

Stone Age Survival: The Great Migration Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the changes in human lifestyle from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic period and justify the reasons for early settlement.

Ellie the elephant has been studying ancient human history and needs your help! Sort the following historical developments into the correct era: Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) or Neolithic (New Stone Age). Once you have sorted them, use your historical knowledge to answer the deeper thinking questions below.

Word bank: Nomadic hunter-gatherers · Permanent settlements · Domestication of animals · Cave paintings · Farming and agriculture · Stone tools · Polished stone axes · Migration

1. Identify which two items from the word bank belong to the Palaeolithic period and explain why these habits were necessary for survival at that time. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a Neolithic farmer with a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer. How did the discovery of farming change the way people lived? (3 marks)

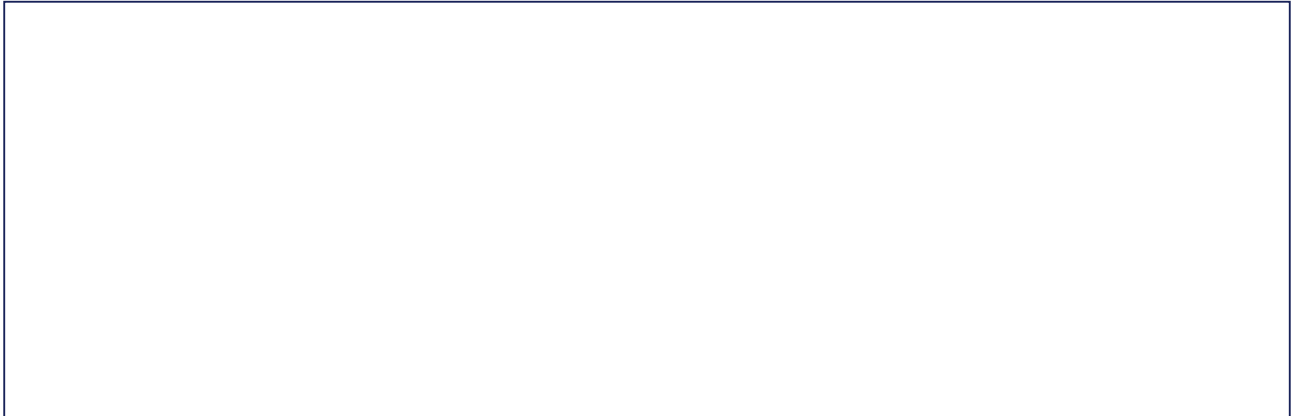
3. Justify why early humans moved from living in temporary shelters to permanent settlements during the Neolithic period. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if humans had never transitioned to farming? Predict the impact on the development of modern towns and cities. (2 marks)

5. If you were an archaeologist discovering a new site, what specific evidence would you look for to determine if it was a Neolithic village rather than a temporary Palaeolithic camp? (2 marks)

6. Explain why the invention of polished stone axes was a turning point for Neolithic communities compared to the earlier chipped stone tools. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left, draw a Palaeolithic scene with nomadic people following a herd of animals. On the right, draw a Neolithic scene with a small village, a fenced animal pen, and a field of crops.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an early human living through the transition from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic era. Write a diary entry (approx. 150 words) describing the day your tribe decided to stop moving and start building a permanent home. Describe the emotions, the challenges of farming, and the tools you are using.