

Ellie's Stone Age Explorer Journal

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key changes in human life from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic period.

Imagine you are an explorer travelling back in time with Ellie the elephant to study the Stone Age. Use your historical knowledge to complete this journal entry. Ensure you use specific terminology to explain how daily life changed as humans moved from hunting and gathering to early farming.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Settlement · Agriculture · Flint · Domestication · Nomadic

1. The Palaeolithic Way of Life: Describe the lifestyle of early humans during the Palaeolithic period. Why were they considered nomadic? (3 marks)

2. Tools and Technology: Explain how flint was used as a tool and why it was essential for survival during this era. (2 marks)

3. The Neolithic Revolution: Compare and contrast how humans obtained food in the Palaeolithic period versus the Neolithic period. Justify why this change was significant. (4 marks)

4. Settlement Patterns: Explain why the shift to agriculture allowed humans to build permanent settlements rather than living in temporary shelters. (3 marks)

5. Critical Thinking: What might happen to a community's daily routine if they stopped moving and started farming? Consider the impact on jobs and social structure. (4 marks)

6. Historical Evaluation: If you were an archaeologist finding a site today, what evidence would prove to you that the site was from the Neolithic period rather than the Palaeolithic? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Stone Age Invention' advertisement. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why a new tool (such as a polished stone axe or a woven basket) would make life easier for a Neolithic farmer compared to a Palaeolithic hunter.