

The Prehistoric Period: The Stone Age

The Stone Age is the longest time period in the history of the human timeline. It lasted roughly 2.5 million years ago and ended around 5,000 years ago. It's called the Stone Age simply because humans used stone tools during this time. The Stone Age ended when humans started to use bronze instead of stone (you may have guessed that this period was called the Bronze Age). The Stone Age can be split into three different periods; the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic period.

The Palaeolithic Period

This was the first stage of the Stone Age. The people that lived in the Palaeolithic Period were hunter-gatherers that used simple stone tools. They had a nomadic lifestyle which meant that they moved from place to place in order to find food. They lived in small groups and sheltered in caves. They often decorated their caves with cave paintings. These cave paintings are thought to be the first form of art.

The Mesolithic Period

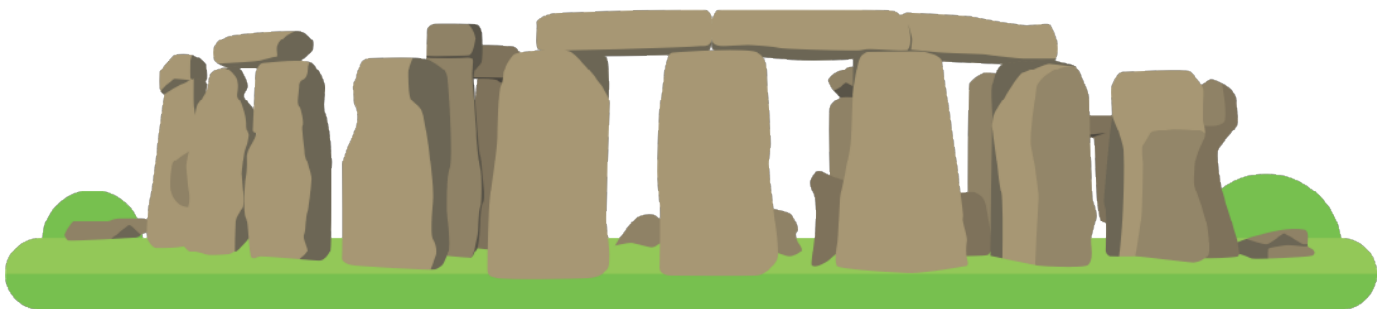
The Mesolithic Period is also known as the Middle Stone Age. Mesolithic people were still hunter-gatherers, but they had learnt how to store food, particularly nuts and dried berries. This helped them to survive over the winter months when little grows. They used dogs to help them to hunt so finding food became easier. They also made the first canoes. This meant that they could hunt for fish as well as meat. Unlike Palaeolithic people, who ate raw food, Mesolithic people



learnt how to cook their food over a fire. They were still nomadic but instead of living in caves, they made basic huts out of wood covered in animal skin or straw.

The Neolithic Period

The Neolithic Period was the final stage of the Stone Age. Neolithic people learnt how to farm. Instead of having nomadic lifestyles like the mesolithic people, they settled in one place. They set up small villages and farmed the land around them. Growing crops gave them a more reliable food supply. They also kept animals on the farm. As well as building villages, they also built great monuments. The most famous stone age monument is Stonehenge which is a mysterious circle of large stones in Wiltshire.



Questions

03

- 1** During the Stone Age, what material were tools made out of? (tick)

<input type="checkbox"/>	bronze
<input type="checkbox"/>	iron
<input type="checkbox"/>	stone
<input type="checkbox"/>	steel

- 2** The Stone Age ended because people started to use a new material instead of stone.
What was this new material?
-

- 3** How many different periods can the Stone Age be split up into?

<input type="checkbox"/>	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	4

- 4** Draw three lines to put the three periods of the Stone Age in order.

First period

Middle period

Last period

The Mesolithic Period

The Neolithic Period

The Palaeolithic Period

- 5** Where did Palaeolithic people live? (tick)

<input type="checkbox"/>	in wooden shelters
<input type="checkbox"/>	in caves
<input type="checkbox"/>	in tents
<input type="checkbox"/>	in stone houses

- 6 What helped the Mesolithic people to survive in the winter? (tick)

- ☐ animals that they kept on the farm
- ☐ fires which they lit in caves
- ☐ food that they had dried and stored
- ☐ hot stones that they used as hot water bottles

- 7 What did the Mesolithic people do that the Palaeolithic people did not do? (tick)

- ☐ Fish from canoes.
- ☐ Hunt and kill animals.
- ☐ Eat nuts and berries.
- ☐ Use stone tools.

- 8 What animal product did the Mesolithic people use to cover their huts?
-

- 9 What is the name of the most famous Stone Age monument?
-

- 10 Which county is Stonehenge in?
-

Score:



Answers

A

- 1 During the Stone Age, what material were tools made out of? ☒ Stone
- 2 The Stone Age ended because people started to use a new material instead of stone. What was this new material? bronze
- 3 How many different periods can the Stone Age be split up into? ☒ 3
- 4 Put the three periods of the Stone Age in order.
First period - The Palaeolithic Period
Middle period - The Mesolithic Period
Last period - The Neolithic Period
- 5 Where did Palaeolithic people live? ☒ in caves
- 6 What helped the Mesolithic people to survive in the winter? ☒ food that they had dried and stored
- 7 What did the Mesolithic people do that the Palaeolithic people did not do? ☒ Fish from canoes.
- 8 What animal product did the Mesolithic people use to cover their huts? Skin
- 9 What is the name of the most famous Stone Age monument? Stonehenge
- 10 Which county is Stonehenge in? Wiltshire