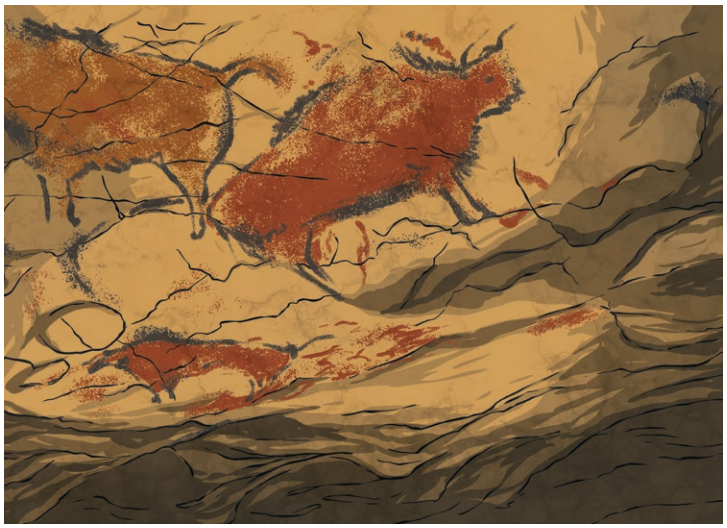
The Stone Age Reading Comprehension



The Stone Age began over two million years ago with the Early Stone Age. This was followed by the Middle Stone Age and finally the New Stone Age.

The Stone Age gets its name from the types of tools that were used by the people living during this time. They used tools carved from stone, animal bones and wood. They made tools such as spears, borers, axes and arrowheads. They also used animal bone and wood to make jewellery.

Stone Age people drew pictures on the walls of caves. These pictures were called cave paintings and were made using charcoal, earth, animal fat, coloured stones and water.

The first people arrived in Ireland from Europe at the beginning of the Middle Stone Age in around 7000 BC. No one lived in Ireland during the Early Stone Age.

The Middle Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They killed animals such as boars, fish and birds for food. They also gathered foods such as berries, nuts and fruit from plants and trees. They lived near rivers and lakes where there was a lot of food. They lived in caves or in small round huts made of wood and covered with animal skins. When they ran out of food to catch and eat where they were living, they moved to new places.



The New Stone Age people arrived in Ireland around 4000 BC. They arrived from Europe and Great Britain. They knew how to grow food and crops and brought new, stronger tools with them. They planted crops such as wheat, oats and barley. This was the start of farming in Ireland. They also brought animals with them, such as cows, sheep and goats, which they kept on their farms

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and used for both clothing and food. They cooked their food on open fires in their houses. The smoke would escape through a hole in the roof.

The introduction of farming meant that the New Stone Age people did not have to move around in search of food as the Middle Stone Age people did. They built stronger stone huts that had roofs made from thatch. Thatch was a waterproof material made from reeds and grass. They also lived in small villages and communities and would help each other with farming and finding food.

The Stone Age ended in around 2000 BC when the Bronze Age began in Ireland.



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Questions

1. What are the names of the three stages of the Stone Age?

2. What did the Stone Age people make from stone?

3. What did the Stone Age people use to make cave paintings?

4. What food did the Middle Stone Age people eat?

5. What types of houses did the Middle Stone Age people live in?

6. What crops did the New Stone Age people grow?

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7. What animals did the New Stone Age people keep on their farms?

8. What types of houses did the New Stone Age people live in?

9. What is thatch?

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Answers

1. What are the names of the three stages of the Stone Age?

   The three stages of the Stone Age were the Early Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age and the New Stone Age.

2. What did the Stone Age people make from stone?

   The Stone Age people made tools from stone.

3. What did the Stone Age people use to make cave paintings?

   The Stone Age people used charcoal, earth, animal fat, coloured stone and water to make cave paintings.

4. What food did the Middle Stone Age people eat?

   They ate boars, fish, birds, fruits, nuts and berries.

5. What types of houses did the Middle Stone Age people live in?

   They lived in caves or small huts made of wood and animal skins.

6. What crops did the New Stone Age people grow?

   The New Stone Age people grew wheat, oats and barley.

7. What animals did the New Stone Age people keep on their farms?

   The New Stone Age people kept cows, sheep and goats on their farms.

8. What types of houses did the New Stone Age people live in?

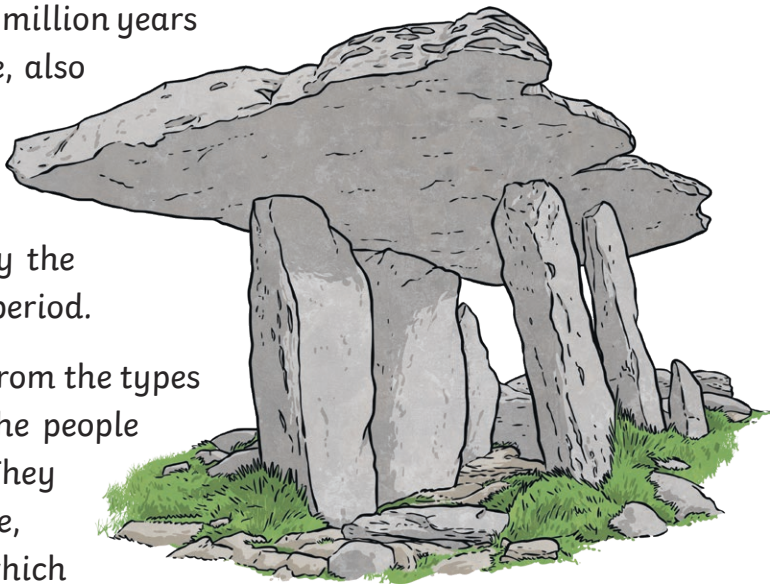
   The New Stone Age people built stone huts that had roofs made from thatch.

9. What is thatch?

   Thatch is what the New Stone Age people used to roof their houses. It is made from reeds and grass.

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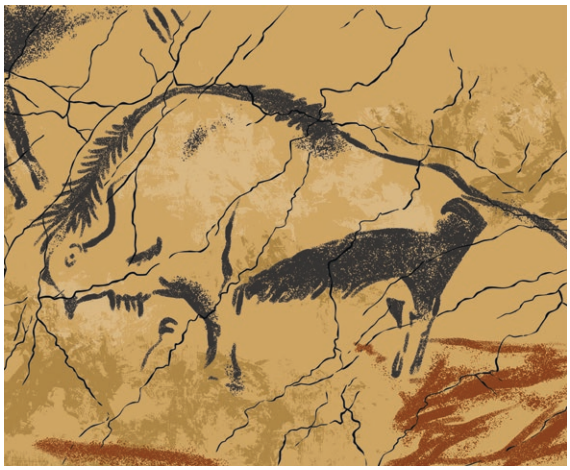
The Stone Age Reading Comprehension



The Stone Age began over two million years ago with the Early Stone Age, also known as the Palaeolithic period. This was followed by the Middle Stone Age, or Mesolithic period, and finally the New Stone Age or Neolithic period.

The Stone Age gets its name from the types of tools that were used by the people living during this time. They used tools carved from stone, animal bones and wood, which were the strongest materials available at the time. These materials were used to make tools such as spears, borers, axes and arrowheads. They would have also used animal bone and wood to make jewellery.

Stone Age people also created structures from stone. These structures were mainly used as tombs and can teach us about the religious beliefs of the people at this time. They showed great respect to their dead through the ways in which they buried them.



Stone Age people painted pictures on the walls of caves. These pictures were found by archaeologists and helped us to learn about how the Stone Age people lived, what they ate and what animals lived during this time. These pictures are called cave paintings and were made using charcoal, earth, animal fat, coloured stones, and water.

The first people arrived in Ireland from Europe at the beginning of the Mesolithic period in around 7000 BC. There is no evidence to suggest that people lived in Ireland during the Early Stone Age.

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The Mesolithic people were hunter-gatherers. They got their food by hunting animals such as wild boar and birds. They would also fish in the rivers and lakes near which they lived. They also gathered foods such as berries, nuts and fruit from plants and trees. The Mesolithic people were nomads, which means that they moved around from place to place to find food.

They lived near rivers and lakes where there was a lot of food. They lived in caves or in small round huts. These huts were made from timber posts and twigs and covered in animal skins or sods of earth.

The New Stone Age people, also known as the Neolithic people, arrived in Ireland around 4000 BC. They arrived from Europe and Great Britain and they brought with them many interesting new ways to grow food and make new tools. They started to plant crops such as wheat, oats and barley. This was the start of farming in Ireland. They also brought animals with them, such as cows, sheep and goats, which they kept on their farms and used for both clothing and food. They cooked their food on open fires in their houses. They constructed their houses with a hole in the roof that allowed the smoke to escape while they were cooking.

The introduction of farming meant that Neolithic people did not have to move around in search of food as the Mesolithic people did. They built stronger stone huts which had roofs made from thatch. They also lived in small villages and communities and would help each other with farming and finding food.

The Stone Age ended in around 2000 BC when the Bronze Age began in Ireland.



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Questions

1. What are the names of the three stages of the Stone Age?
   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

2. How does the Stone Age get its name?

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. What types of tools did the Stone Age people make?

   _____

   _____

   _____

4. How did the Mesolithic people get their food?

   _____

   _____

   _____

5. What does it mean when it says that the Mesolithic people were 'nomads'?

   _____

   _____

   _____

6. When did the Neolithic Stone Age people arrive in Ireland?

   _____

   _____

   _____

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7. What new skill did the Neolithic people bring to Ireland?

8. When did the Stone Age in Ireland end?

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Answers

1. What are the names of the three stages of the Stone Age?
   The three stages of the Stone Age are the Early Stone Age (Palaeolithic period), the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic period) and the New Stone Age (Neolithic period).

2. How does the Stone Age get its name?
   The Stone Age gets its name from the stone tools made by the people living in this period.

3. What types of tools did the Stone Age people make?
   The Stone Age people made axes, arrowheads, borers and spears.

4. How did the Mesolithic people get their food?
   They got their food by hunting, fishing and collecting food from plants and trees.

5. What does it mean when it says that the Mesolithic people were 'nomads'?
   This means that they moved around from place to place in search of food.

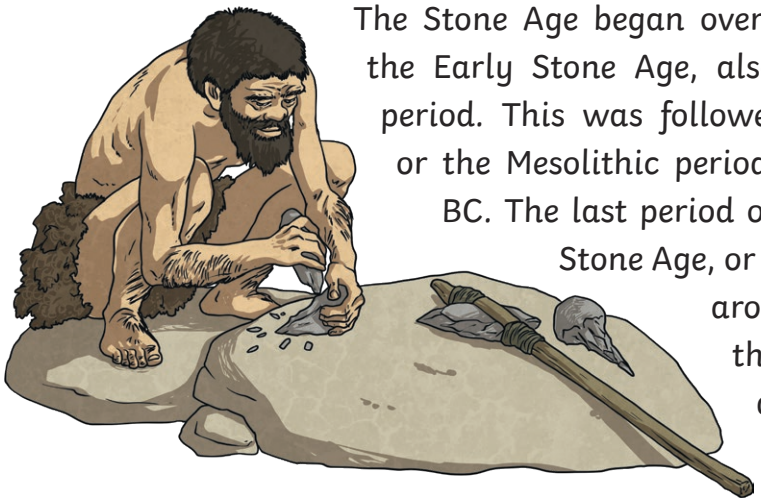
6. When did the Neolithic Stone Age people arrive in Ireland? **The Neolithic people arrived in Ireland around 4000 BC.**

7. What new skill did the Neolithic people bring to Ireland?
   The Neolithic people brought the skill of farming to Ireland.

8. When did the Stone Age in Ireland end?
   The Stone Age ended in Ireland around 2000 BC.

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The Stone Age Reading Comprehension



The Stone Age began over two million years ago with the Early Stone Age, also known as the Palaeolithic period. This was followed by the Middle Stone Age, or the Mesolithic period, which began around 8000 BC. The last period of the Stone Age was the New Stone Age, or Neolithic period, which began around 4000 BC and ended with the start of the Bronze Age in around 2000 BC.

The Stone Age gets its names from the types of tools that were used by the people during this period. They used tools carved from stone, animal bone and wood, which were the strongest materials available at the time. These materials were used to make tools such as spears, borers, axes and arrowheads. Borers were small pieces of flint that were carved into tools that were used for piercing holes. Animal bone and wood were also used to make jewellery.

Stone Age people also created structures from stone, especially graves such as court cairns, passage tombs, portal tombs and wedge tombs. These structures can teach us about the religious beliefs of the people who lived at this time. They showed great respect to their dead through the ways in which they buried them.



People in the Stone Age painted pictures on the walls of caves. These pictures were found by archaeologists and helped us to learn about how Stone Age people lived, what they ate and what animals lived during this time. These pictures are called cave paintings and were made using charcoal, earth, animal fat, coloured stones, and water.

The first people arrived in Ireland from Europe around 7000 BC, at the beginning of the Mesolithic period. There is no evidence to suggest that people lived in Ireland during the Early Stone Age.

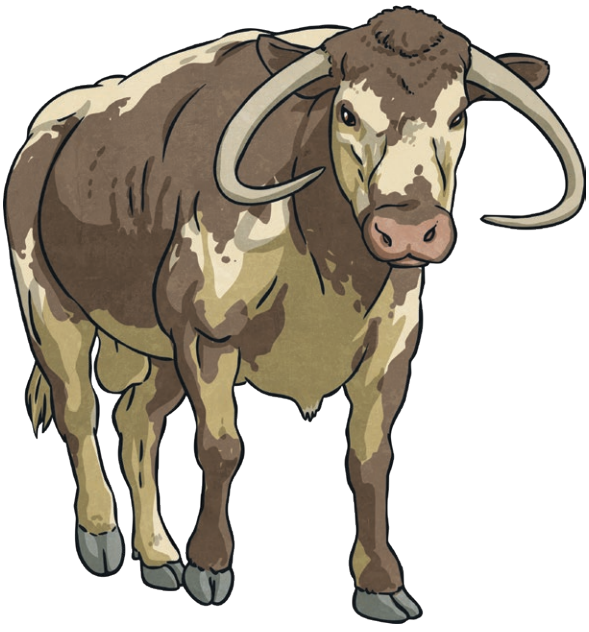
The Mesolithic people were hunter-gatherers. They got their food by hunting animals such as wild boar and birds. They would also fish in the rivers and lakes near which they lived. They also gathered food such as berries, nuts and fruit from plants and trees. Mesolithic people were nomads, which means that they moved around from place to place in search of food. Once food was scarce in the area where they were living, they would move to a new location to find more.

They tended to live near rivers and lakes where food was plentiful. They lived in caves or in small round huts. These huts were made from timber posts and twigs and covered in animal skins or sods of earth.

The New Stone Age people, also known as the Neolithic people, arrived in Ireland around 4000 BC. They arrived from Europe and Great Britain and they brought with them many interesting new ways to grow food and make new tools. They built walls around their homes, cut down trees and divided the land into fields where they would sow crops such as wheat, oats and barley. This was the start of farming in Ireland. They also brought animals with them, such as cows, sheep and goats, which they kept on their farms and used for both clothing and food. They cooked their food on open fires in their houses. They constructed their houses with a hole in the roof that allowed the smoke to escape while they were cooking.

The introduction of farming meant that Neolithic people did not have to move around in search of food as the Mesolithic people did. They built stronger stone huts which had roofs made from thatch. They also lived in small villages and communities and would help each other with farming and finding food.

The Stone Age ended in Ireland around 2000 BC with the discovery of copper mines, which led to the development of a metal now known as bronze. Bronze took over from stone as the primary material for making tools. This was the beginning of is known today as the Bronze Age.



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Questions

1. Give two reasons why the Stone Age gets its name.

   1. _____

   2. _____

2. Why do you think there were no people living in Ireland during the Early Stone Age?

   _____

   _____

3. How do you think the first people arrived in Ireland?

   _____

   _____

4. Why do you think the Stone Age people made such big graves for their dead?

   _____

   _____

5. Give one reason why you think Stone Age people painted pictures on the walls of caves.

   _____

   _____

6. How often do you think the Mesolithic people had to move from place to place?

   _____

   _____

7. Would it have been better to live in the Neolithic or the Mesolithic Stone Age? Give two reasons for your answer.

   _____

   _____

   _____

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Answers

1. Give two reasons why the Stone Age gets its name.
   The Stone Age gets its name because stone was the primary material for making tools. People also made houses and monuments from stone.

2. Why do you think there were no people living in Ireland during the Early Stone Age?
   Students' answers will vary. During this time, Ireland was mostly covered by ice and it would have been difficult for people to survive.

3. How do you think the first people arrived in Ireland?
   Students' answers will vary. It is possible that they arrived by boat or that they walked across from Britain or Europe before the sea levels rose and Ireland became an island.

4. Why do you think the Stone Age people made such big graves for their dead?
   They made big graves to show respect for their dead and because of their religious beliefs.

5. Give one reason why you think Stone Age people painted pictures on the walls of caves.
   Students' answers will vary.

6. How often do you think the Mesolithic people had to move from place to place?
   Students' answers will vary.

7. Would it have been better to live in the Neolithic or the Mesolithic Stone Age? Give two reasons for your answer.
   Students' answers will vary.

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