Stone Age Chronology: The Journey Through Time

Learning objective: To understand and sequence the key developments and lifestyle changes throughout the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the archives of history! She has found six important milestones from the Stone Age, but they have become jumbled up. Place the events in the correct chronological order from 1 (the earliest) to 6 (the most recent) by writing the correct number in the box next to each event. Then, write a brief reason why each development changed how people lived.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Permanent settlements · Bronze Age · Flint tools

1. 1. Humans begin to farm crops and domesticate animals, leading to the first permanent villages. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

2. 2. Early humans rely solely on hunting wild animals and gathering wild plants while living in caves. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

3. 3. The discovery of how to extract and use metal marks the end of the Stone Age. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

4. 4. Humans create advanced polished stone axes and pottery to store food. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

5. 5. Humans start using fire for warmth, protection, and cooking food. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

6. 6. After the Ice Age ends, humans begin to use smaller, microlith stone tools for fishing and hunting. (Order: ____) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'before and after' split-screen image. On the left, show a nomadic hunter-gatherer camp with simple shelters. On the right, draw a Neolithic farming village with small stone houses and a fenced area for animals.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a historian like Ellie. Write a short diary entry (50–80 words) describing your life on the day your tribe decides to stop moving and start a permanent farm. What are you most excited about, and what do you miss about the old way of living?