

Stone Age Investigators: From Palaeolithic to Neolithic

Learning objective: To understand the chronological changes in human lifestyle from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic periods, including the transition from hunter-gatherer societies to early farming.

Use your historical knowledge to answer the questions below. Think carefully about how environments shaped human survival and the innovations that defined these eras.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the deep layers of history! She has discovered that early humans in the Palaeolithic era lived very differently from those in the Neolithic era. Think about the move from moving with the seasons to building permanent homes. Consider how the invention of new tools changed how people ate, lived, and interacted with the landscape.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Settlement · Agriculture · Domestication · Flint · Chronology

1. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer with a Neolithic farmer. What was the most significant change in how they obtained their food? (3 marks)

2. Explain why the invention of polished stone tools was a major 'technological' breakthrough for Neolithic people compared to the earlier, rougher flint tools. (2 marks)

3. What might happen to a settlement's population size if they moved from a nomadic lifestyle to a permanent farming community? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. Identify two reasons why early humans chose to settle near rivers during the Neolithic period. (2 marks)

5. If you were living in the Stone Age, why would 'domestication' of animals be more beneficial than simply hunting them? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'before and after' split-screen image. On the left, sketch a Palaeolithic camp with temporary shelters. On the right, sketch a Neolithic settlement with permanent houses and a small farm plot.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just unearthed a stone object. Write a short diary entry (100 words) from the perspective of a Neolithic person explaining why this object is vital to your village's survival. Use sophisticated vocabulary such as 'ingenuity', 'sustenance', and 'resilience'.