Ellie’s Stone Age Historian Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key changes in human life between the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods.

Use your history books and classroom resources to help Ellie the Elephant uncover the mysteries of the Stone Age. Read each section carefully and provide detailed descriptions of how life changed for early humans over these three vast time periods.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Settlement · Flint · Nomadic · Domesticated · Monolith

1. The Palaeolithic Period: Explain how early humans survived during this time. What did they eat and what type of homes did they live in? (3 marks)

2. Tools and Technology: Describe two materials used to make tools and explain how these tools helped early humans with their daily tasks. (4 marks)

3. The Neolithic Revolution: Explain what 'agriculture' is and why the discovery of farming caused humans to stop being nomadic. (4 marks)

4. Beliefs and Landmarks: Many Neolithic sites, such as stone circles, still exist today. Why do historians think these structures were so important to the people who built them? (3 marks)

5. Comparison: If you had to choose one invention from the Stone Age that changed human life the most, which would it be and why? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Neolithic monument in the UK, such as Stonehenge or Skara Brae. Write a short paragraph explaining what evidence it provides about the lives of people living at that time.