

TOPIC PACKS · GRADES 3–6

Stone Age!

A cross-curricular themed week

Suggested timetable

Day	Subject	Activity
Monday	History	Stone Age timeline — 3 million years in 30 minutes
Tuesday	Science	Tools — making and using stone tools
Wednesday	Art	Cave paintings — make your own
Thursday	English	A day in the life — hunter-gatherer diary
Friday	History	From hunters to farmers — the agricultural revolution

Day 1 — Stone Age timeline

Period	When	What was happening
Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)	3 million – 10,000 BCE	Hunter-gatherers, cave paintings, fire mastered
Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)	10,000 – 4,000 BCE	Better tools, fishing, dogs domesticated
Neolithic (New Stone Age)	4,000 – 2,500 BCE	Farming begins, villages built, pottery made
Bronze Age	2,500 – 800 BCE	Metal tools start replacing stone



Period	When	What was happening
Iron Age	800 BCE onwards	Iron tools, hill forts, more complex societies

Day 1 perspective check

Most of human history is the Stone Age. Modern humans appeared around 300,000 years ago. Writing was invented about 5,500 years ago. So for over 95% of human existence, our ancestors had NO writing, NO buildings, NO agriculture. They lived from the land, with each other, in small groups. Stone Age people weren't 'primitive' — they were just like us, but with different tools.

Day 2 — Tools (45 min)

Show pictures of Stone Age tools — hand axes, scrapers, arrow heads, awls. Discuss what each was for: • **HAND AXE:** For chopping, digging, butchering. The oldest 'Swiss army knife'. • **SCRAPER:** For cleaning animal skins to make clothes. • **ARROW HEAD:** For hunting — shaped to fly straight and pierce hide. • **AWL:** For piercing leather to sew it together. **ACTIVITY:** Children design their own Stone Age tool. What's it for? Hunting? Cooking? Building? Drawing? Label and explain.

Day 3 — Cave painting (60 min)

FAMOUS CAVE PAINTINGS: • Lascaux (France, 17,000 years old) — horses, bulls, deer • Chauvet (France, 36,000 years old) — lions, mammoths, rhinos • Altamira (Spain, 36,000 years old) — bison painted on a curved ceiling **WHY** did Stone Age people paint? Maybe to record what they hunted. Maybe for ceremonies. Maybe just to make their cave beautiful. **MAKE YOUR OWN:** Cover a sheet of brown paper with crumpled-up texture. Use the colours real cave painters had — black (charcoal), red and yellow (clay), white (chalk). **NO** blue, green or purple — those colours weren't available. Paint animals with simple flowing lines.

Day 4 — Hunter-gatherer diary (60 min)

WRITING TASK: A day in the life of a Stone Age 11-year-old. Children write a first-person diary including: • How you wake up (what does the shelter look and feel like?) • Your morning job — gathering berries? Looking after younger children? Helping make tools? • A successful hunt (or a failed one) • Cooking dinner over a fire • An evening story told by an elder • Going to sleep under stars **EMPHASISE:** Stone Age children probably had similar emotions to us — fear, joy, friendship, wonder. The diary should feel real, not cartoony.

Day 5 — Hunters vs farmers



Aspect	Hunter-gatherers	Early farmers
Where they lived	Moved around following animals/seasons	Stayed in one place — built villages
What they ate	Wild meat, fish, berries, nuts, roots	Crops they grew + animals they kept
Time per day for food	Surprisingly little — 4–5 hours	More — fields are constant work
Population	Small groups, 20–50 people	Larger groups, hundreds in a village
Health	Strong, varied diet, lots of exercise	Less varied diet, more disease in close groups
What they owned	Tools, clothes, what they could carry	Houses, fields, livestock — much more

Day 5 discussion

Was the move from hunting to farming a step UP or a step BACK? It led to writing, art, science, civilisations — but also to inequality, harder work, and worse diets at first. There's no simple answer. Children debate in pairs: Would you rather be a hunter-gatherer or an early farmer? Why?

