Life in the Stone Age: Creating Your Settlement

Learning objective: To understand the structure and daily life of a Neolithic settlement by creating a labelled visual representation.

Use the drawing prompt below to design your own Neolithic village. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the key features of your settlement. Finally, answer the questions to explain the choices you made for your village.

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a Neolithic village. Use a pencil to sketch three circular roundhouses with conical thatched roofs. Add a fenced area for livestock (sheep or cattle) and a communal fire pit in the center of the village. In the background, add a river and a small forest. Use a realistic, observational style. Include details like smoke rising from the roofs and piles of flint tools near the entrance of the huts.

Label words: Roundhouse · Thatch roof · Hearth · Flint tools · Livestock enclosure · Wattle and daub · Communal fire

Steps:

1. Explain why a Neolithic settlement would most likely be located near a river or stream. Consider both human and animal needs.
2. What material was 'wattle and daub' made from, and why was it a popular choice for building walls?

3. Why was the 'hearth' or central fire so important to the daily life of a family in a roundhouse?

4. Identify one tool made of flint that you have drawn and describe its purpose in a Stone Age village.

5. If Ellie the elephant were to visit your settlement, what historical evidence would she look for to prove people lived there permanently rather than just passing through?