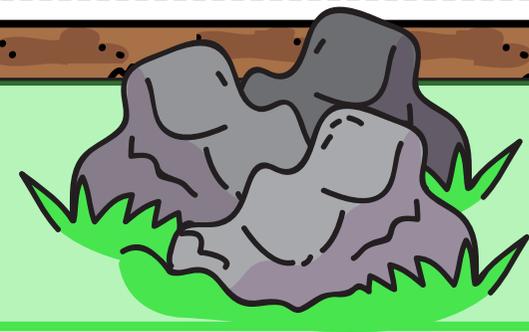


# THE STONE AGE

**3,500,000 BC–3000 BC**



**That's a very long time ago!**  
Why do you think this period of history is called the Stone Age?



**Yes you've guessed it! Stone!**  
Stone was used by the earliest humans to make tools! Stone was very important for early humans as it enabled them to hunt, carve and build. **They used it to SURVIVE!**

MrsMactivity.co.uk

## The Stone Age is divided into three main periods of time.

The **Palaeolithic** period around 3,000,000 BC–10,000 BC

The **Mesolithic** period around 10,000 BC–8000 BC

The **Neolithic** period around 8000 BC–3000 BC

Psst!

**BC** means 'before Christ'?

History detectives called archaeologists have used evidence that they have found from around the world to work out what happened during these periods of time.

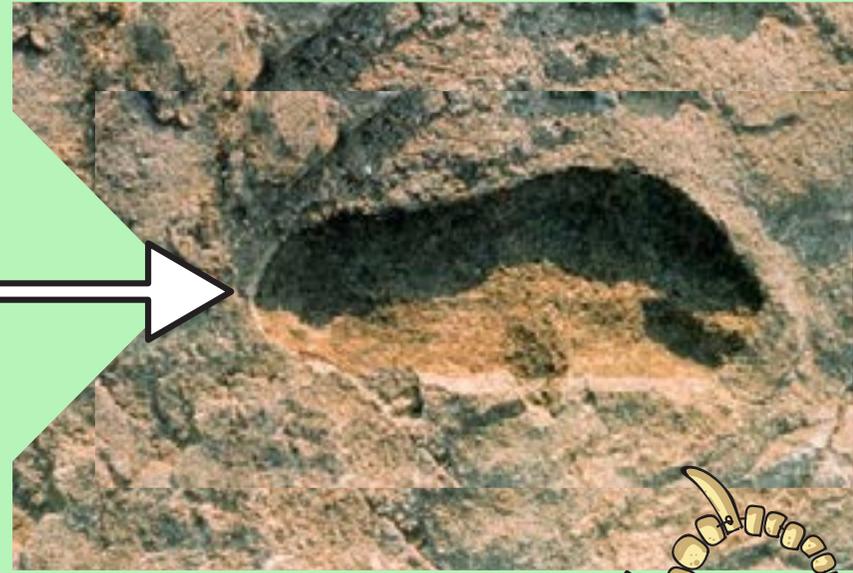


# The Palaeolithic Period

3,000,000 BC–10,000 BC

This is the oldest period of the Stone Age.

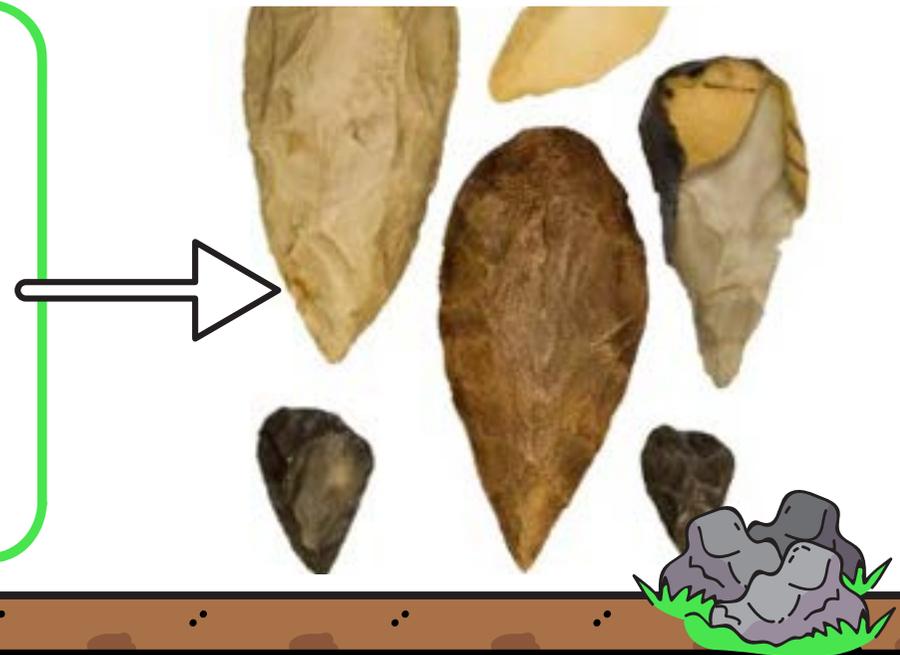
Archaeologists have found evidence of human like creatures living in Africa during this time. These creatures were called hominids and are believed to be the earliest humans. They could walk on two legs and had a much smaller brain than humans. Footprints of hominids have been found in Africa that are over three and a half million years old!



MrsMactivity.co.uk

## Hominids

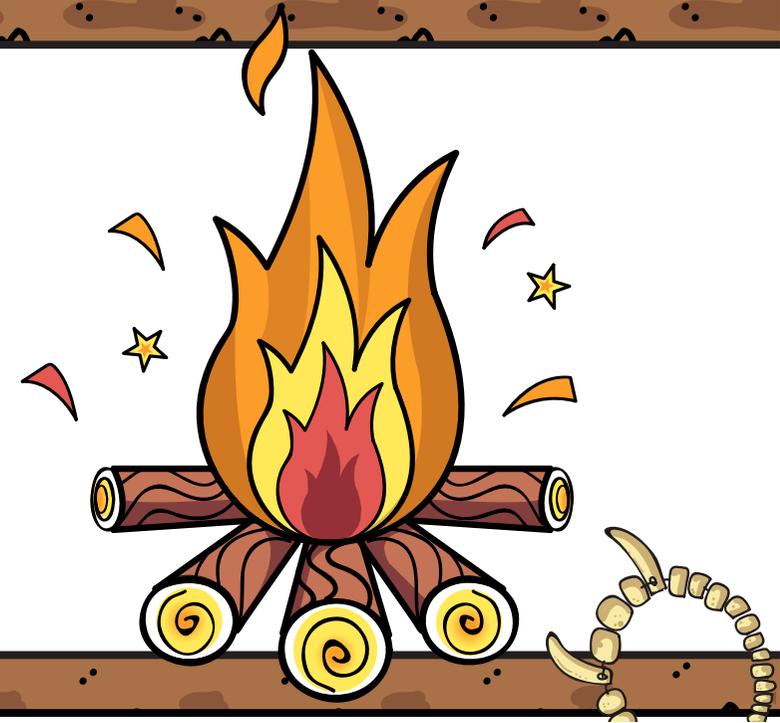
It is believed that **hominids** used stone tools to scrape the skin off their food. **Hominid stone tools** have been found in Africa by archaeologists.



5

## Homo sapiens = "wise man" in Latin.

**Homo sapiens** were a new type of hominid that appeared during the **Palaeolithic period**. Homo Sapiens are our ancestors. They had a bigger brain and made more complex stone tools. Homo Sapiens spread around the world and are believed to have used **fire for the first time**.



MrsMactivity.co.uk

6

## How did the early humans live during the Palaeolithic period?

- Early humans lived in caves and were **hunter gatherers**. Hunter gatherers would hunt for food and travel around looking for shelter.
- They used simple stone tools and stone axes to hunt for food.
- They cooked their prey, including woolly mammoths, deer and bison, using fire. They also fished and collected berries, fruit and nuts.
- They lived a **nomadic life** which means they roamed the land and had no fixed home.

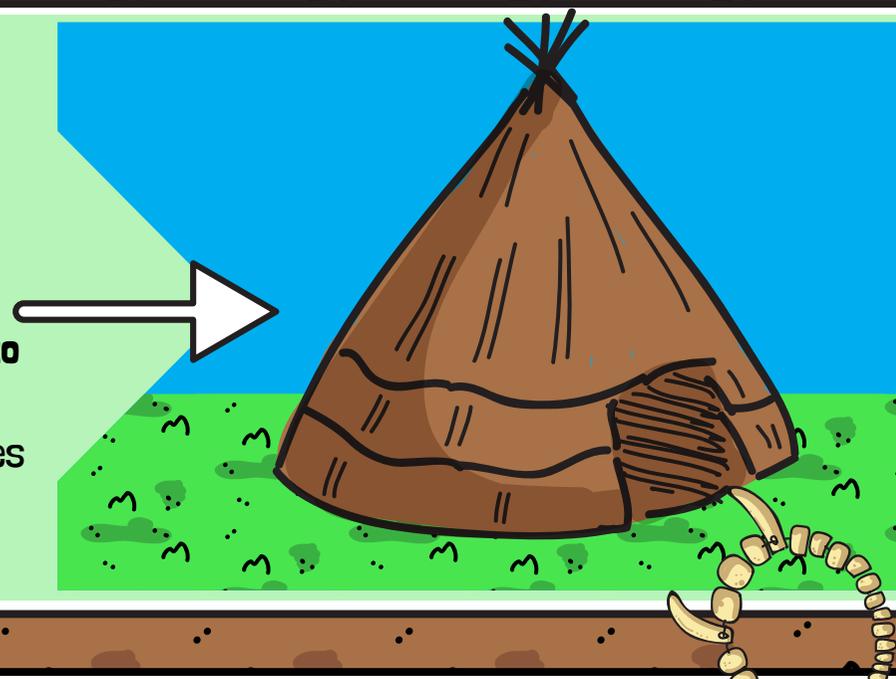


7

# The Mesolithic Period

## 10,000 BC–8000 BC

It is during this time that Britain became an island (before it was joined to Europe). The early humans were getting even better at using tools and began building small villages. It is believed that they built tepee-like homes from wooden posts and animal skins.



MrsMactivity.co.uk

8

## Early Farmers

During the Mesolithic period farming begins. Cereals were grown for crops and even pet dogs were kept to help with hunting and protection. Learning to farm meant Stone Age people had a steady supply of food. People during the Mesolithic period started to settle in one place and no longer needed to live a nomadic life.



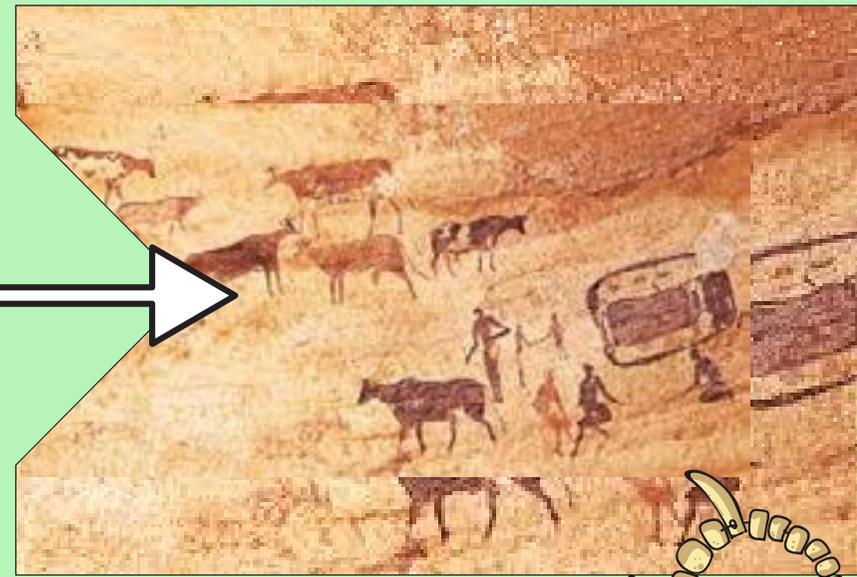
Polychrome tracing made by the archaeologist Henri Breuil from the cave painting of a wolf-like canid discovered in the Font-de-Gaume cave, Dordogne, France dated to 17,000 years ago.

9

# The Neolithic Period

## 8000 BC–3000 BC

By now Stone Age people were getting very good at farming. Small farms were created by clearing woodland. Animals such as cows, goats and sheep were now found on Stone Age farms. This gave the people a supply of milk, meat, wool and animal skins that could be used to make clothes.



MrsMactivity.co.uk

10

## Crops

Stone Age people learnt how to grow crops such as wheat, barley, peas and beans.

They began making their own bread (although it would probably be very different to the bread we eat now).



Primitive Bread-making In The Stone Age  
Drawing by Mary Evans Picture Library





# Test Your Stone Age Knowledge!

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**What is the oldest period of the Stone Age?**



Paleolithic

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**In which period of the Stone Age did farmers start rearing animals such as cows, sheep and goats?**



Neolithic

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**What is the name of our Stone Age ancestors?**



Homo sapiens

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**What is the name given to people who travel from one place to another with no fixed home?**



nomad

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**What is the name given to a person who hunts for their food and collects fruit, nuts and berries?**



Hunter-gatherer

MrsMactivity.co.uk

**What do the words 'Homo sapien' mean?**



Wise man