

Class 4 Social Studies / History Assessment: Life in the Stone Age

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods, including changes in lifestyle, tools, and settlement.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed and accurate answers. Ellie the Elephant says: 'Take your time to recall the facts about how our ancestors lived!'

The Stone Age is divided into three distinct periods: the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), and the Neolithic (New Stone Age). During the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods, humans were nomadic, travelling in small groups to hunt animals and gather wild plants. As the climate warmed and technology advanced, the Neolithic period brought about the 'Agricultural Revolution', where humans began to farm the land, keep animals, and build permanent homes in villages.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Settlement · Agriculture · Flint · Skara Brae · Nomadic · Domesticated

1. Name the three periods that make up the Stone Age. (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. Explain the difference between a 'nomadic' lifestyle and living in a 'permanent settlement'. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Identify one material Stone Age people used to create tools and explain why it was suitable for this purpose. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Describe two major changes that occurred during the Neolithic period that transformed how people lived compared to the Palaeolithic period. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Compare the diet of a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer with a Neolithic farmer. What were the main differences and why did these changes happen? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Justify why archaeologists consider the discovery of Skara Brae to be so important for our understanding of Neolithic life. (3 marks) (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are a villager in the Neolithic period. Write a diary entry (approx. 100 words) describing your daily tasks, your home, and how your life is different from your ancestors who lived in the Palaeolithic era. (5 marks) (5 marks)

8. What might happen to a Stone Age tribe if their main food source suddenly migrated or died out? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing a Stone Age tool. Include labels explaining which material was used and what specific job the tool helped the person complete.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Consider this: If you could invent one tool to make life easier for a Neolithic farmer, what would it be and how would it change their daily routine? Provide a detailed justification for your invention.