

Stone Age to Iron Age Dig Kit (GH47379)

This collection contains a variety of Stone Age to Iron Age replica artefacts ideal for investigating evidence, encouraging historical enquiry and role-play of an archaeological dig.



Contents: -

1. 1 x Flint Arrowhead
5x Mini Arrowheads
2. 1 x Flint Knife Blade
3. 1 x Mammoth Tusk
Pendant
4. 1 x Scallop Shell
5. 1 x Horn Needle
1x Small Bone Needle
6. 1 x Small Haematite
7. Pottery Pieces
8. 1 x Iron Age Brooch
9. 1 x Gratnell's Tray, lid,
brushes and tools.

(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 these times?** *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. Flint Knife

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. Mammoth Tusk Pendant

Stone Age people would have used animal bones, tusks and teeth to make jewellery and accessories. This replica pendant would have been made originally from a slice of Mammoth tusk, and a hole made to thread a rawhide cord to make a pendant. Many examples are marked or decorated with lines or dots and may have been used to represent successful animal hunts or kills.

Video: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/59432547>

Draw woolly mammoths and create own cave paintings on large sheets of paper or on rocks. Use natural materials like charcoal and ochre.

4. Scallop Shell

Shells of all shapes and sizes would have been readily available (particularly on the coast) and would have been used for a wide variety of uses such as Knives, Tools, Cups, Bowls, Lamps, Jewellery and much more.

The Scallop is a marine (salt water) mollusc (like mussels, oysters, and clams). They're unique in that they're the only free-swimming bivalve and use their large central muscle (called the adductor) to clasp their shells shut, shooting water out one end and propelling themselves forward in the other direction.

Their muscles would have been a very nutritious and sought after food source to the Stone Age people.

5. Horn Needle and Bone Needle

Animal horns and bones wouldn't get wasted in the Stone Age and could be fashioned (using stones and flints) into many useful and decorative objects. Both Horn and Bone Needles would have been used to sew using animal hide or cordage made from plants to make clothing, shoes, containers and weapons.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUn6LzakHsM>

6. Haematite

Haematite (also spelled as hematite) is a common iron oxide compound with the formula, Fe_2O_3 and is widely found in rocks and soils. Haematite signals the transition from the Stone and Bronze Ages to the new Iron Age – when tools, weapons, and jewellery were made from hard metal. Haematite would have involved the extraction of iron by crushing the rocks to a powder and then by 'smelting' in a very hot fire or furnace; the iron would have then been broken up into small pieces and re-fired to remove any impurities before being forged into shape.

Hematite is the key ingredient for iron production and played a pivotal role in during the iron age that shaped the course of human history.

Hematite is found in Igneous rocks, Sedimentary rocks and Metamorphic rocks, it is typically formed by the dehydration of hydrous iron oxide minerals.

Uses of hematite include the following:

- It is used to produce iron and steel.
- The pigment is used in paints, inks, and cosmetics. It is also used to produce red glass and ceramics.
- Hematite is used to make carvings and sculptures and in jewellery.
- It is also used in welding rods, catalysts, and magnetic recording tapes.

7. Pottery Pieces

During the Neolithic period people began farming and making pottery for the first time. Clay was shaped into pots for storing and cooking food. Early pots had round bottoms. The curved bottom allows the pot to sit well in a fire without wobbling. As these early people did not have tables, so they did not need pots with flat bottoms, the shapes and styles vary because different areas of Britain chose to make their pots in their own styles. This suggests that different communities had their own identity and traditions. Archaeologists have scraped tiny bits off the inside of some of these very early pots and tested the material to discover what sort of things Neolithic people were eating. They have discovered they were eating grains, like barley and early types of wheat, milk, meat, vegetables and root vegetables.

It is believed that people started making big pots like this because they now lived in houses and didn't have to carry all their belongings round with them. Carrying these would have been hard work and they could easily break.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/user/PottedHistory>

8. Iron Age Brooch

Following the Bronze Age iron was used to make various tools, weapons and jewellery. The use of iron became more widespread after people learned how to make steel, a much harder metal, by heating iron with carbon. Here is an example of an early iron Age brooch formed from two pieces of shaped steel used to fasten cloaks or other items of clothing.

9. Archaeologist Tools

Turn your class into an archaeological dig and encourage questioning and historical research. Uncover physical evidence to learn about the different periods of time and the changes that happened. By carefully examining the artefacts you can piece together a more complete picture of what life was like. Create a mock dig site and learn excavation techniques. Make it clear that the artefacts are fragile and need to be excavated with care, learning how to examine artefacts with tools such as pallet knives and brushes.

When they have found their artefact task them to fill out an 'artefact report' where they draw the artefact and describe its features and likely uses. Encourage them to do further research and then report back what they have found out, labelling and displaying their artefact to create a classroom museum of finds.

Read pre-historic inspired literature to help set the scene. Books you might like include, 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, 'The Boy with the Bronze Axe' by Kathleen Fidler and 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King.

Reference Websites:

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

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