

# PREHISTORIC JERSEY

## People and climate of the Ice Age

- Lesson plan
- Fact sheets
- Quiz sheets
- Story prompts
- Picture sheets

# People and climate of the Ice Age

## Lesson Objectives

- To understand that the Ice Age people were different species.
- To understand there are two main early humans we study, Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens.
- To develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- To understand that Jersey has evidence of both Neanderthals and Early Homo Sapiens on the island.

## Expected Outcomes

- All children will be able to identify two different sets of people living in the Ice Age.
- Most children will be able to identify two different sets of people living in the Ice Age and describe their similarities and differences.
- Some children will describe two different sets of people living in the Ice Age, describe their similarities and differences and be able to reflect on the evolution of people according to the environment that they live in.

## Resources

- Photocopiable page 'Introduction to the people of the Ice Age'
- Pictures of La Cotte now and then (recreated)
- Pictures of landscape recreations
- Ice Age survival quiz
- Reference pictures of Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens
- Story prompts

## Introduction

■ **Tell** children that they are going to be finding out about the very early humans that lived during the Ice Age and the climate that they lived in.

■ **Explain** about the different homo species of early humans and what evidence there is for this.

**Discuss** what a human is and the concept of evolution.

### ■ Ask

How might people in the Ice Age have lived?

Where did they live?

Who did they live with?

How did they get food and what clothes did they wear?

Why was it called the Ice Age?

What did the landscape look like?

■ **Explain** that the artefacts found in Jersey are tools made by people and evidence left by the early people which is how they can tell us about the Ice Age.

## Whole Class Work

■ **Read and discuss** the page 'People of the Ice Age' which give an overview of the Ice Age people and specifically the Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens.

■ **Discuss** how the early humans would have lived in the landscape and what they would have needed to survive colder temperatures, hostile environments, disease and illness and predators.

## Group work / Paired work

■ **Ask** the children to describe what makes a human - make a list in groups / pairs

■ **Ask** the children to complete the survive the Ice Age quiz together

## Independent Work

- **Ask** the children to list their 5 things that would be essential for them to live and 5 things that they would 'like' to have in their life.
- **Ask** the children to write a story imagining that they are a child in the Ice Age, they should think about waking up, what they would wear, eat and do during the day.

## Review

- **Ask** the children to present their lists to each other.
- **Ask** some children to present their lists to the class. The rest of the class should listen to see if they have any feedback on the lists.
- **Check** the accuracy of the Ice Age survival quiz.

## Differentiation

**Support** - lists can be basic and stories could be represented by a picture and write a caption.

**Challenge** - more confident learners should produce an exciting narrative and include thoughtful historically accurate details and also be able to compare. Ask what are the main differences between the three stages.



# The first people

'People' appeared on the earth around 6 million years ago when the first apes stood upright, walked on two legs and used tools. These people were very different from what type of people we are today. That is because over the millions of years, people evolved.

Evolution means that biology (people, animals or plants) can change and adapt, usually according to the climate and circumstances that the people or animals are surrounded by.

Evolution has meant that the first 'people' have evolved into distinct species over millions of years.

## Who are these people and how do we know about them?

There are different 'family' groups including, Ardipithicus, Paranthopus, Australopithicus and Homo.

We have evidence of the people from their bones that have been discovered and the tools that they left behind.

Whilst the first three groups are the oldest, we still don't know that much about them so we mostly study the Homo species.

## In the Homo Species, we find:

Homo Rudolfensis, Homo Florensesiis, Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Homo Ergaster, Homo Antecessor, Homo Heidelbergensis, Homo Neanderthalis and Homo Sapiens.

Homo Antecessor is the first species that was found outside of Africa and in Western Europe. These species made and used tools and ate animals.

However, the biggest change is the evolution into the Homo Neanderthalis species. The Neanderthals were the first to use fire and make tools for hunting and living.

# Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens

Both Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens are closely associated with the Ice Age and lived during this time. There is evidence that they lived along side each other at some point. The Neanderthals (and other Homo species) eventually became extinct, but Homo Sapiens survived and prospered.

## How do we know this?

We know more about Neanderthals than any other extinct human group, because many more Neanderthal bones have been found than other extinct humans. In Jersey we have found 13 Neanderthal teeth and part of a skull - this is an amazing find as hardly any other Neanderthal teeth have ever been found.

We know about the Homo Sapiens who lived in the Ice Age because we have found their bones and tools that they used and with science have been able to date them so we know how old they are. We have found what is probably a campsite at Les Varines in St Saviour dating to around 14,500 years ago with nearly 5,000 stone tools made by the earliest modern humans. At this site they also found some plaquettes, small stones with markings on them which archaeologists think may be the oldest pieces of art found in the British Isles.

## How similar are they?

There are some big differences between the Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens, but not as many as you might think!

## Both species:

- were successful hunters
- able to survived in the harsh environment of the Ice Age
- made tools
- adapted to the climate
- lived in Jersey

# The Ice Age Climate

**450,000 years ago** - There was a land bridge which connected France and Britain and meant that the Channel Islands were all one piece of land with lots of rivers. People and animals could walk across the land.

Because it was so cold, the ice even went as far south as London. But then the climate started to warm up and there was an enormous flood creating a lake and then a river which would become so big it eventually turned into the English Channel. The seas rose creating new landscapes and islands which made Jersey and Northern France very important places for the Neanderthals to live.



**180,000  
years ago**

Extreme cold wiped out many animals across north west Europe 180,000 years ago.

**125,000  
years ago**

Temperature and sea level rose very quickly cutting Jersey off as an island, a deer population was stranded in Jersey when the sea level rose and it became an island. The deer adapted to their new environment by shrinking so that they needed less food, which was harder to find in a smaller place. Neanderthals did not live in Jersey at this time. The Island could not provide what they needed to survive.

**60,000  
years ago**

The climate changed again and got colder meaning the Neanderthals returned to live in Jersey, but they had to share the space with fierce competitors like hyena, cave lion and wolf, and Homo Sapiens.

**40,000  
years ago**

This is our last dated evidence of Neanderthals living in Jersey.

**14,000  
years ago**

Some of the first modern humans in Jersey might have lived at Les Varines in St Saviour, on a possible campsite where over 5,000 stone tools have been found.



# Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens

	Neanderthals	Homo Sapiens
<b>When did they first evolve and where?</b>	400,000 years ago in Europe	200,000 years ago in Africa, moved into Western Europe about 60-40,000 years ago
<b>Where did they live?</b>	Moved around Europe following the seasons, climate changes and the food source	Moved around Europe following the seasons, climate changes and the food source
<b>What did they eat?</b>	Meat and plants	Meat and plants
<b>What tools did they make and use?</b>	Axes, spears, knives	Axes, spears, knives, burins, scrapers, harpoons
<b>Did they hunt?</b>	Yes - as a group	Yes - as a group
<b>Did they create art?</b>	No real evidence but possibly	Yes, decorated antlers, cave art and plaquettes
<b>What are their physical characteristics?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Thick bones</li><li>■ Skull size = 1600cm in capacity</li><li>■ Average height = Males 164-168cm Females 152-156cm</li><li>■ Average weight = Males 77.6kg (171lb) Females 66.4 kg (146lb)</li><li>■ Brow ridge</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Thin bones</li><li>■ Skull size = 1200-1400cm in capacity</li><li>■ Average height = males 164-168cm females 152-156cm</li><li>■ Average weight = Males 77.6kg (171lb) Females 66.4kg (146lb)</li><li>■ No brow ridge</li></ul>
<b>When did they die out?</b>	Approximately 40,000 years ago	Still alive today. We are Homo Sapiens
<b>Did they have any special skills?</b>	<p>First group of people to use fire for cooking, warmth and at their shelters</p> <p>Levallois flaking - new ways of making tools giving them the ability to make new types</p>	<p>Made new tools including fishing tools and harpoons</p> <p>Ability to make art</p> <p>Eventually created social groups and settled to create farming and the Neolithic way of life</p>

# Ice Age survival

Can you complete the quiz and see if you would survive in the Ice Age?

**Wakey wakey!** Time to get up and get dressed... but what are you going to wear today?

- School uniform
- Chain mail and armour
- Long robes
- Animal skins and fur

**Time to make some breakfast.** What's on the menu?

- Mammoth meat
- Porridge
- Bread and water
- Fruit and yogurt

**Now you are up and about** – what are you going to do today?

- Read books
- Keep watch out for any animals to hunt
- Watch TV
- Go to school

**Time to do some chores?** How are you going to help your family?

- Hoover the lounge
- Make a new flint axe
- Tidy up the bedroom
- Wash up the dishes

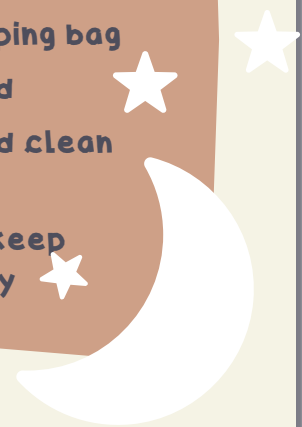
**It's dinner time.** What do you do now?

- Hunt for some deer meat
- Go shopping at the supermarket
- Go to the farm
- Get a takeaway

**It's been a long day so it's time for bed!**

What are you going to do to get ready for bed?

- Get into a sleeping bag
- Climb into a bed
- Have a bath and clean your teeth
- Light a fire to keep predators away



# Story prompts

Here are some story prompts to help start the children's stories

'I am a child in the Ice Age – here is my story...'

'Just how are we going to catch something that big?' I said to my father...

Gar was feeling brave today...

The cold wind howled loudly as we...

As I huddled around the fire with my family I could hear...

It was morning and the group knew that today they had to...

I looked out over the lush green grass to see...

Do you want to know what happened on our hunt then? Oh alright, I'll tell you...

Today our family found something new...



Views of La Cotte de St Brelade

Picture  
sheet

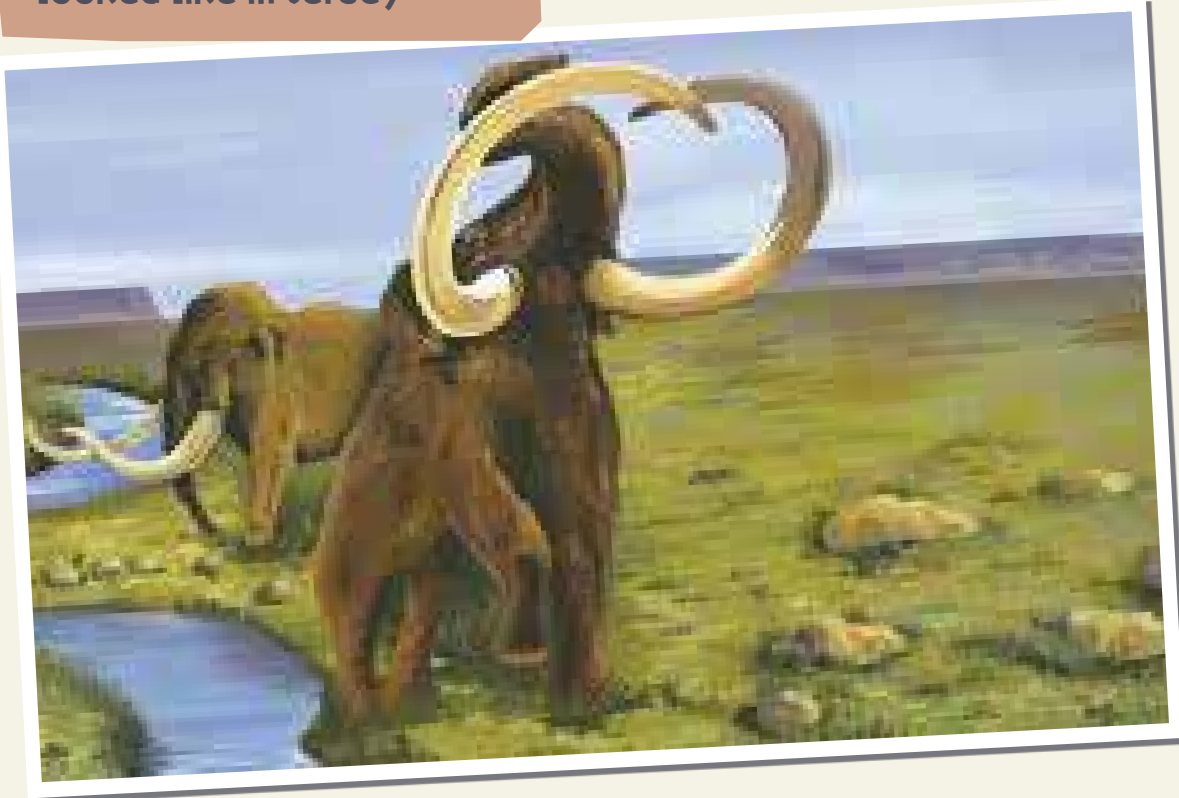




The Ice Age landscape and tundra  
– what Jersey would have possibly  
looked like



What we think the Ice Age looked like in Jersey



What we think the Ice Age looked like in the polar regions

