



## The Stone Age



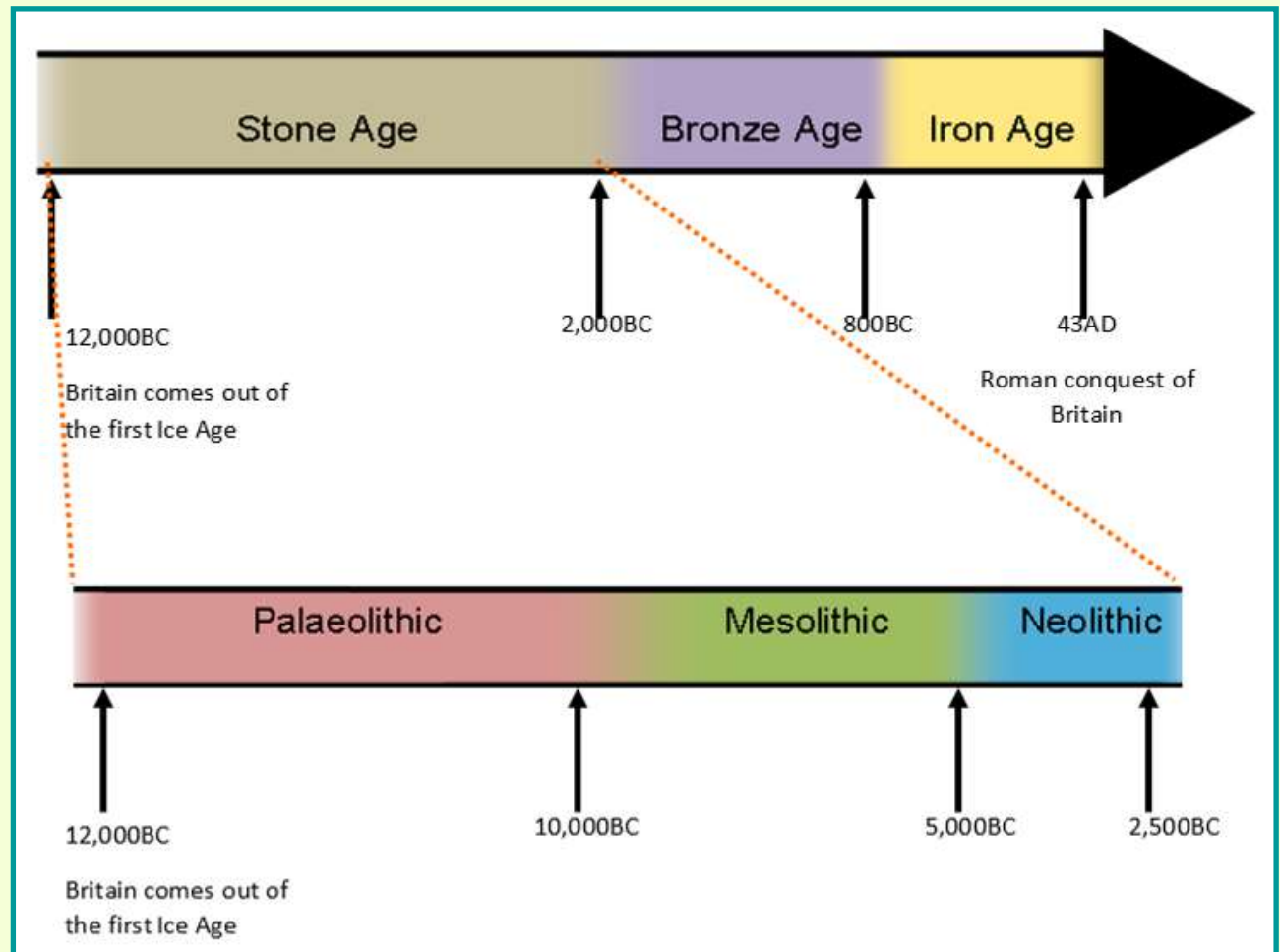
# WHAT IS PREHISTORY?

Prehistory is the period of time before the Romans arrived in AD43. In relation to the rest of our history, the prehistoric era makes up 99% of our past!

Some of the best known monuments in Britain were built during this time, including Stonehenge.

Prehistory is split into three main categories, based on developing technologies and the materials they used: Stone, Bronze and Iron.

The Stone Age is split into three separate periods: **Palaeolithic**, **Mesolithic** and **Neolithic**.





# THE PALAEOOLITHIC

The earliest part of the Stone Age is called the **Palaeolithic**.

**Palaeolithic** people were nomadic. This means they were always moving with their families. They gathered food, firewood, and materials for tools, clothes and shelter, all from their surroundings. Their diet was made up mainly from animal meat, fruits and plants. The animals they ate included wild horse, red deer, arctic hare, reindeer, wild cattle, lynx and red fox. They used every part of the animal to help them live, the meat for food, fur and skin for clothes and bones for marrow and glue. Their discovery of fire also helped them stay warm, cook and frighten away dangerous animals.

## Palaeolithic Surrey Case Study

Church Lammas, near Staines

Archaeologists excavated a site where **Palaeolithic** people had made a temporary camp in the frozen wastes of a near Arctic country. Bones from the reindeer and **aurochs** (an extinct sort of very large wild cattle) they hunted were found alongside flint tools. The tools were used to cut up the meat and prepare the hides for use.

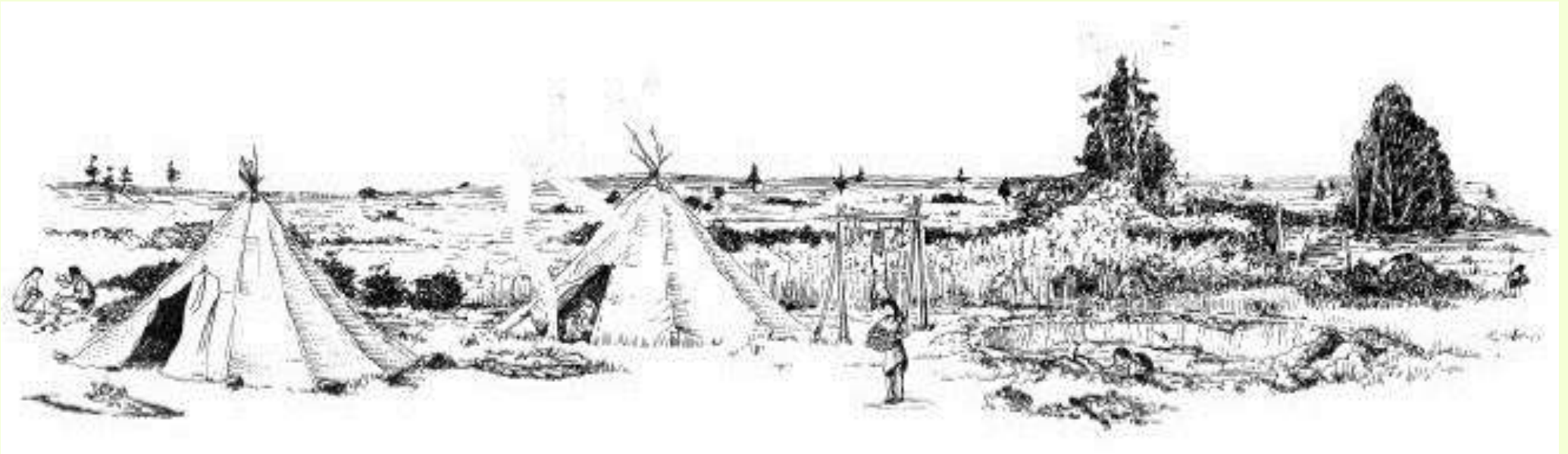


**FACT!**

Dinosaurs had already been extinct for 63.5 million years by the Stone Age!

# THE PALAEOOLITHIC

This reconstruction shows the temporary camp made by hunters at Church Lammas 11,000 years ago







# THE MESOLITHIC

The middle part of the Stone Age is called the **Mesolithic**.

As the climate continued to warm up, sea levels rose and this led to Britain becoming an island. Before this, there was no sea between Britain and Europe. You would have been able to walk from Britain to France! **Mesolithic** people moved around the country side following animal herds and finding the best flint which could be used for tool making. They travelled in groups of about 10-40 people and hunted animals in woodlands.

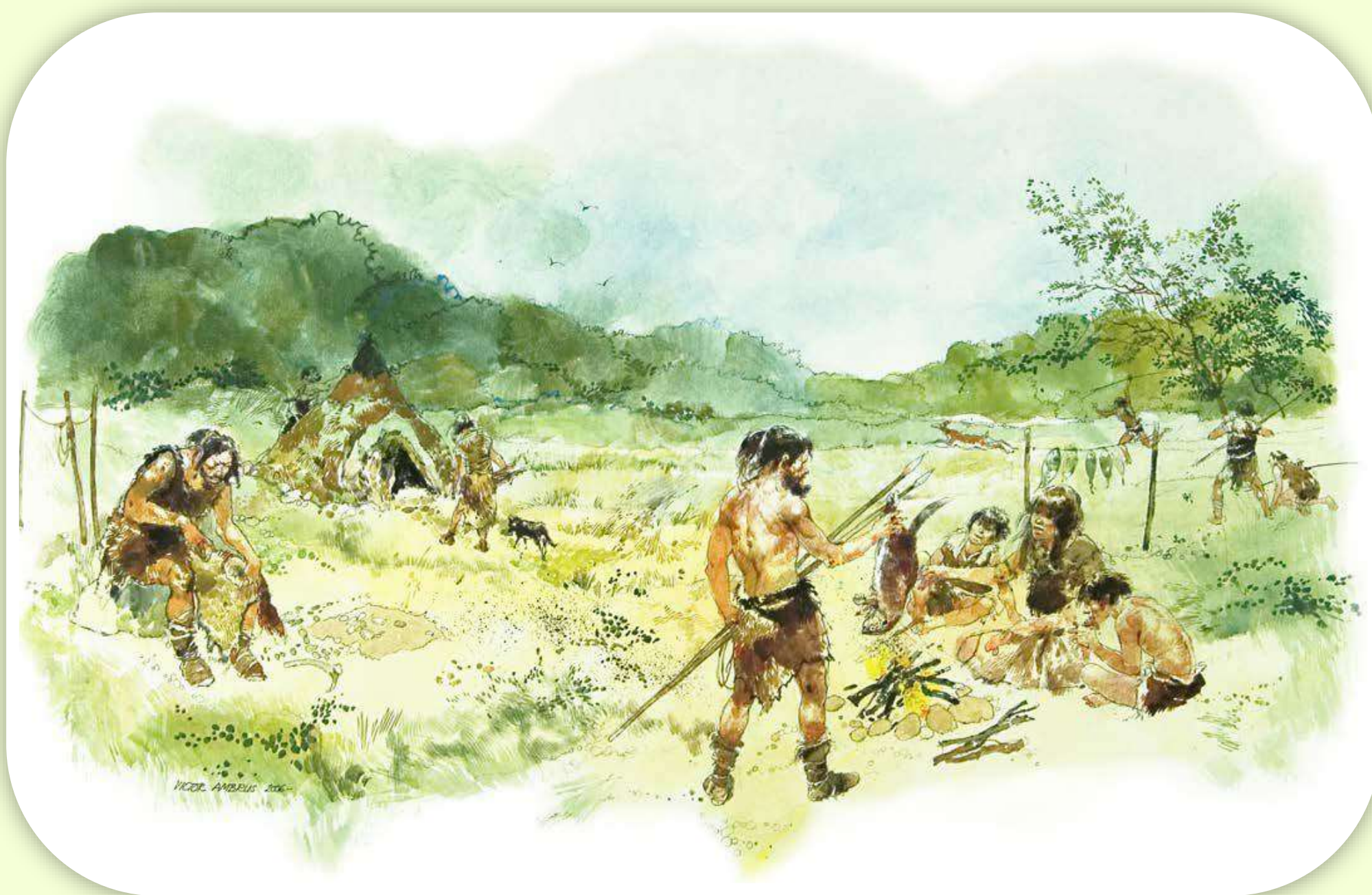
## Mesolithic Surrey Case Study

### North Park Farm, Bletchingley

When archaeologists excavated the site of North Park Farm, they found a site that **Mesolithic** people had visited repeatedly for over 4000 years. It must have been a special or sacred site. Many flint tools were found, and the remains of fires that would have been used for cooking.



Archaeologists during the excavation at North Park Farm



Artist's impression of a hunter-gatherer camp North Park Farm around 5,000BC





# THE NEOLITHIC

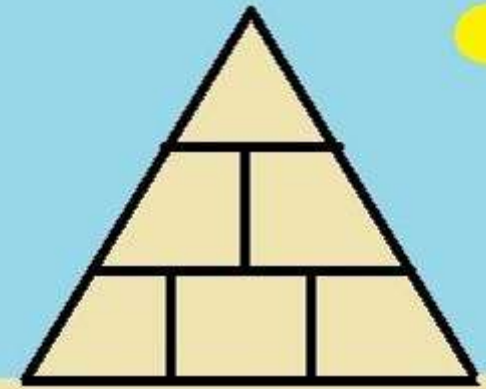
Around 4,000BC, people begin to stop moving around, and start to live in one place permanently. They began to farm crops like spelt and wheat, and kept animals like goats and sheep. More land was needed for farming, and lots of woodlands were cut down to make space. Flint was still used to make tools, and flint mines were used to find the best flint deep underground.

It was during the **Neolithic** that people started using pottery in Britain, although it had already been used in Greece for 2,500 years! Items made from pottery were used for cooking and storing food.

## Neolithic Surrey Case Study

### Shepperton – Surrey's Henge

Surrey's closest rival to Stonehenge was found by archaeologists when they were excavating at Shepperton. Archaeologists found a ditch forming a circular enclosure. The entrance lines up exactly where the sun rises on Midsummer's Day, and a human skeleton was buried next to it. Flint arrowheads, antler picks and pottery were also found, perhaps left as offerings or as part of a ceremony.

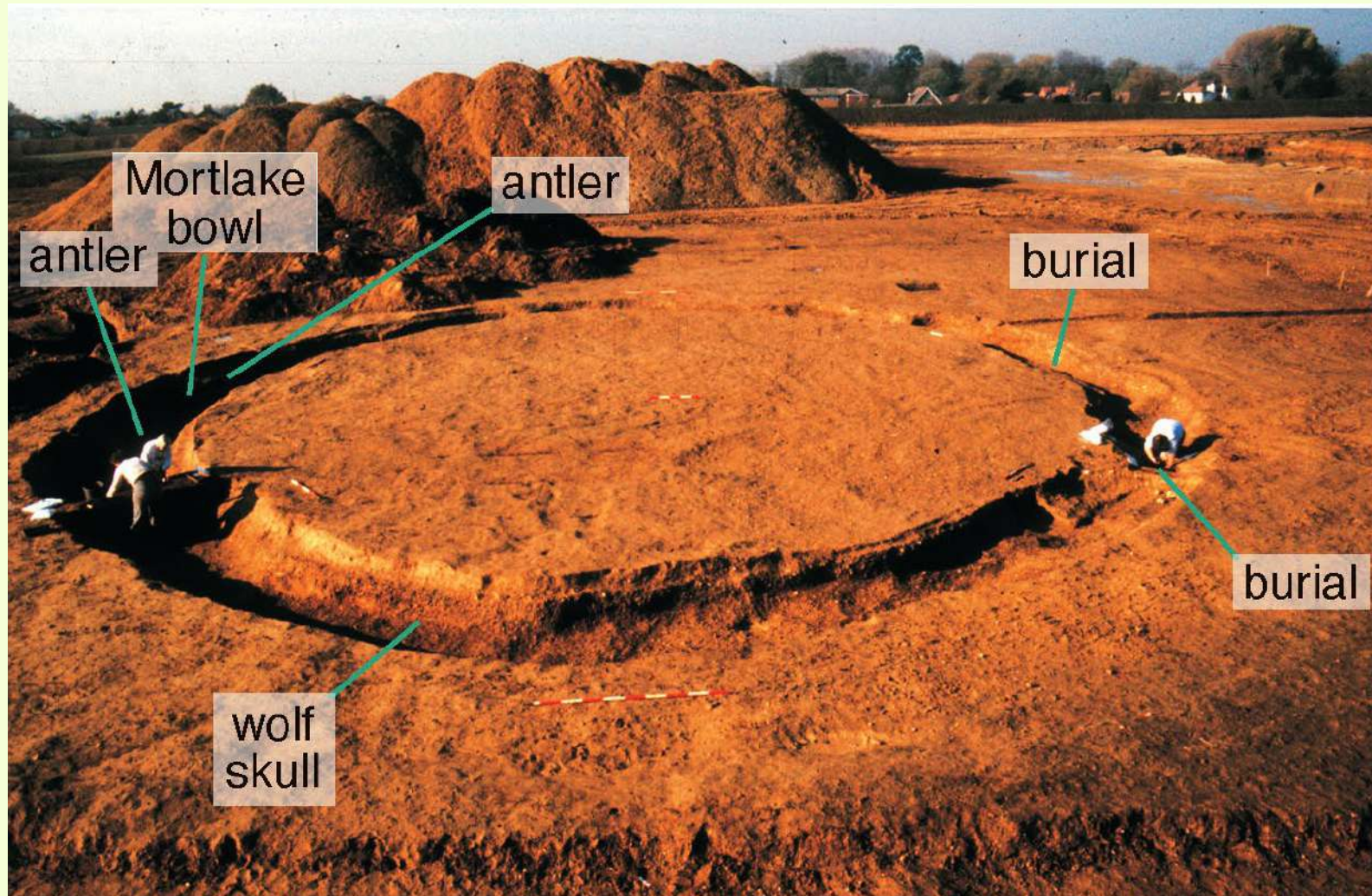


### FACT!

During this time the first writing was produced in South Mesopotamia (Ancient Iraq) and the Great Pyramid of Giza was built in Egypt!

# THE NEOLITHIC

A photo of the excavations of a ditch forming a circular enclosure at Staines Road Farm





# ACTIVITY—CAVE PAINTING

Create your own cave painting!

Around 35,000 years ago people started to paint pictures on the walls of caves. Artists used their fingers, feathers, and anything else they could find to draw. Some people think they sucked paint up through a reed and spat it onto the walls (don't try this at home)! Most cave paintings are of animals, but some are of stick people. The most famous cave paintings come from France and Spain.

**Research** – Before you start you might want to carry out some research on the internet to find out more about cave painting. Chauvet Cave and the Lascaux caves in France have particularly good examples.

**Warning! Messy activity!**

## You will need:

- Poster Paints (brown, red, orange and yellow is best)
- sheets of paper, the larger the better
- Paint brushes
- Prehistoric Paintbrushes - Feathers, leaves, twigs, anything else you can find outside!
- Clean hands – some Stone Age people used their fingers as paintbrushes!
- Something to protect the table (like newspaper)

## Cave Painting Instructions

### To make your own cave art:

1. Cover your table with newspaper to make sure you don't get any paint on it
2. Take your piece of paper and think about what you want to paint. Most cave paintings are of animals, but some show hunting and people, while others are of handprints.
3. Start using your paintbrush, your prehistoric paintbrush or fingers to paint your design!



### To make a Handprint cave painting:

1. Find a space on a piece of paper and put your hand flat against it
2. Use your other hand or get a friend to use a paintbrush and paint over your hand
3. Take your hand away and there should be the outline of your hand left on the cave wall
4. You could also try making different shapes with your hand or overlapping them!
5. Don't forget to wash your hands!

### To make an Animal cave painting:

1. Find a space on the cave wall and use paint on your finger or prehistoric paintbrush to make the outline of the animal
2. Colour in the animal with the paint on your finger, or the paint brush

# ACTIVITY—MAKE A HEADDRESS

Recreate a Mesolithic headdress, just like Star Carr!

21 antler headdresses were found at the Mesolithic site of Star Carr during excavations in 1949 and 1950. Each of them had two holes cut through the bone so a leather band could be threaded through and tied under the chin, to create a headdress.

We aren't sure what they were used for, but some archaeologists think they may have been worn by hunters as a disguise when hunting, although it seems more likely that they were made as part of a costume that would have been worn for special occasions such as ritual ceremonies.

## You will need:

- Card
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick or sticky tape
- Colouring pencils

**Research** – Before you start you might want to carry out some research on the internet to find out more about Star Carr.

## Instructions

1. Cut a length of card that will fit round your head and stick the two ends together to make a circle
2. Draw 2 large animal ears or antlers on paper. You could draw antlers like the ones from Star Carr, or you could draw ears from another animal such as a rabbit or a horse.
3. Colour in and decorate your antlers or ears
4. Cut them out carefully and stick them at opposite sides of your circle
5. Now put on your Mesolithic headdress!



# KEY WORDS

What words have you learnt?

## Key Words

**Artefact** An artefact is an object made by a humans. Archaeologists find artefacts during excavations

**Aurochs** An extinct sort of very large wild cattle

**Excavation** A dig carried out to uncover the archaeology beneath the ground

**Flint Knapping** A process where flint is shaped so it can be used as a tool, such as an axe or an arrowhead

**Mesolithic** The period in the middle of the Stone Age

**Neolithic** The period at the end of the Stone Age

**Palaeolithic** The period at the start of the Stone Age

**Star Carr** A Mesolithic site excavated by archaeologists



## Contact

If you have any feedback on this activity pack or would like to show us your finished crafts, please email our Community Archaeologist at [education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk)