

Stone Age Investigators: History Flashcards

Learning objective: To identify key periods and lifestyle characteristics of the Stone Age, including the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic eras.

Read the front of each card to test your historical knowledge. Use the 'Answer' section to check your understanding of the Stone Age.

Palaeolithic Period

The earliest part of the Stone Age, known as the 'Old Stone Age', where humans lived as nomads and used basic stone tools.

Mesolithic Period

The 'Middle Stone Age', a time when the climate warmed and humans developed smaller, more refined tools to hunt and fish.

Neolithic Period

The 'New Stone Age', marked by the shift from hunting and gathering to farming, living in permanent settlements, and building monuments.

Hunter-Gatherer

A human who obtains food by hunting wild animals and foraging for plants, nuts, and berries rather than farming.

Nomadic

A way of life where people do not have a permanent home but move from place to place in search of food and resources.

Flint

A very hard, grey stone that Stone Age people used to create sharp tools and weapons by striking it against other rocks.

Agriculture

The practice of farming, including growing crops and domesticating animals, which began during the Neolithic period.

Skara Brae

A remarkably well-preserved Neolithic village found in Scotland, providing historians with evidence of how people lived in stone houses.

Monument

A large structure or building, such as Stonehenge, created to mark an important place, event, or religious belief.

Why was the discovery of fire revolutionary for Stone Age humans?

Fire provided warmth, protection from predators, a way to cook food to make it easier to digest, and light during the night.

What does the term 'domesticate' mean in the context of the Neolithic Revolution?

It means to tame wild animals or plants so that they can be kept and used by humans for food, labour, or companionship.

Explain why the transition to farming allowed villages to grow.

Farming meant people did not need to move constantly for food. A steady food supply allowed them to build permanent homes and develop specialised skills.