How did Stone Age people turn survival into creativity?

Key Knowledge





The Stone Age was the earliest period of human history.
People were hunter-gatherers before settling in the Neolithic period.
They used stone tools for hunting, building, and making art.
Cave paintings and decorated objects show creativity and communication.
Creativity helped survival: making tools, clothing, shelters, and art.
Settlements like Skara Brae reveal how homes and communities developed.

Historical Skills

Place events on a timeline using the terms BCE and CE (Before Common Era and Common Era)

Use evidence from artefacts and sites to make deductions about what life was like and how people used to live.

Understand primary vs secondary sources.

- Primary sources are original/first hand information and are therefore the most reliable. For the Stone Age period, this might include cave paintings, evidence of settlements, fossils, tools.

- Secondary sources might include books, journals, websites and word of mouth. This information is subject to interpretation and different views/ideas and may not be as reliable as primary sources.

Compare life in the Stone Age with life today.

Key vocabulary

Prehistory – The time before written records existed.

Stone Age – The earliest period of human history when tools were made from stone.

Hunter-gatherer – A person who hunts animals and gathers plants for food.

Artefact – An object made by humans, often from the past.

Archaeologist – A person who studies the past by examining artefacts and remains.

Flint – A hard stone used to make tools and weapons.

Innovation – A new idea or method that improves life

Settlements– A place where people live permanently.

Timeline

Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): 2.5 million – 10,000 BCE
Hunter-gatherers, cave art.

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10,000BCE – 5000BCE
Improved tools, semi-nomadic.

Neolithic (New Stone Age): 9000BCE to 3000BCE
Farming, permanent settlements.

End of Stone Age → Bronze Age – 3000 – 1200BCE