Ellie’s Stone Age Sorting Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the differences between the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods of the Stone Age.

Ellie the Elephant has been digging through history! She has found several items and facts from the Stone Age. Sort the items below into the correct time period: Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), or Neolithic (New Stone Age). Write the item in the correct column.

Word bank: Nomadic hunters · First permanent settlements · Farming begins · Stone tools used for hunting · Bows and arrows invented · Polished stone axes · Cave paintings

1. Sort the following: Nomadic hunters, First permanent settlements, Farming begins, Stone tools used for hunting, Bows and arrows invented, Polished stone axes, Cave paintings. Create three columns titled 'Palaeolithic', 'Mesolithic', and 'Neolithic' and place each item in the correct one. (7 marks)

2. Why did people in the Neolithic period stop moving around to find food? (2 marks)

3. Which period do you think was the most important for human survival and why? (2 marks)

4. If you lived in the Stone Age, would you rather be a hunter or a farmer? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

5. How did the invention of polished stone axes change the way people built their homes? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Neolithic farm. Include a small circular stone house, a fenced area for animals, and a field of wheat.

Extension challenge: Research how Stone Age people used flint to make fire. Write a short guide for Ellie explaining the steps they might have taken to stay warm at night.