

Stone Age to Iron Age Box

Contents list, teaching notes and activity ideas

Contents

Real Stone Age tools x10



Object 1  3D print of fossil

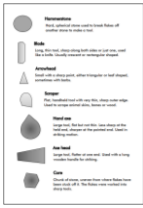
Object 2  3D print of fossil

Object 3  Model of Straight Tusked Elephant

Object 4  Weaving sword (replica)

Object 5  Weaving shuttle (replica)

Object 6  Replica Bronze Age chisel



x3 Archaeology identification help sheets



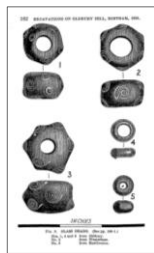
Picture A Fossilised elephant tooth

© Sevenoaks Museum



Picture B Fossilised reindeer antler

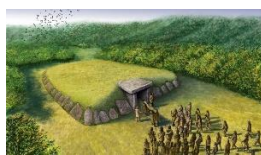
© Sevenoaks Museum



Picture C Illustrations of Iron Age glass beads excavated from Oldbury near Sevenoaks in 1938



Picture D Coldrum Long Barrow in 2020



Picture E Coldrum Long Barrow illustration



Picture F Illustration of early textile weavers



Picture G

Example of torc bracelet



Picture H

Bronze Age axe head

© Kent County Council Sevenoaks Museum



Picture I
London

Iron Age glass bead © Museum of



Picture J

and casting

Illustration of Bronze Age smelting



Bucket of multicoloured beads



x34 lengths of string



Roll of aluminium foil

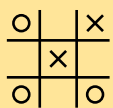


x12 marker pens

Discussions / Activities

Modern humans (homo sapiens) did not migrate to Europe from Africa until around 40,000 years ago, but evidence shows that ancestors of modern humans lived here as early as 900,000 years ago!

The geological period that these people lived through is called the Pleistocene (commonly known as the Ice Age). In fact, there were several ice ages over tens of thousands of years, with warmer intervals in between.



Mystery Objects

The objects you are looking at are 3D prints of fossils found in Sevenoaks.

It is safe to handle them a lot because they are replicas of the real objects. By looking at and feeling the objects, **can you guess what they are?**

Clue: Both objects are small parts of larger mammals that lived during the Pleistocene.

Object 1 is a fossilised elephant tooth, specifically a molar tooth from a Straight Tusked Elephant. Herds of these animals lived in southern parts of Britain during warmer periods of the Ice Age.

Object 3 shows what a Straight Tusked Elephant would have looked like. **Picture A** is a photograph of the real tooth which is kept in Sevenoaks Museum.

Object 2 is the shed base of a reindeer antler.

Ice Age reindeers were similar in size to reindeers that still live in other parts of the world today.

Picture B is a photograph of the real antler which is kept in Sevenoaks Museum.

Evidence from stone tools and bones tells us that our ancestors hunted these animals and used them to make food, tools and clothing.

o		x
	x	
o		o

Sort the Stone Age tools

Archaeologists are people who dig for historic evidence which is buried deep in the ground. It is more common to find stone objects still intact, whereas materials like wood and textiles disintegrate over time.

Look carefully at the collection of stone objects ...

Work as a group to sort the tools into categories, using the **Archaeology identification help sheets**.

Some of these objects were found by ordinary people in their gardens.

Maybe one day you will find a Stone Age tool which you can identify!

In the New Stone Age (Neolithic) some people began farming and discovered how to make pottery and textiles.



Picture F

This illustration shows people spinning fibres from a flax plant for use on a loom. A loom was used to weave the spun threads together to make fabric for clothing. This loom is an upright one, using weights to stretch the threads and ensure a tight warp for the fabric. Weaving is thought to be one of the oldest crafts in the world. (Dogs have been domesticated since the late Neolithic period.)



Objects 4 & 5

These tiny wooden weaving tools are not real prehistoric artefacts, but they demonstrate the tools used with traditional looms.

Object 4 is called a weaving sword. The weaving sword holds sections of lengthwise threads apart to allow the crosswise threads to go over and under.

Object 5 is a shuttle, used to carry the crosswise threads through the lengthwise threads.

Early weavers used animal bones as well as wood to make tools like this.



Picture D is a photo of Coldrum Long Barrow, part of a Neolithic burial site built in around 4,000 BC.



Picture E is an artist's impression of how the site looked at the time it was built.

Stone monuments like this are evidence that Neolithic people had complex spiritual beliefs.

In around 2500BC, people in Britain discovered copper and tin and learnt how to work with these metals to create bronze. Bronze replaced stone as the preferred hard material for making tools and weapons.



Object 6 is a replica cast from a Bronze Age chisel, with a wooden handle added to show how it would have originally looked.



Picture F is a Bronze Age axe head which is on display at Sevenoaks Museum.



Picture J illustrates the method of smelting and casting which Bronze Age people used to make tools such as these.

Whilst earlier peoples were nomads (moved around), some Bronze Age people were more settled. Villages were built and farming became widespread.

From around 750BC, iron and steel replaced bronze as the popular common metal for making tools and weapons. In the Iron Age it was common for people to live together in groups. Celtic tribes populated Kent.



Picture F is an illustration of a typical hill fort.

Hill forts were settlements located on elevated ground to provide a defensive advantage.

Oldbury Hill is an example of one such location not far from Sevenoaks, which was built between 150 - 50BC.

Belgic tribes migrated to Kent from about 200BC, from what is now northern France, not long before the Roman invasion of Britain.



Picture G is a photograph of Belgic pottery fragments excavated from Oldbury which are now held at Sevenoaks Museum. They date from around 100BC. You can see the pottery has been decorated with combed patterns. The pottery was strengthened with grog (ground up shells) which is what gives it that visibly coarse texture.



Picture C shows drawings of Iron Age glass beads also excavated from Oldbury hill.

Picture I is a similar bead held in the Museum of London.

These spiral designs were common in the Iron Age, and they are actually known as 'Oldbury type' beads.

The existence of decorative glass beads like this suggests that people wore them as jewellery, but the beads may have had other practical uses.



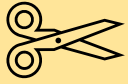
Picture G

This is an Iron Age torc bracelet held in the British Museum. It was found in Snettisham, Norfolk.

It was common for the Celts and other ancient cultures to wear torcs on the wrist or neck.

They were made using metals such as gold, silver, copper, iron, and bronze.

They were formed either with smooth, hollow, or twisted bands. Several bands could be twisted around themselves or spiralled around a core of iron or even wood.



Make your own 'Iron Age' bracelet

Bead bracelet:



Choose 2 or 3 coloured beads from the pot



Use the markers to decorate your beads



Thread them onto a piece of string and get a friend to tie it for you

Torc bracelet:



Give each pupil a sheet of foil, roughly A4 size



Fold the foil on the longest length several times



Either gently twist the foil or tightly twist the foil depending on your desired style (leaving about an inch at each end), or you could leave it smooth



Lastly, bend the foil into a bracelet shape and finish off the ends in your chosen style: round, swirly or flat