

# Stone Age Archaeo-Box Collection (HI00501)

This collection contains a variety of Stone Age replica artefacts to engage and inspire children's curiosity and questioning about life in the Stone Age.



## Contents: -

1. 2 x Small Arrowheads  
1x Medium Arrowhead  
1x Large Arrowhead
2. 1 x Large Neolithic Knife  
1x Miniature Flint Dagger
3. 1 x Mounted Axe  
1x Flint Hand Axe  
1x Axe Head
4. 1 x Fish Harpoon
5. 1 x Large Biface
6. 1 x Rocket Shaped Borer/Stone Drill
7. 1 x Clay Pot
8. 1x Small Crystal Quartz
9. 1x Stone to Iron Age Desktop Timeline  
(Contents may vary)

## Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

### **Initial Discussion**

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

### **Other questions to consider:**

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in the Stone Age?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

# All About the Artefacts

## 1. Arrowheads

Flint arrow heads were made during the Neolithic Age using a technique called flint napping. A lump of flint rock is shaped by striking the flint with a rounded rock in a very specific series of blows, to break off flakes of flint and create the desired shape.

There were many shapes and sizes of arrowhead being used during this time, including those that had a wide top and looked a bit like a fan. There were also those that had sharp barbs running along the wooden shaft of the arrow. We don't know if these different shapes were used for hunting different types of animals or if they were just made by different people.

To help the arrows fly straight, feathers were attached to the back of the wooden arrow shaft. It is likely that they would have used feathers from a goose or other large bird. These feathers would have been attached using pitch to glue them in place and fine cord or thread to hold them. Arrow heads are a common find at Neolithic sites as they would often have been lost during hunts because they would break off the shaft if the arrow missed its mark.



Stone Age Flint Arrowheads 30pk TTS HI00548

## 2. Neolithic Knife and Flint Dagger

Early Neolithic knives were very simple. Made of a stick with a simple flint stuck to the end using birch bark pitch, they weren't very pretty but they would have been a very useful tool for cutting, hunting and defending themselves.

This Knife would be made by carving a wooden handle, with a slit at one end where the flint blade will slot in. The flint blade has been shaped very carefully and has a notch at one end. The blade can be fixed in place with birch bark pitch and sometimes a rawhide strap, that was wrapped around the wooden handle for extra security.

Towards the end of the Neolithic period and at the start of the Bronze Age, the designs of knives became more complicated as metal and decoration were introduced.



Stone Age Flint Artefacts 10pk TTS - HI00516

### 3. Axes

Used for a variety of purposes such as chopping wood, cutting meat, digging and even hunting. Made from materials available in the environment. These hunters and gatherers moved from place to place in search of food and early Stone Age people would have made simple hand axes out of stone with handles to help people to use them more easily and to be able to swing them with more power.

The axe heads were sharpened and polished to make them smooth so that they could cut more cleanly.

### 4. Fish Harpoon

Hunters and gatherers went fishing using nets and harpoons. The harpoons were often made from bone, antler or wood. They were long spears attached to a rope with bards on the end to stab the fish.

*Pretend to be hunter-gatherers, make shelters and dens outside and make a chart of the food and things you might use. Make your own tools using found objects such as stones and sticks.*

### 5. Biface

Used like hand axes for hunting, cutting and preparing food. They were used for various purposes. They were made from stone that had been chipped away from both sides to achieve the desired shape. Usually almond-shaped with a pointed end and a rounded base.

### 6. Borer/Stone Drill

Small sharp tools made of flint. They were used for piercing holes. It is believed from their size and shape that they would have been used mostly for intricate work, making holes in clothing and footwear.

## 7. Clay Pot

People would have made and decorated pots by hand. Used for cooking, storage and even rituals. Examine pots and pottery shards to learn about the uses and see examples of early art.

*Make simple pieces of pottery from clay and use hand-building techniques. Ask the children think about the types of utensils that might be needed for everyday life in the various ages.*

## 8. Crystal Quartz

Stone Age people would have used rocks, including quartz to make with. The hardness of the quartz and the ability to be shaped made the quartz a valuable resource for creating sharp tools as well as decorative objects. They also held some symbolic and spiritual significance in some Stone Age cultures and were sometimes used in burial sites to mark where people were buried.

## 9. Timeline

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age: 450,000-10,000BC - stone tools, woolly mammoths)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age: 10,000-4,500BC - stone tools, temporary camps)
- Neolithic (New Stone Age: 4,500-2,300BC - more advanced stone tools, pottery, settlements)
- Bronze Age (4,500-700BC - bronze weapons, first roundhouses)
- Iron Age (700BC-AD43 - iron tools & weapons, gold jewellery, roundhouse settlements)

*Use the timeline to order events and find out about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. Place the artefacts along the timeline to see where they fit in and see how they have developed over time. Make a fun fact file poster for each of the eras in the pre-historic times.*

### Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk>

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-britain>