Life in the Stone Age with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the lifestyle and survival methods of hunter-gatherers during the Stone Age.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences where appropriate.

Ellie the Elephant, our history expert, has been travelling back in time to explore the Stone Age. This period was split into three parts: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic eras. During the early Stone Age, humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers. They did not stay in one place but moved constantly to follow herds of animals like deer and wild horses. They used sharpened flint stones to create tools for scraping animal hides and cutting meat. Life changed significantly during the Neolithic period when people began to settle down. Instead of just hunting, they started to farm the land, growing crops like wheat and barley, and domesticating animals such as sheep and goats. These early farmers built permanent shelters, often using wood, mud, and straw. By working together, they transformed the landscape, creating the first village communities. Ellie loves studying this era because it shows how clever humans were at adapting to their environment, using only the natural resources they found around them to survive and thrive.

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

1. Identify two types of animals that early Neolithic farmers began to domesticate. (2 marks)

2. What material did early humans use to create their tools? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think early humans had to be nomadic during the Palaeolithic period? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, how did the transition to farming change the way humans lived? (2 marks)

5. Do you think life was easier for a hunter-gatherer or a Neolithic farmer? Explain your choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Neolithic village with simple huts, a small vegetable patch, and some domestic animals.

Extension challenge: Research one piece of technology invented during the Stone Age, such as the hand axe or the wheel, and write three sentences about how it helped people survive.