

Fitzjohn's Fact File—The Stone Age

Year 2



Skara Brae is a remarkably well preserved Stone Age Village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000BC.

It is in the Orkney Islands of Scotland

It was discovered in 1850.

The remains of 8 houses were found.

The houses were linked by covered passageways to protect people from the wind and rain.

Each house had a set of stone shelves called a dresser.

There was a fire pit in the middle.

One house set away from all the others. I wonder why?

Key Vocabulary

Pre-historic— a time before written records.

Lithic—Stone

Paleolithic—Old stone

Mesolithic—Middle Stone

Neolithic— New stone

Archaeologists

Wattle and daub

Stampede

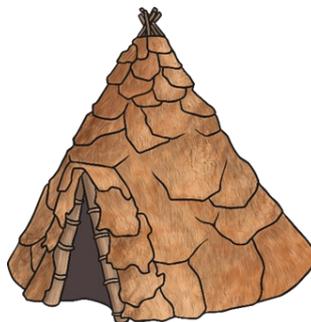
Hunting and gathering



Paleolithic Houses

Why build a house when you can find a cave to shelter from weather?

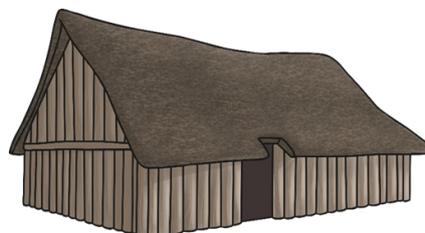
A fire was used to keep warm and also scare away wild animals.



Mesolithic Houses

In the Mesolithic era they used a timber frame to make a conical shape. They wrapped the frame in animal skin, thatch or turf.

On the floor of the tepee they laid moss or soft materials to make a comfortable place to sleep.



Neolithic Houses

In the Neolithic times there were two types of houses. The first had timber walls and a thatched roof. The holes in the walls were patched by wattle and daub. Wattle and daub is a mixture of manure, mud, clay and hay. The second house was round with stone walls. It had beds, shelves and a hearth in the middle.

Key Facts

It is called the Stone Age because the tools used during this time were made out of Stone.

It is divided into 3 eras: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.

Key skills

Draw and label houses from each era.

Describe hunting tools accurately.

Talk about how the lifestyle of the Stone Age people developed between each era.

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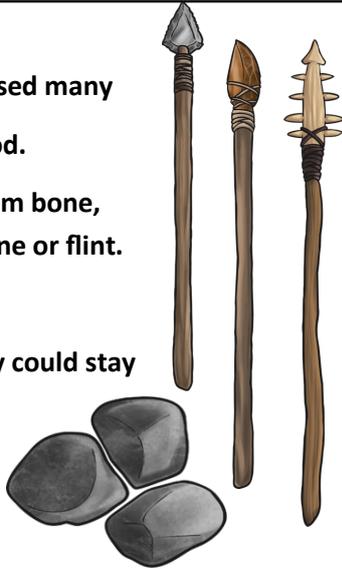
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Stone Age Weapons

The Stone Age people used many Weapons to kill their food.

These could be made from bone, ivory, wood, antlers, stone or flint.

They used spears so they could stay far away from dangerous animals and still wound or kill them.



Stone Age Food

The Stone Age people were hunter gatherers. In order to eat they had to hunt animals and fish and gather wild food.

They hunted animals like horses, deer, mammoths, hares, rhino and hyena.

They used fire to roast and grill their food. Sometimes they dug a hole, put hot stones in the hole with the food so it would be baked underground.

When hunting fish they would use a harpoon with barbs. This meant that the fish would not slide off when they pulled it out of the water.

Stone Age Clothing

The Stone Age people made clothes from animal skin.



They would use stone tools to scrape the dirt off the skin before washing it.

Stone Age Clothing

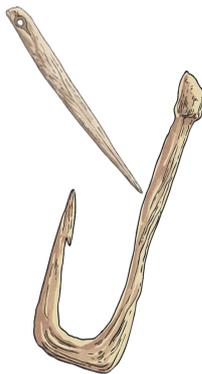
During the Neolithic era the needle and thread were invented. This meant people could wear fitted clothes and this helped them to stay warm in winter.

Decorations

Near the end of the Neolithic period people were beginning to care how they looked.

They started to carve bones and stones to decorate their

clothes. At Skara Brae archaeologists found beads, pendants and pins made out of bone.



Stone Age Paintings

Most cave painting were of animals or hunters. A cave could be full of many painting by many different painters.

They used natural colours from mineral pigments.

Some of the most impressive cave paintings have only been found in the last 100 years.

