PREHISTORIC JERSEY
Animals of the Ice Age

- Lesson plan
- Fact sheets
- Handling box objects
- Quiz sheet

www.jerseyheritage.org

SUPPORTED BY
Lesson Objectives

- To understand that animals that lived during the Ice Age are different to animals of today and that the fossils can give information about the climate and the people who lived then.
- To understand two types of historical evidence.
- To understand that the evidence of animals gives information about the Ice Age, climate and the people.
- To understand that Jersey has evidence of the Ice Age animals on the island.

Expected Outcomes

- All children will describe at least one Ice Age tool and be able to match most of the descriptions to the pictures.
- Most children will describe several Ice Age tools and be able to match all of the descriptions to the pictures.
- Some children will describe several Ice Age tools, be able to match all of the descriptions to the pictures and compare them with tools of today and offer insights into their use and importance as a historical artefact.

Resources

- Introduction to the animals of the Ice Age
- Pictures of the Ice Age animals and sheets with descriptions on
- Pictures of animals found in Cave Art
- Items within the handling box (skins and bone hammers)
- Quiz sheet - Hunt or hide?

Introduction

- **Tell** children that they are going to be finding out about the animals that lived during the Ice Age.

**Ask**

How do we know about animals that lived during the Ice Age?
What animals do you know about?
Are any of them living now?

**Explain** what artefacts have been found here in Jersey and that the artefacts found in Jersey are evidence of these animals and explain how they are identified, catalogued, stored and displayed.

Whole Class Work

- **Read** and discuss the page ‘Animals of the Ice Age’ which give an overview of the different animals that were alive during the Ice Age and particularly which ones were found on Jersey.

- **Discuss** the types of evidence for animals that archaeologists have - fossil remains and cave art.
Match the picture of the animal to the name and description.

- **Use** handling box to discover animal tools and objects to promote discussion about what object is and how it might be used.
**Group work / Paired work**

- **Ask** the children to describe an animal, writing suitable adjectives on a board.
- **Using** the resources ask the children to work together to match up the descriptions of the animals to the pictures.

**Independent Work**

- **Ask** the children to sketch an animal from the Ice Age and write bullet points to describe it and describe whether it would be easy to hunt it, and how the Ice Age people might have done so.

**Differentiation**

**Support** - drawings and bullet points can be basic.

**Challenge** - more confident learners could draw an animal and include thoughts on how it might have been hunted and used by the early people of the Ice Age. There could be some discussion about the causes of their extinction and the impact of early people and the climate on animal populations.

**Review**

- **Ask** the children to present their labelled drawing to each other.
- **Ask** some children to present their work to the class. The rest of the class should listen to see if there is any information they could add.
- **Check** the accuracy of the matching the name to the picture of the animal activity.
Ice Age Animals

Throughout the time when Neanderthals used La Cotte de St Brelade, the climate shifted from warm to extremely cold - changes which affected the animal population. Neanderthals and early humans were able to adapt to these changes, and survive alongside fierce predators.

What animals were there?
There were three different types of animals that lived on Jersey throughout the Ice Age.

- Dangerous species including wolves and bears
- Rocky and cold-adapted species including arctic fox, chamois (a goat–antelope) and reindeer
- Open grassland species including red deer, wild horse and wild cow

Ice Age Animals:

- Wolf
- Bear
- Chamois
- Reindeer
- Wild horse
- Red deer
- Arctic fox
Bone heaps at La Cotte de St Brelade and La Belle Hougue Cave

Lots of bones of Mammoths and Woolly Rhinoceros have been found at La Cotte de St Brelade. They have been preserved because they were sealed by a layer of fine sand picked up by icy arctic wind. They are important because they help to tell the story about what animals Neanderthals were hunting and how they were killed (some bones have cutting marks from tools on them). Over a quarter of a million stone tools have also been found in the same place.

These are some of the types of bones found at La Cotte de St Brelade include these types of bones:

- vertebrae
- lower hindlimb
- tusk
- pelvis
- molar tooth
- tooth attached to a jaw of mammoths and baby mammoths
- Skull
- lower forelimb and vertebrae of a woolly rhinoceros

The teeth of the Mammoth have been xrayed and studied and we now know that it is a Steppe Mammoth rather than a Woolly Mammoth, and didn’t have any hair so looked more like an elephant.

And also in Jersey we have lots of bones from the Dwarf Red Deer, found at La Belle Hougue cave on north coast of Jersey and they have given us some very important information. The bones are smaller than modern European red deer we know that the deer population was stranded in Jersey when the sea level rose. The deer had to adapt to their new island environment by shrinking in size so that they needed less food which would have been harder to find in a smaller place.
Hunt or hide?