Stone Age Investigators with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the chronological changes and lifestyle shifts between the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of the Stone Age to provide detailed answers. Remember to explain the 'why' behind the changes in human behaviour.

Ellie the Elephant is visiting the museum to piece together the timeline of the Stone Age. She wants you to help her sort out how our ancestors lived, from the time they wandered the land searching for food to the moment they began building permanent homes and farming the earth.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Nomadic · Settlement · Flint · Bronze Age

1. Explain the difference between a 'nomadic' lifestyle and a 'settled' lifestyle. During which Stone Age period did humans begin to settle in one place, and what is this change called? (3 marks)

2. Ellie has found a tool made of sharpened flint. Why was flint such an important material for Stone Age people to survive? (2 marks)

3. Describe two major changes that happened to human life during the Neolithic period that were not possible during the Palaeolithic period. (2 marks)

4. Why did the invention of farming (agriculture) lead to the development of larger, more permanent communities? (2 marks)

5. If you were living in the Mesolithic period, what items would you need to gather or hunt to survive the winter? List three examples. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-page illustration. On the left, draw a scene from the Palaeolithic period showing a nomadic camp. On the right, draw a Neolithic settlement with a small farm and permanent houses.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a new Stone Age site. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing one object you found and what it tells you about the people who lived there.