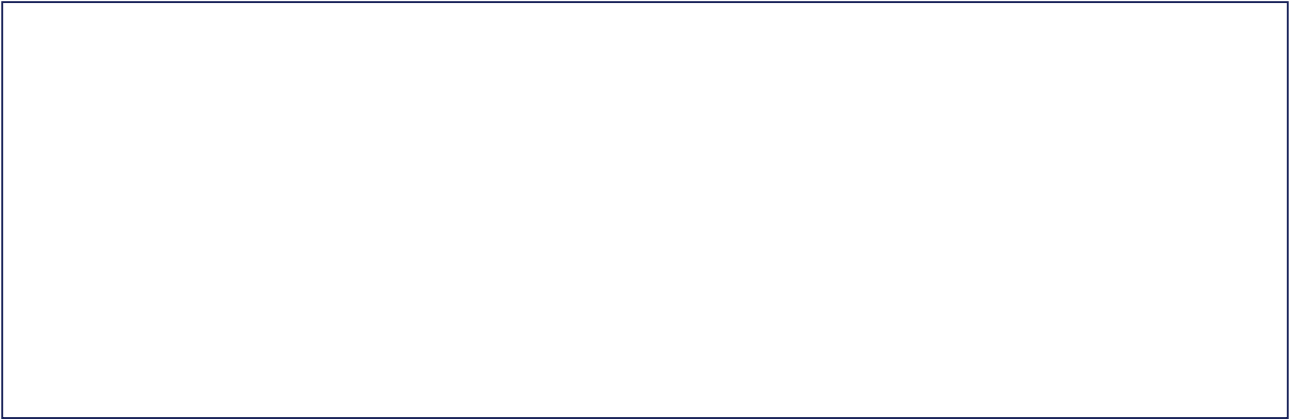
2. Explain why people in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods were described as 'hunter-gatherers'. How did their diet change when they reached the Neolithic period? (2 marks)

3. Why was flint such an important material during the Stone Age? Give two examples of how early humans might have used it. (2 marks)

4. If a Neolithic farmer wanted to trade their surplus grain for a polished stone axe, why might they find it easier to do this in a permanent settlement rather than as a nomadic hunter? (2 marks)

5. Imagine you found an ancient artefact. Explain one way a historian like Ellie might determine if it belongs to the early Stone Age or the late Stone Age. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene comparing a nomadic hunter-gatherer's temporary shelter and a Neolithic farmer's permanent roundhouse. Label the key differences you have included.



Extension challenge: Research the monument at Skara Brae. Write a short paragraph explaining what this site tells us about how people lived during the Neolithic period.