

PREHISTORIC JERSEY

Introduction to the Stone Age

- Lesson plan
- Fact sheets
- Quiz sheets
- Answer sheets

Introduction to the Stone Age

Lesson Objectives

- To understand the basic chronology of the Stone Age.
- To understand there are three stages of the Stone Age.
- To develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- To understand that Jersey has evidence of the Stone Age on the island.

Expected Outcomes

- All children will place the one of the three Stone Ages on a timeline, be able to identify that there are three different stages and able to complete some of the vocabulary challenge.
- Most children will place the three periods of the Stone Age on a time line be able to identify the differences in lengths of the three different stages and able to complete the vocabulary challenge.
- Some children will compare the periods of the Stone Age on a timeline and demonstrate their understanding by be able to identify that there are three different stages and able to complete the vocabulary challenge and identify that there are different words used for the same thing.

Resources

- Introduction to The Stone Age
- Blank timeline and words
- Historical vocabulary challenge sheets
- Map of Jersey with archaeological sites located on with some details of artefacts found

Introduction

- **Tell** children that they are going to be finding out about what life was like for very early humans during the Ice Age.
- **Explain** that hunter-gatherer people would have moved from place to place and that the landscape would have been very different and a range of techniques in order to live would be used.
- **Explain** that the Stone Age is split into three different stages - each with slightly different characteristics and each lasting a different amount of time. Highlight some of the particular vocabulary that is used.
- **Explain** that Jersey has got evidence of the Ice Age with very special archaeological sites, including a recap of the different types of evidence used to find out about the past.

Whole Class Work

- **Read** and discuss the page 'The Stone Age' which give an overview of the dates and events of the three stages of the Stone Age.
- **Read** and discuss a map of Jersey with details of the archaeological sites and some of the finds.
- **Show** the children the historical vocabulary sheets and discuss the

Group work / Paired work

- **Ask** the children to organise the three Stone Ages into a time line.
- **Ask** the children to work together to match up the historical vocabulary words.

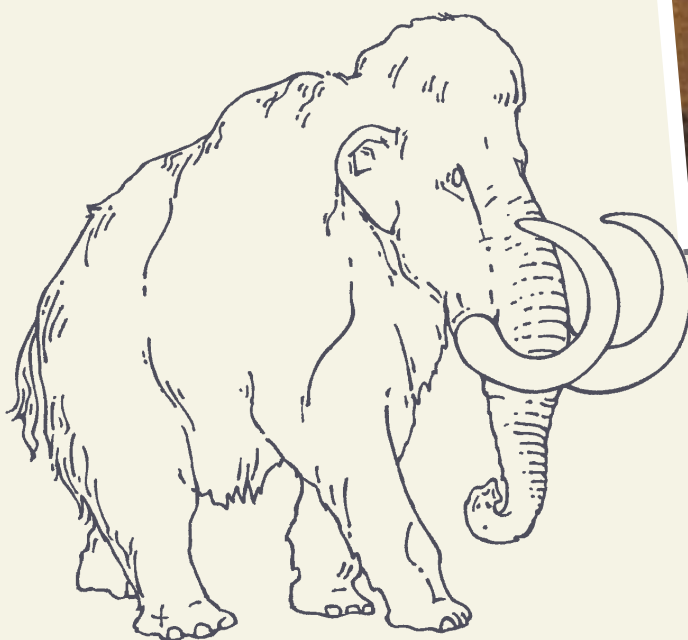
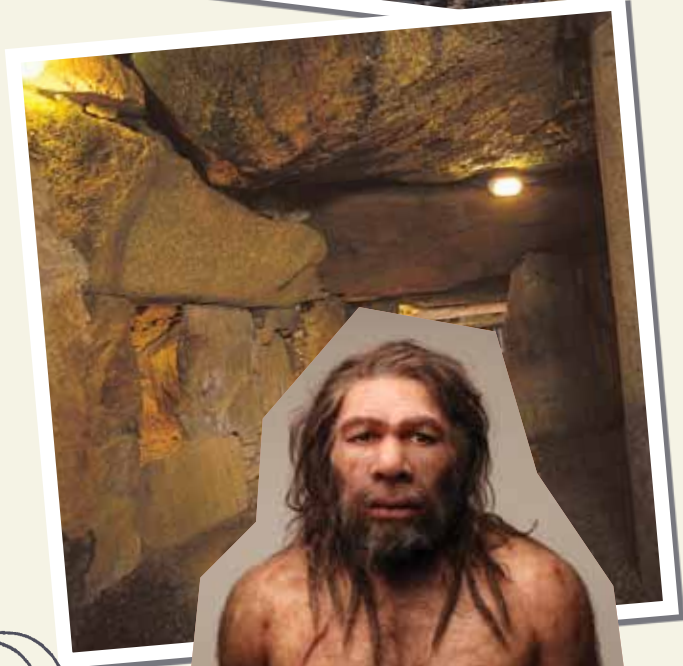
Differentiation

Support - less confident learner could work with an adult to add the Ice Age to a timeline.

Challenge - more confident learners could add all three periods and discuss their relative lengths and characteristics. Ask what are the main differences between the three stages?

Review

- **Check** the accuracy of the children's timelines in terms of ordering of events and scale.
- **Check** the accuracy of the historical vocabulary challenge.



What was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age is the name given to the time in history which is the earliest period of very early humans using stone tools. The Stone Age ended when people began smelting metal leading into the Bronze Age. We also call the Stone Age 'prehistoric' which is a time before historical records were made and kept.

Because it is such a long period of time, the Stone Age is split into three smaller eras.

Palaeolithic

Mesolithic

Neolithic

Lithic means Stone

Paleo - means old

Meso - means middle

Neo - means new

The **Palaeolithic** or **Old Stone Age** had a number of distinct groups of humans living during this period. Only the Homo sapiens species has survived. During this time people were hunter gatherers, finding food from their environment and moving from site to site depending on the season. Tools were made of stone but also of wood, bone, leather and vegetable fibres. Language also developed and its early forms may have been similar to the click languages used by some South and East African peoples today.

The **Mesolithic** or **Middle Stone Age** saw the development of finer, smaller stone tools such as arrow or spear heads. The first canoes were made. This meant that people could fish as well as hunt. The dog was also domesticated during this period, probably by the selection and breeding of the least aggressive wolves.

The **Neolithic** or **New Stone Age** saw the start of farming. Animals such as the cow and sheep were domesticated and provided a ready supply of meat, milk, wool, leather and bone. Grain was the first food that was grown, harvested and it would then be stored for long periods of time. Stones tools were made to cut down and grind grain. The need to harvest and store grain meant that it became necessary to stay in one place to harvest the crops and store the grain. Large scale construction could take place, trade developed and people began to have different roles such as leader, priest, fighter, farmer, hunter or slave.

When was the Stone Age?

In Western Europe we take the dates of the Stone Age to be around 2.7 MYA* - 2,250 BCE*

*MYA = Million Years Ago

*BCE = Before Common Era (BC / 0)

Palaeolithic

2.7 million years ago - 10,000 BCE

Mesolithic

10,000 BCE - 4,800 BCE

Neolithic

4,800 BCE - 2250 BCE

How do we know about it?

Archaeologists have found evidence of people and animals in the ground. These have included:

- Bones and skeletons of animals and people
- Stone tools

Archaeologists have used their knowledge of history and science and have worked out what these artefacts mean and how old they are.

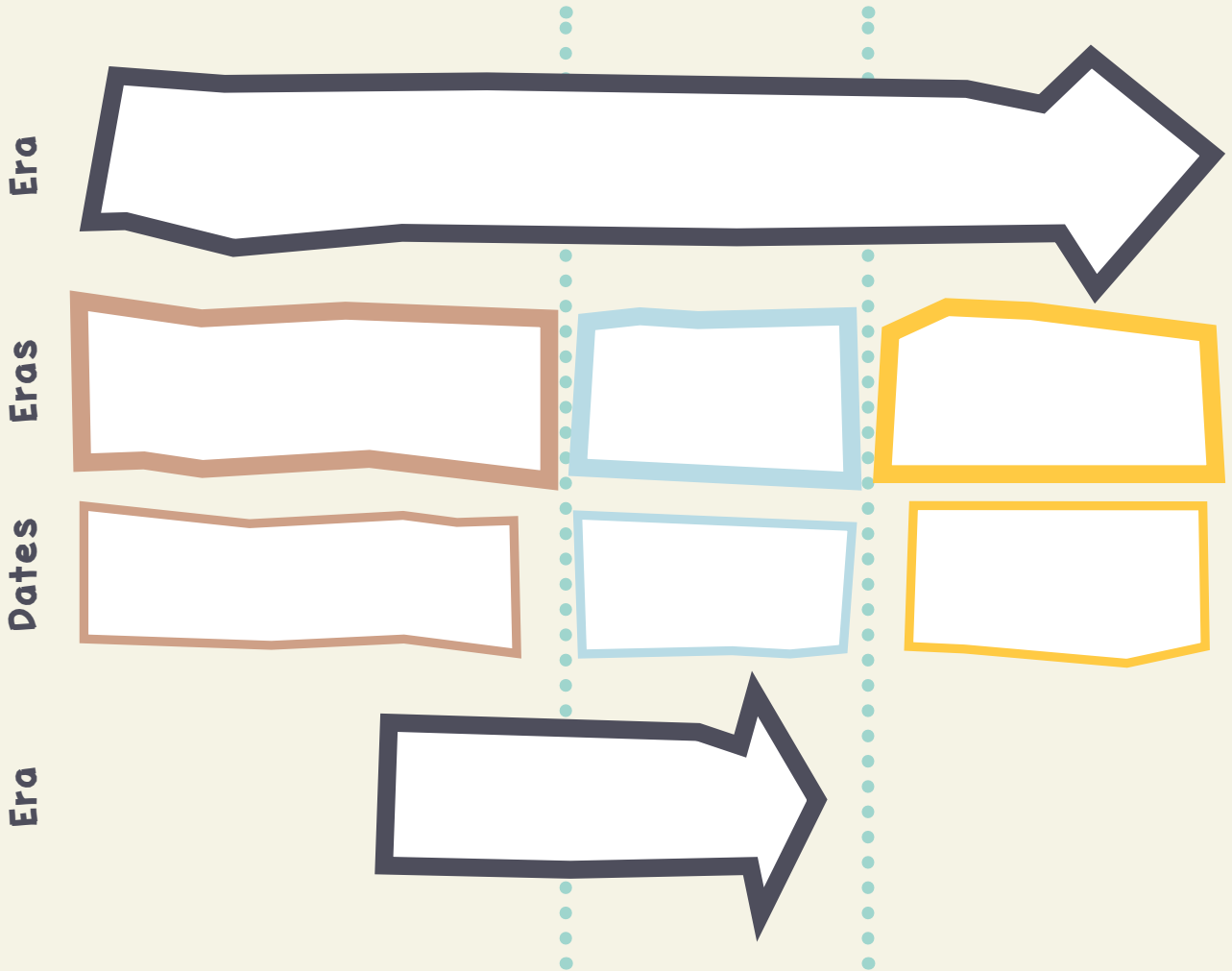
Why is Jersey special?

Jersey is a special place for archaeologists to learn about the Ice Age because of the amount and type of artefacts that they have found in Jersey. The different types of tools and bones tell us a story over a very long period of time which lets archaeologists work out what happened to the people and animals living on Jersey and the rest of Europe.

There are some very special artefacts that have been found in Jersey including Neanderthal teeth, mammoth skulls, flint tools and plaquettes (small pieces of stone with markings on them, making them probably the oldest art found in Britain)

Stone Age Timeline

Can you put the words and dates in the right place on this timeline?



Words and dates

Mesolithic
Middle Stone Age

2.7 MYA – 10,000 BCE

Neolithic
New Stone Age

Palaeolithic
Old Stone Age

10,000 BCE – 4800 BCE

THE ICE AGE

4800 BCE – 2250 BCE

THE STONE AGE

Historical Vocabulary

Can you match the words to the descriptions?

— Object made or modified by human hands

— Old Stone Age

— The study of human past through the investigation and examination of surviving evidence

— 'Handy man', one of the earliest evolutionary forms of people, who started to use tools

— A very long process that our ancestors went through to ultimately become modern humans

— A time when the earth's climate repeatedly changed between very cold periods and very warm periods

— New Stone Age

— Hard, sedimentary rock used to create tools

— People who survived by hunting wild animals and gathering wild food

— Modern people

— The art of creating tools by chipping rock

— An extinct species of human that was widely distributed in Ice-Age Europe

— Middle Stone Age

A Archaeology

B Artefact

C Palaeolithic

D Mesolithic

E Neolithic

F Flint

G Homo Sapiens

H Hunter gatherer

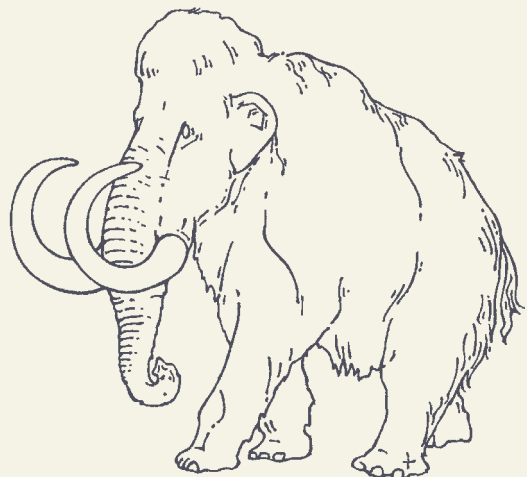
I Knapping

J Homo Habilis

K Neanderthal

L Ice Age

M Evolution



Map of the Ice Age sites in Jersey

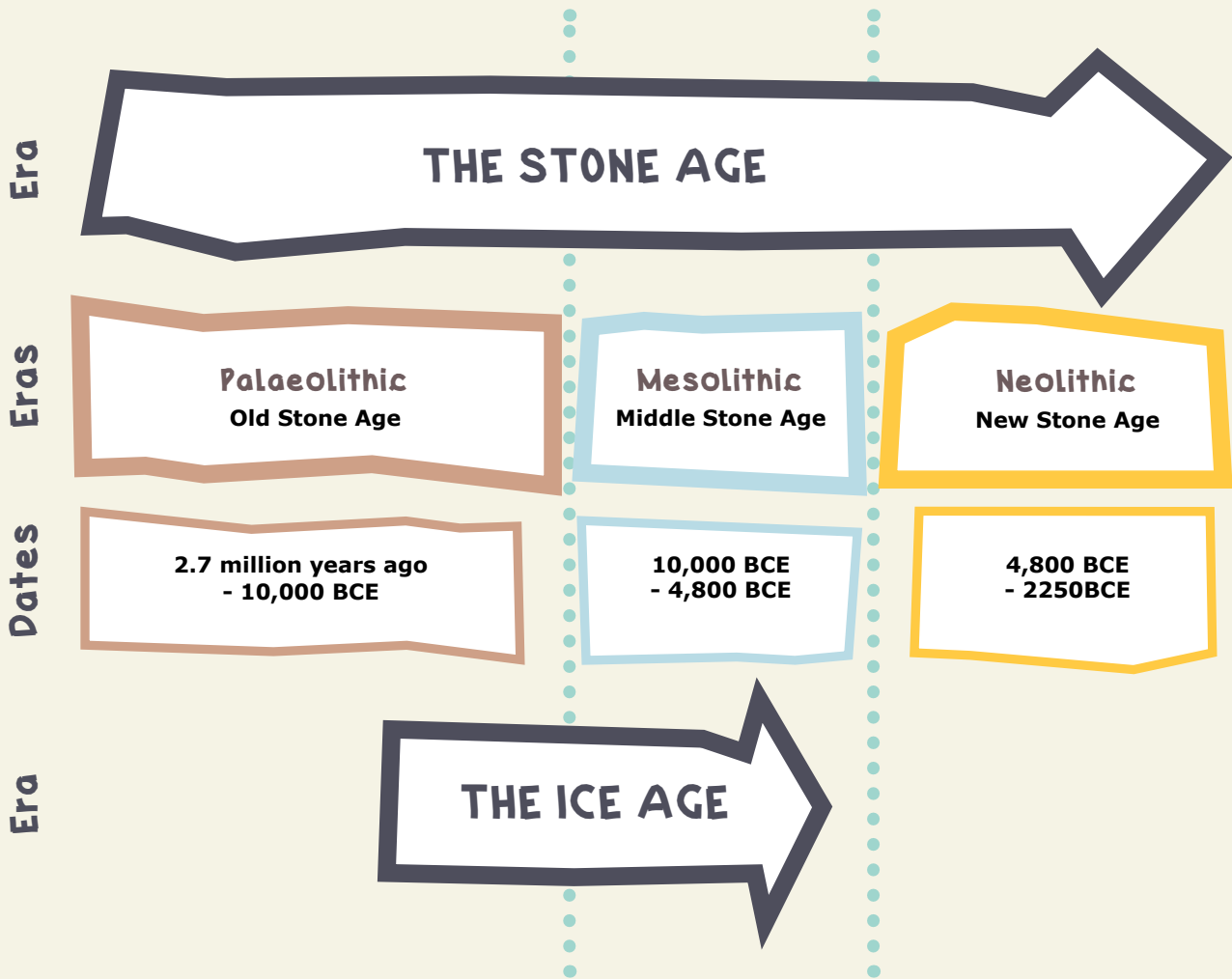
Can you match them to their locations?



- La Cotte a la Chevre
- La Belle Hougue
- Les Varines
- Belcroute Bay
- La Cotte de St Brelade
- Petit Port

Stone Age Timeline

Answers



Words and dates

Mesolithic
Middle Stone Age

2.7 MYA – 10,000 BCE

Neolithic
New Stone Age

Palaeolithic
Old Stone Age

THE ICE AGE

10,000 BCE – 4800 BCE

THE STONE AGE

4800 BCE – 2250 BCE

Historical Vocabulary

Answers

B Object made or modified by human hands

C Old Stone Age

A The study of human past through the investigation and examination of surviving evidence

J 'Handy man', one of the earliest evolutionary forms of people, who started to use tools

M A very long process that our ancestors went through to ultimately become modern humans

L A time when the earth's climate repeatedly changed between very cold periods and very warm periods

E New Stone Age

F Hard, sedimentary rock used to create tools

H People who survived by hunting wild animals and gathering wild food

G Modern people

I The art of creating tools by chipping rock

K An extinct species of human that was widely distributed in Ice-Age Europe

M Middle Stone Age

A Archaeology

B Artefact

C Palaeolithic

D Mesolithic

E Neolithic

F Flint

G Homo Sapiens

H Hunter gatherer

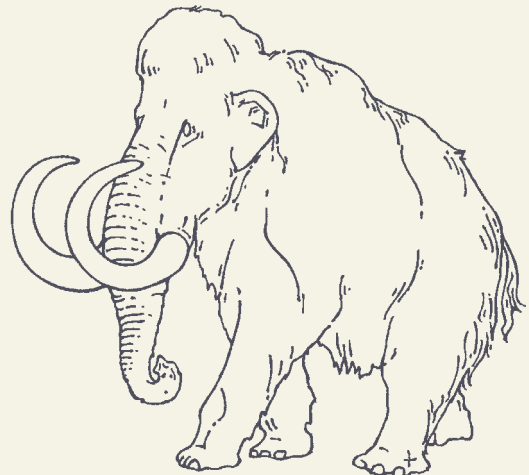
I Knapping

J Homo Habilis

K Neanderthal

L Ice Age

M Evolution



Map of the Ice Age sites in Jersey

Answers



- 1 La Cotte a la Chevre**
- 2 La Belle Hougue**
- 3 Les Varines**
- 4 Belcroute Bay**
- 5 La Cotte de St Brelade**
- 6 Petit Port**