

Artifacts To Study the Stone Age



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldowan#/media/File:Oldowan_tradition_chopper.jpg

This is a tool known as a chopper. It is a type of pebble tool made from stone. This tool was very easy to make. To create this tool, a hammerstone was used to chip away flakes from the stone on one side. This would leave a sharp edge. The chopper was used to cut or hack away at an object. For example, a chopper could be used to cut up meat for eating. The earliest choppers have been found in Africa, but archaeologists have also discovered them in Europe and Asia.



<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/stone-age-fishing-spear-found-southeast-asian-island>

These are carved bone tips that were used for fishing. The tips were shaped and carved with a hammerstone or early chisels. A long wood stick would be attached to the bone tip, making a spear that was used to catch fish. The person would throw the spear at the fish to catch it.



This is a head of a hand axe. This tool was made from stone. A hammerstone was used to first cut flakes of stone away from the rock to shape it. Then, more layers of flakes were pounded away to make the axe head thinner and sharper. The tool was used for many different activities including digging up roots, cutting meat, scrapping, and cutting of animal hides and cutting down trees.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ee/Acheulean_hand-axe_from_Egypt_Found_on_a_hill_top_plateau%2C_1400_feet_above_sea_level%2C_9_miles_NNW_of_the_city_of_Naqada%2C_Egypt_Paleolithic_The_Petrie_Museum_of_Egyptian_Archaeology%2C_London.jpg

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<http://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/files/2012/07/Blacklow-Hill-microliths.jpg>

This is a photograph of tools known as microliths. These tools were small, sharp points that were used for arrows or spears. Some larger microliths were used as harpoons, which is a large fishing hook used to capture large fish and sea animals. Microliths were mostly used for hunting and fishing.



[https://www.sciencesource.com/archive/Stone-Age-\(Magdalenian\)-bullroarer-SS2644103.html](https://www.sciencesource.com/archive/Stone-Age-(Magdalenian)-bullroarer-SS2644103.html)

This tool is called a bullroarer. A piece of rope or cord was tied through the hole. Then, the bullroarer could be swung around. The tool had a variety of uses from making musical sounds to being used as a warning that someone was approaching.

Creating Artifacts

Follow the steps below to create an artifact.

Step 1: Creating an Artifact

- Your teacher will give you a card with information about an activity from the Stone Age.
- You should not share this information with other students in your class.
- Read through the information on the card. Then, choose an artifact to build. Use clay and other art supplies to build your artifact.
- Once your artifact is built, you will need to create a way to identify your artifact. You will create a four digit code that is unique to your artifact. You can use letters, numbers, or both in your code.

- Write your code here: _____
- Using a pen or permanent marker, write your code somewhere on your artifact.

Step 2: Writing a Report

- You will fill out the report below about your artifact.
 - Write your four-digit code from step 1 in the “Identification Code” box.
 - Fill in all remaining information on your artifact report based on what you learned from your card.
- Cut out the report when you are finished and hand it to your teacher along with your artifact.

<h2>Artifact Report</h2>		Identification Code:
Name of Artifact:	_____	
What artifact is made out of:	_____	
What activity artifact is used for:	_____	
Other known details about the artifact:		

Information Cards for Students

Card 1

Activity: Hunting & Gathering

Description of Activity:

- This activity began about 1.8 million years ago.
- Hunting animals and fishing were ways to find meat to eat.
- Gathering was a way to find nuts, berries, and plants to eat.
- Hunting was mostly done by men, gathering was mostly done by women.

Items Associated with Activity:



A stick called a digger was used to dig up roots from the ground.
<https://kidzfeed.com/stone-age-tools/>



A harpoon was used to spear large fish and could be made from animal antlers or bones.
<http://www.lithiccastinglab.com/gallery-pages/organicptzzebreeharpoonslrq.htm>



Arrows made from flint and sticks.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-3684605/A-deadly-beautiful-jigsaw-Delicate-5-000-year-old-flint-arrowhead-work-Stone-Age-master-craftsman.html>



Bark "plates" were used to carry berries and nuts.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=BthuvwtjGRAC8pg=PA268lpg=PA268&dq=stone+age+bark+plate&source=bl&ots=kYUzdHGK6&sig=ACRU3U3R06AKZx44CDbz6HgMHGUiyY69nA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=ZahLUKEwjiipPIgIHAhVFb60KHam7DrY06AEwDnoECAK0AQ#v=onepage&q=stone%20age%20bark%20plate&f=false>

Information Cards for Students

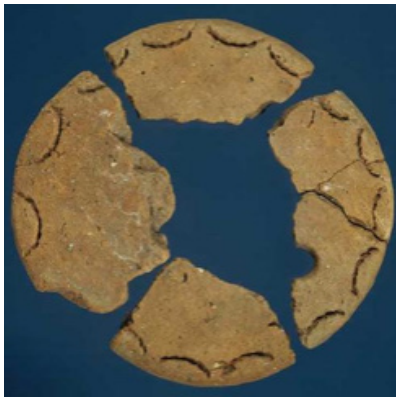
Card 2

Activity: Farming

Description of Activity:

- Farming began around 10,000 BCE in the Near East.
- Farming allowed people to control their sources of food. This meant that they could grow their own food and not have to depend on hunting and gathering food.
- Farming meant people could stay in one place all year round.

Items Associated with Activity:



Clay plates to bake bread.

<https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-neolithic-period/farmers-hunters-and-warriors/the-tools-of-the-farmers/>



Axes that were used to break up the ground.

<https://hampshirearchaeology.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/mesopick.jpg>



Sickles that were used to cut grains such as wheat or crops such as corn.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sickle#/media/File:The_Oldest_Sickle,_Flint_&_Resin,_Tahunian_Culture,_c._7000_BC.jpg



A stone quern and rubber was used to grind grain. The quern was a flat stone. The grain was placed on the stone and a rubber, which consisted of a rounded stone was rolled back and forth over the grain to make flour.

<https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/archaeology/publications/archaeologymonographseries/Ch-5-Hegarty.pdf>

Information Cards for Students

Card 3

Activity: Making Clothing

Description of Activity:

- During the Stone Age, the Earth was in an Ice Age. This was a period of very, very cold weather.
- It was during this period that people were probably the first to wear clothing.
- The first clothing was made from animal skins and furs.
- Towards the end of the Stone Age, people learned how to weave cloth. They also learned to use dyes to make clothing different colors.

Items Associated with Activity:



A scraper to remove fat and tissue from an animal skin.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scraper_\(archaeology\)#/media/File:Gavaudun_Global_2009.0.212.3.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scraper_(archaeology)#/media/File:Gavaudun_Global_2009.0.212.3.jpg)



Flint knives were used to cut skins into different shapes so that it could be worn.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/out-of-eden-walk/articles/2016-06-reclaiming-humanitys-oldest-tech-one-flint-blade-at-a-time/>



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A spindle made of wood and hard clay was used to twist raw wool from sheep. The wool was just taken off of sheep that were shedding or losing their coats.

<https://digitalmuseum.se/011023483063/slinda?pos=16&count=133&query=s1%C3%A4nda>



A loom to weave cloth. The first looms were invented towards the end of the Stone Age.

https://exarc.net/sites/default/files/openarch_-_seminar_2012_webstuhl_0.jpg

Information Cards for Students

Card 4

Activity: Making Music

Description of Activity:

- Prehistory music might have been used to emphasize special events or ceremonies.
- First “music” may have been made by people using their voices to sing.
- Music was probably played in evenings after eating as families gathered around a fire.

Items Associated with Activity:



Bone flutes or pipes that were blown into to make sounds of different kinds.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_music#/media/File:F1%C3%BBte_pal%C3%A9olithique_\(mus%C3%A9_national_de_Slov%C3%A9nie,_Ljubljana\)_9420310527.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_music#/media/File:F1%C3%BBte_pal%C3%A9olithique_(mus%C3%A9_national_de_Slov%C3%A9nie,_Ljubljana)_9420310527.jpg)



Stone drums that created different rhythms and sounds.

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-other-artifacts/study-sheds-new-light-mysterious-stone-age-drums-004163>



Rattles made from hollow sticks and then filled with sand or pebbles.

<https://www.smashinglists.com/10-earliest-known-musical-instruments/2/>



Percussion instruments such as different sizes and shapes of stones that could be hit against another stone.

<https://www.smashinglists.com/10-earliest-known-musical-instruments/>

Information Cards for Students

Card 5

Activity: Cooking

Description of Activity:

- Cooking would depend on where people were living, the season and what types of foods were available.
- Cooking food meant food was healthier because bacteria and germs were killed by heat.
- Food was prepared over fire pits. e.g. building a fire in a shallow hole. The fire had to be constantly looked after to make sure it stayed hot enough to cook. Rocks placed in the pit could be used for meats or plants.
- As pottery developed, containers were made that could hold stews and other liquids.

Items Associated with Activity:



Stones for stone boiling. Stones were placed on a fire and when they became hot, they were then placed in a pot or container holding liquid food such as a stew.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/stone-boiling-ancient-cooking-method-172854>



Dried fungi was used to start fires for cooking.

<http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/neolithic-humans-dried-fungi-fires-05966.html>



Pottery of different shapes and sizes used for cooking and carrying hot food.

http://www.ancientcraft.co.uk/Archaeology/stone-age/stoneage_food.html



Wood was used to make simple spoons.

<https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-neolithic-period/the-skarpsalling-pot/wooden-vessels/>

Information Cards for Students

Card 6

Activity: Building Shelter

Description of Activity:

- Shelters helped protect people from the cold, the wet, and the heat.
- Hunting-gathering people needed shelter that was portable, or could be carried as they moved from place to place.
- Different resources were used for constructing shelters, including animal furs, branches, grasses and other natural materials.
- Shelters were often built near water that would be used for cooking and other necessities.

Items Associated with Activity:



Animal furs and bones used as outer coverings of a shelter and as rugs on the floor for warmth.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AMammoth_House_\(Replica\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AMammoth_House_(Replica).JPG)



Reeds, bones and wood made temporary shelters.

https://en.vikidia.org/wiki/Prehistoric_house#/media/File:Hunter_gatherer%27s_camp_at_Irish_National_Heritage_Park_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1252699.jpg



Caves were used because they did not require any construction.

<https://www.shorthistory.org/prehistory/palaeolithic-old-stone-age/>



Daub, which was a material made of water, straw, and mud or chalk.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/educational-images/neolithic-new-stone-age-houses-stonehenge-11766>

Analyzing Artifacts

Follow the steps below to identify an ancient artifact.

Step 1: Gathering Information

- First, get another student's artifact from your teacher.
- Then, fill in as much as you can on artifact discovery form below.
 - Note: You can only fill in things on your form that you have evidence for. You can't add in guesses.

Artifact Discovery Report

Identification Code:

Name of Artifact:

What artifact is made out of: _____

What activity artifact is used for: _____

Other known details about the artifact:

Step 2: Gathering Information from Information Card

- Once you have filled in all of the information you can from studying your artifact, it is time to get extra information that came from the information card on the artifact.
- Read the form and learn more about your artifact.
- List at least 3 things you learned from the information card
