

Life in the Stone Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the lifestyle, tools, and daily survival of humans during the Stone Age.

Read the passage carefully. Use your best handwriting and full sentences to answer the questions below. Think like a historian!

Ellie the elephant loves exploring the history of our ancestors. During the Palaeolithic era, humans were nomadic, meaning they travelled constantly to follow herds of animals and find seasonal fruits. Life was physically demanding and relied on the environment for survival. These early people crafted ingenious tools from flint, a hard rock that could be chipped to create a sharp edge for cutting or hunting.

As time progressed into the Neolithic period, a major transformation occurred. Humans began to settle in one place, creating the first farming communities. They discovered that they could domesticate animals and grow crops like wheat and barley. This change meant they no longer needed to roam. They built sturdy shelters and developed pottery to store their food. Archaeological evidence, such as ancient stone tools and remnants of hearths, helps us piece together this fascinating story. By studying these remains, we can understand how our ancestors transitioned from wandering hunters to early farmers, laying the foundations for the civilisations that followed.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Neolithic · nomadic · flint · settlement · archaeologist · excavation

1. Identify two materials or food sources mentioned that Palaeolithic people relied on for survival. (2 marks)

2. What does the word 'nomadic' mean according to the text? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the invention of pottery might have been important for people who had stopped moving from place to place. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a Palaeolithic person with a Neolithic farmer. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. Justify why archaeological evidence is essential for historians trying to learn about people who lived thousands of years ago. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration showing a nomadic hunter from the Palaeolithic era on the left and a Neolithic farmer tending to their crops on the right.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a mysterious stone tool. Write a diary entry explaining what you think the tool was used for and why. What might happen if we discovered that Neolithic people had traded with other distant settlements? Explain your theory.