



THE STONE AGE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview		Life in the Stone Age			
<p>The Stone Age</p> <p>The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began utilising stone to make tools and objects. The Stone Age is often divided into three periods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Paleolithic (Old Stone Age); -Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age); -Neolithic (New Stone Age); <p>The Paleolithic era lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history!</p>		<p>Food Hunter Gatherers</p>	<p>In the Paleolithic era, humans found their food from the local environment. They mainly used tools such as spears and slings to kill and capture animals. They moved from site to site depending on the season, searching for food.</p>	<p>Fact Early humans were also able to forage for fruit and nuts.</p>	<p>THE PALEOLITHIC ERA</p>
		<p>Tools</p>	<p>Early primates used tools in order to aid everyday life. Many were chopping and cutting tools, although basic spears and hand axes have been found from the era.</p>	<p>Fact Oldowan tools, the earliest tools, were shaped from rocks.</p>	
<p>Important places and Animals</p>		<p>Food Hunting and Fishing</p>	<p>More elaborate weapons, such as arrows and spears, were developed. Canoes were constructed to allow humans to fish in the rivers and seas, probably carved from tree trunks and branches</p>	<p>Fact The oldest discovered canoe is 8,200 years old!</p>	<p>THE MESOLITHIC ERA</p>
<p>Skara Brae</p> <p>Skara Brae is an archaeological site in Orkney, Scotland. It is a Stone Age village. There are 8 houses made of stone. There is only one room in each house. It is famous because it has been well preserved and has taught us a lot about life in the Stone Age.</p>	<p>Stonehenge</p> <p>Stonehenge is a famous monument located in Wiltshire, England. It is a circle of very large stones, with each upright standing stone measuring around 13 feet high, 7 feet wide and weighing around 25 tons. It was built in the Stone Age but nobody knows why it exists. Some believe it was built to learn about the movements of the sun and moon whilst others believe it was a burial mound.</p>	<p>Clothes</p>	<p>Mesolithic humans used to wear clothes made of bark and leaves in the summer months, and clothes made of animal skins in the winter months.</p>	<p>Fact The first leathers were probably made in this era.</p>	
		<p>Food Agriculture (farming)</p>	<p>Animals such as cows and sheep were kept as pets or on farms, providing meat, milk and bone. Grain such as wheat and corn was developed as it could be stored for a long time.</p>	<p>Fact Agriculture meant that people settled in one place</p>	<p>THE NEOLITHIC ERA</p>
		<p>Construction (building)</p>	<p>Better tools and permanent settlements meant that large scale building could take place. People lived in more permanent houses, which were gathered together in villages.</p>	<p>Fact 'Skara Brae' off Scotland, is a well-preserved Neolithic village.</p>	
<p>Stone Age Animals</p> <p>The world was filled with creatures in the Stone Age, many of which are still around today, but lots of which are now extinct. One of the most famous examples of those that are now extinct is the woolly mammoth, a species of elephant that was covered in fur – adapted to survive in the last ice age. Another example is the sabre-toothed tiger, a large big cat with long canine teeth, weighing up to 400kg! (the largest tigers are around 300kg). Giant ground sloths were another interesting animal from the time. Living in South America, these sloths were as large as elephants, weighing up to 4 tonnes! It could stand on two legs in order to reach food from trees</p>			<p>Important Vocabulary</p>		
		<p>Pre-history</p>	<p>The Stone Age is split into 3 main time periods – Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.</p>	<p>Hunter-gatherers</p>	
		<p>Stone Age</p>	<p>Bronze Age</p>	<p>Iron Age</p>	
		<p>Skara Brae</p>	<p>Stonehenge</p>	<p>Hillforts</p>	