

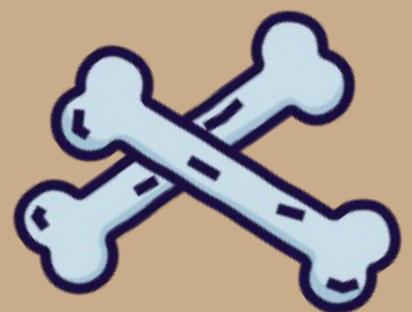
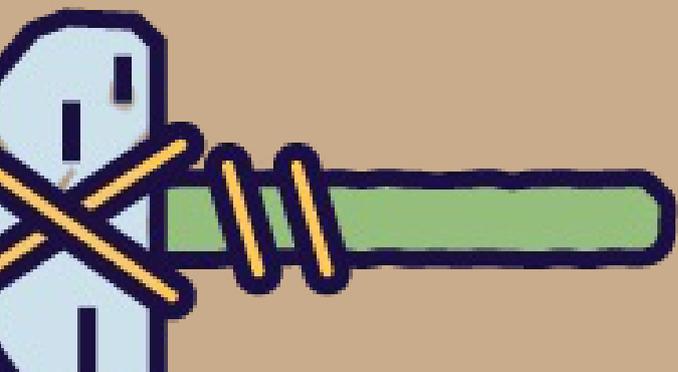
WESTON  
MUSEUM

# STONE AGE

The Stone Age was a time in history where early humans used tools and weapons made out of stone.

It lasted from when the first stone tools were made (about 3.4 million years ago) until the introduction of metal tools a few thousand years ago.

Throughout this activity pack, we will be exploring the Stone Age and some of the key time periods.



# CAVE PAINTING

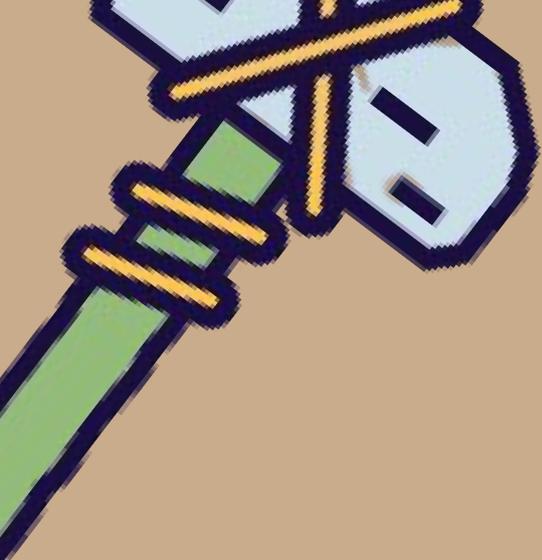
Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival.

Paintings of animals on cave walls are common. Perhaps this was thought to bring success when hunting or may have acted as a call for help from a spirit world the people believed in.



**What materials did Stone Age artists use for making sculptures?**



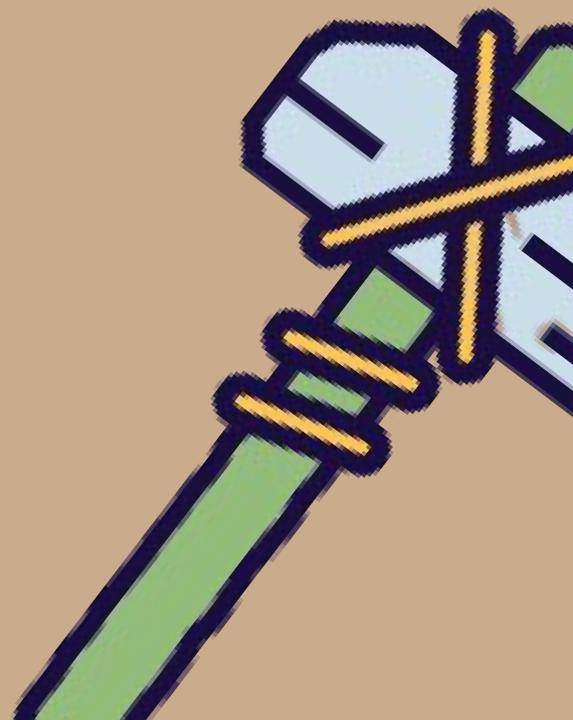


# CAVE PAINTING

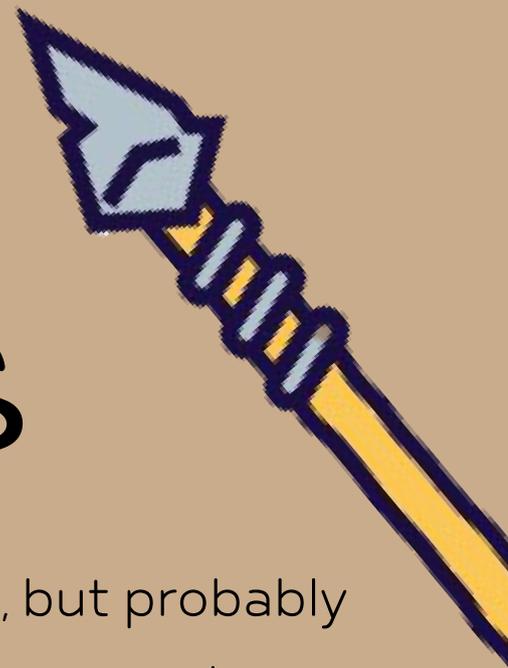
Cave artists ground up coloured rock into a powder. They used yellow ochre and red oxide rocks, as well as charcoal. This powder was mixed into a paste using spit, water or animal fat, which helped the paint stick to the cave walls.



What did Stone Age artists use to paint with?



# CAVE DWELLINGS

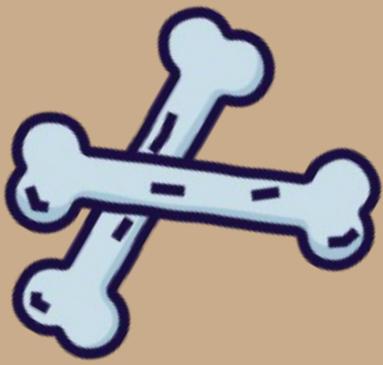


Hunter-gatherers sheltered in caves, but probably did not stay in one place for long. They may have moved homes as they followed animal prey or searched for other food. Hunter-gatherers lived near the mouth of caves, where it was lighter and warmer than deep inside.



What did hunter-gatherers use as shelters when there were no caves?



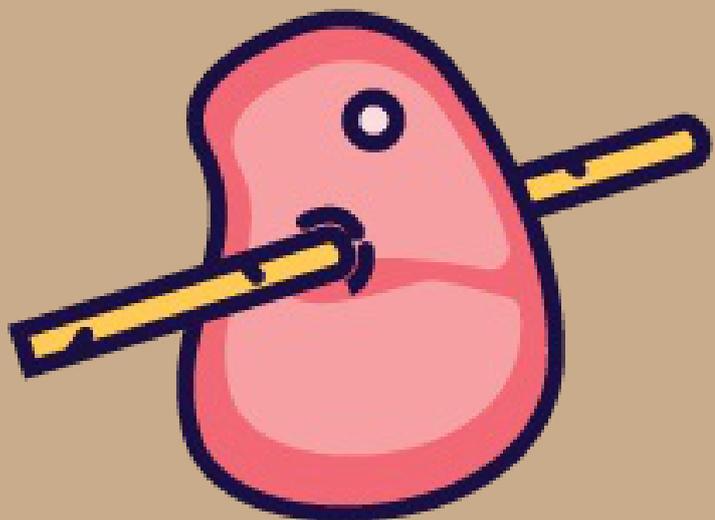


# FOOD

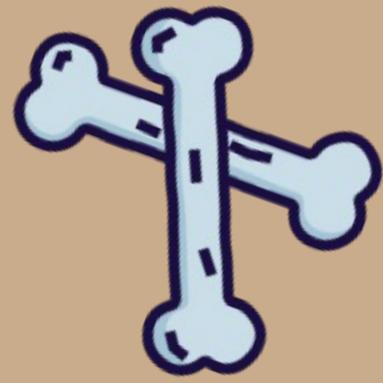
For most of the Stone Age, humans lived as hunter-gatherers. This means that instead of growing their food, they went out and found it. They hunted and fished for food, especially during the Iron Age..



**What did Stone Age humans use to catch fish?**



# FOOD



Later, they learned to gather edible plants, collect eggs from birds' nests, and, for a sweet treat, they took honey from wild beehives.

What hunter-gatherers ate depended on what they could find each season, eating fruit and berries when they ripened and eating meat from animals when they were most plentiful.

Eventually, humans learned to grow their own crops and began to settle in one place. These people became the first farmers.



# CLOTHING

The cold weather during the Ice Age meant clothing was essential. Early humans cleaned, prepared, and wrapped animal skins around themselves to keep warm.



**What did Stone Age humans use to decorate their faces and bodies?**

By about 75,000 years ago, humans strung shells together to make some of the first jewellery.





# DIFFERENT PERIODS OF STONE AGE

The Stone Age is usually divided into 3 separate periods - Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic - based on the degree of sophistication in the fashioning and use of tools.



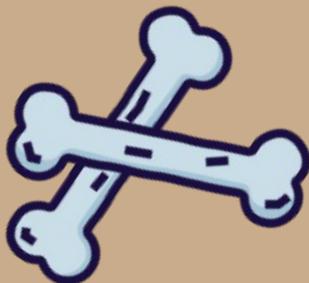
# PALAEOLITHIC

The Palaeolithic - or old Stone Age - lasted from 2.7 million years ago to around 20,000 years ago.

Britain would have looked very different during the Palaeolithic; there were a number of cold periods.



What were these cold periods called?





# PALAEOLITHIC

During the Lower Palaeolithic, Britain was not an island, but connected to mainland Europe.

Sometime between 400,000 years and 200,000 years ago, that changed and the area between the British Isles and what is now Denmark flooded and disappeared under the sea around 7,500 years ago.

During this time, men were hunter-gatherers, finding food from their local environment and moving from site to site depending on the season.



# PALAEOLITHIC



What were Palaeolithic Stone Age tools made out of?



Language was also developed and its early forms may have been similar to the click languages used by some South and West African peoples today.

This period also saw the beginnings of art, such as the cave paintings of Chauvet in France and Venus figures (statues of pregnant women) and the development of religion.



This is one of the cave paintings of Chauvet in France

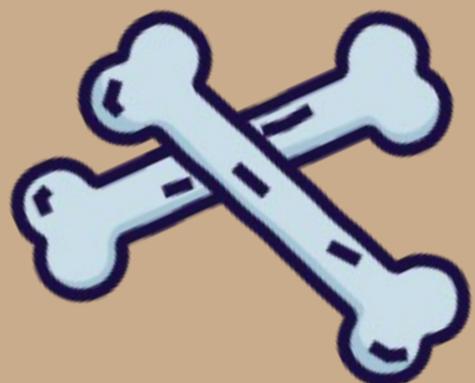


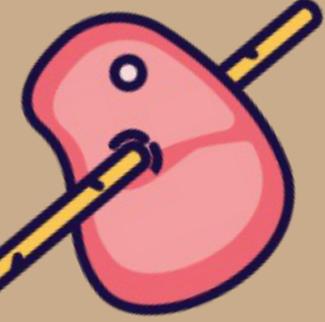
# MESOLITHIC

The Mesolithic - or middle Stone Age - saw the development of finer, smaller stone tools such as arrow or spear heads. The first evidence for homes in Britain comes from this period, and the first canoes were made. This meant that men could fish as well as hunt.



**What animal was domesticated during this period?**





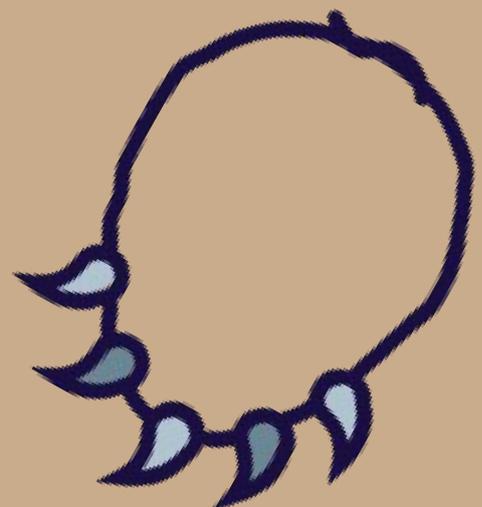
# NEOLITHIC



When was the Neolithic period?

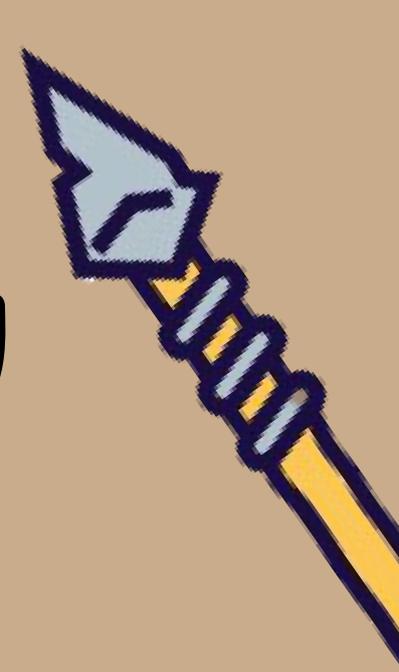
The Neolithic - or new Stone Age - saw the beginnings of agriculture. Farmers from mainland Europe probably brought seeds and farming tools to Britain.

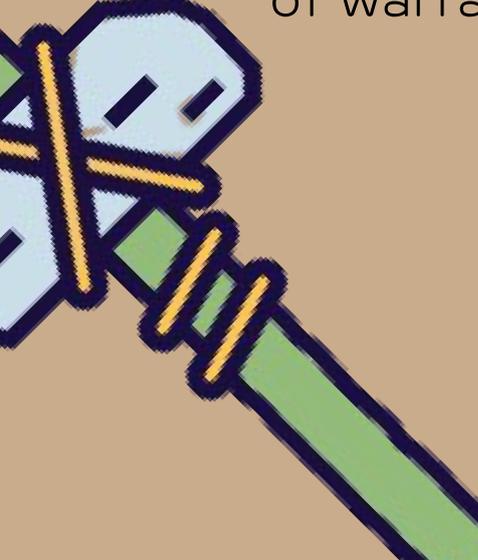
Growing crops was a more reliable food supply than gathering wild plants. The landscape was transformed by a new type of life, linked to settled communities of people.





# DID YOU KNOW?



- The Palaeolithic period lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history.
  - The first cities did not have streets. The houses were joined together and you walked across the roofs.
  - 40% of the skeletons recovered from an Egyptian Mesolithic cemetery showed signs of violent injuries. Archaeologists believed that they may provide the earliest evidence of warfare.
- 

# ANSWERS



What materials did Stone Age artists use for making sculptures?

clay, ivory, bone or carved stone



What did Stone Age artists use to paint with?

fingers, as well as twigs, moss and horsehair brushes



What did hunter-gatherers use as shelters when there were no caves?

branches, leaves and animal skins



What did Stone Age humans use to catch fish?

barbed spears

# ANSWERS



**What did Stone Age humans use to decorate their faces and bodies?**

paints made from natural pigments



**What were these cold periods called?**

ice ages



**What were Palaeolithic Stone Age tools made out of?**

tools were made of stone, but also of wood, bone, leather and vegetable fibres



**What animal was domesticated during this period?**

the dog, probably by the selection and breeding of the least aggressive wolves

# ANSWERS



When was the Neolithic  
period?

around 6,000 years ago