

Stone Age Survival: The Great Migration Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and categorize the key features of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods of the Stone Age.

Ellie the elephant has found three ancient settlement sites. Use the word bank to help her sort the tools, homes, and lifestyles into the correct Stone Age period. For each category, justify why you think that development happened at that specific time.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Nomadic hunter-gatherers · Polished stone axes · Permanent settlements · Cave paintings · Farming and agriculture · Microliths (small stone blades) · Domesticated animals

1. Sort the items from the word bank into the three time periods. Explain why humans transitioned from 'Nomadic hunter-gatherers' to 'Permanent settlements' during the Neolithic period. (4 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the tools of the Palaeolithic era with the tools of the Neolithic era. What might have prompted the change in stone-working techniques? (3 marks)

3. Justify why 'Cave paintings' are considered a primary source of evidence for historians studying the Palaeolithic period. (2 marks)

4. If a Mesolithic person discovered a Neolithic farm, what might they find most confusing or surprising about this new way of life? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. How did the invention of agriculture change the daily workload of a Stone Age family? Consider the difference between searching for food and growing it. (2 marks)

6. Predict what might happen to a community's society if they stopped moving and stayed in one location for their entire lives. List two potential benefits and two potential risks. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen image. On the left side, show a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer group in a temporary shelter. On the right side, show a Neolithic farmer tending to crops and livestock near a permanent stone house. Label the key differences in their tools and environment.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just unearthed a 'mystery object' from the Stone Age. Write a detailed journal entry describing what the object looks like, what material it is made of, and your theory on how it was used to help a Stone Age person survive.