Ellie’s Stone Age Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the lifestyle and tools of people living during the Stone Age.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Ellie the elephant was exploring a dusty cave when she found an old, smooth stone. She remembered her history lessons about the Stone Age, a very long time ago when people did not have metal tools. Instead, they used sharp pieces of rock, like flint, to make arrowheads and scrapers. During the early Stone Age, people lived as hunter-gatherers. This meant they moved from place to place to find wild berries, nuts, and animals to eat. They did not stay in one house for very long! As time passed, people began to settle in one spot. This was the start of the Neolithic period. They learned how to farm the land and look after animals like sheep and cows. They built stronger houses from wood and mud to stay warm. Ellie loved imagining what life was like back then. She wondered how they stayed warm in winter without central heating, and how they told stories around their flickering fires at night. Every stone tool she found was a piece of a giant, ancient puzzle waiting to be understood.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Neolithic · settlement · flint · hunter-gatherer · artefact

1. What material did Stone Age people use to make their tools? (2 marks)

2. What does the term 'hunter-gatherer' mean? (2 marks)

3. Why did people start building stronger houses during the Neolithic period? (2 marks)

4. How did the way people found food change from the early Stone Age to the Neolithic period? (3 marks)

5. Do you think it would be harder to live in the Stone Age or today? Give one reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Stone Age hunter-gatherer standing near a cave entrance holding a flint tool, with a small fire burning nearby.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist. Write a short diary entry describing how you felt when you discovered a Stone Age artefact buried in the ground.