

PREHISTORIC JERSEY

Tools of the Ice Age

- Lesson plan
- Fact sheets
- Handling box object details
- Quiz sheet

Tools of the Ice Age

Lesson Objectives

- To understand that stone tools were made and used by Ice Age people.
- To understand that the tools give us information about the life that they lived.
- To develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- To understand that Jersey has evidence of the Ice Age 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 tools of the Ice Age fact sheet
- Pictures of the Ice Age Tools
- Handling Box with replica Ice Age tools
- Match the name of the tool to the picture quiz sheet

Tell children that they are going to be finding out about the tools that very early humans made and used.

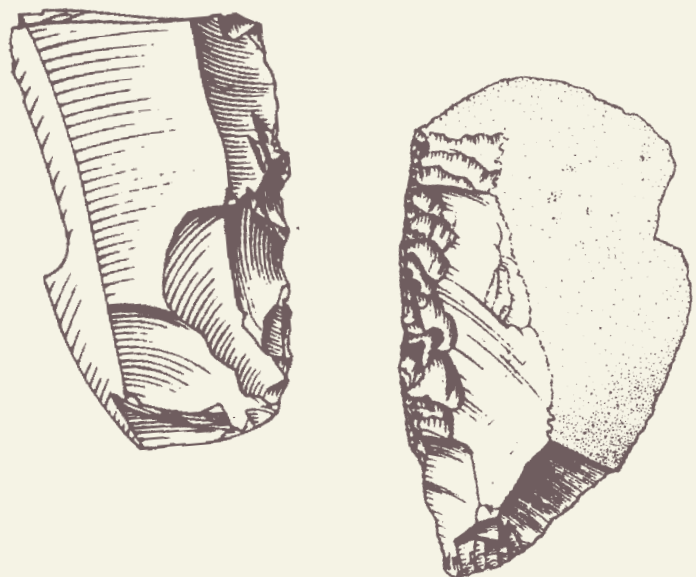
Discuss the concept of what a tool is and what the children's ideas are about what tools were made and used in the Ice Age.

Ask 'Why might people in the Ice Age have needed tools and weapons? What would they be used for? What would they have been made from?'

Explain that the artefacts found in Jersey are tools and how they are identified, catalogued, stored and displayed.

Whole Class Work

- **Read** and discuss the page 'Tools of the Ice Age' which give an overview of the type of tools made and used by Neanderthals.
- **Use** the handling box to see some of the different tools used by the people of the Ice Age.
- **Ask** what are the tools made from? Why was this material chosen? How do you think they were made? Why are they found by archaeologists? What can the tool tell us about the people who made it and used it?



Group work / Paired Work

- **Ask** the children to describe a stone tool, writing suitable adjectives on a board.
- **Using** the resources ask the children to work together to match up the names of the tools to the replicas from the handling box.

Independent Work

- **Ask** the children to sketch a tool from the Ice Age and write bullet points to describe it and show how it might have been used.

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 tool activity.

Differentiation

Support – drawings and bullet points can be basic.
Challenge – more confident learners could draw a labelled tool and include thoughts on how they might have been made and why archaeologists have found them and use them.



Ice Age Tools

For Ice Age people, the land and what lived on it provided their food, shelter and clothing. They knew lots about the landscape and animals and had to make tools and weapons to help them survive. What were the tools for?

What were the tools for?

- **Hunting animals**
- **Killing animals**
- **Preparing food from the animals**
- **Scraping skins**
- **Making new tools**

The first and most important tool in prehistory was the handaxe. The first stone tools were pieces of stone with chips knocked off to make a sharp cutting edge. They were mostly used to skin and cut up animals.

What are the tools made from?

Most of the tools are made from a stone called flint. Flint is sharp and can be easily made into tools that can be used to cut materials like animals skins and as weapons.

Flint knapping - is the process of making a tool by chipping or banging one piece of stone against the flint to shape it into the tool that is needed.

Some flint tools were used by hand, others were mounted into wooden handles. Archaeologists have only found the stone tools and not the wooden handles because wood will degrade in the earth.

Tools from the Ice Age include:

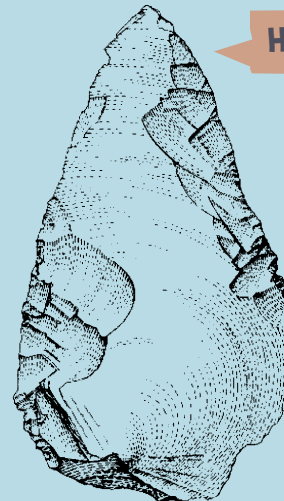
Handaxe - the most common type of tool with a continuous cutting edge.

Burins - which have chisel like edges and are used for engraving.

Scrapers - used for scraping the blood and fat from inside the skin of an animal.



Handaxe



Burins



Scrapers



Neanderthal tools

Around 300,000 years ago a new way of making stone tools, called Levallois flaking, was developed. Making tools in this way allowed Neanderthals to control the size and shape of the flakes they could produce. This flexible technique meant that Neanderthals could pack a transformable toolkit to travel longer distances, across areas where stone was not available.

How are they made?



Homo Sapiens tools

Modern humans (Homo sapiens) arrived in Europe around 40,000 years ago. Their toolkits changed rapidly, and innovations spread quickly including harpoons for fishing and small arrow heads. Neanderthals and modern humans made tools and objects of bone, wood and plant materials, but usually only stone survives.

How do we know what they looked like?

Sometimes there are only small pieces of the tool but archaeologists do a jigsaw puzzle with them and fit these flakes back together again. That way they can work out how Neanderthals made their tools.

Lots of flakes have been found at La Cotte de St Brelade. Archaeologists have used these flakes to work out what the original tools looked like.

Neanderthal tools from Jersey

Many Neanderthal tools found in Jersey are made of flint, a stone which is not available in the Island.

Neanderthals travelled here with the tools they needed to live and hunt. Many were made of flint which could have been collected from the floodplain of the Channel River valley. As they travelled, Neanderthals carefully reworked their tools, sharpening them to preserve their cutting edges and recycling the precious flint.

At La Cotte de St Brelade, over a quarter of a million stone tools have been found. This shows what an important place Jersey is for understanding the Neanderthals and how they lived.

La Cotte de St Brelade



Homo Sapiens tools from Jersey

There are also tools from Homo Sapiens who lived in Jersey near the end of the Ice Age.

Archaeologists discovered an area in Varines, St Saviour, from which they have discovered nearly 5,000 stone tools. This many tools in one place makes them think it was used as a campsite.

Flint tools found at Les Varines in 2014



Les Varines from the air

Handling box objects

Flint handaxe

Scraper

Core and flakes assemblage

Hammerstone

Bone tool

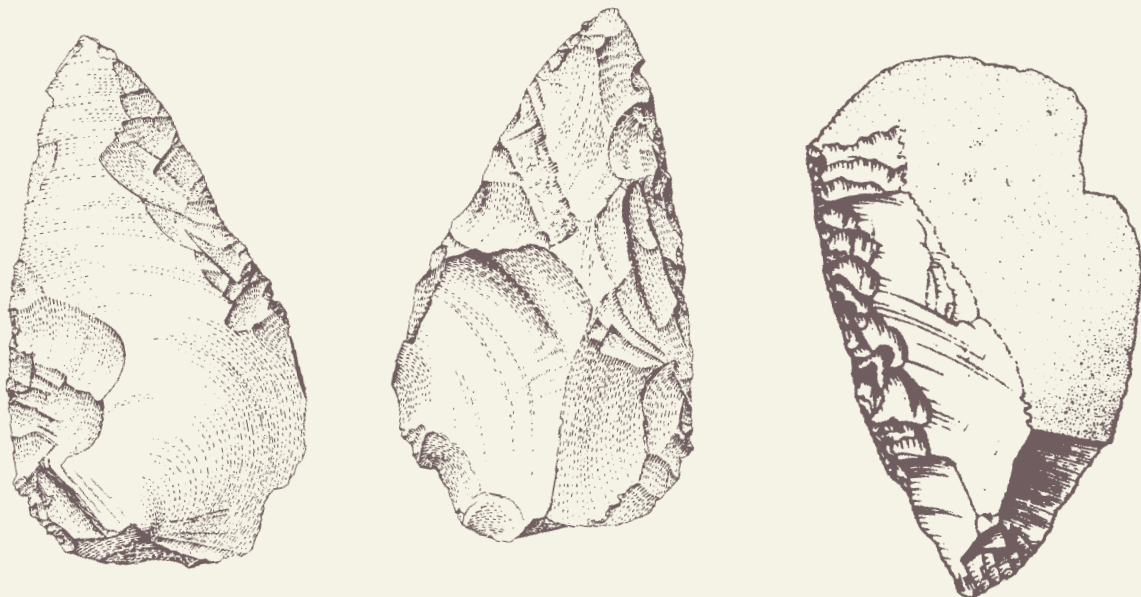
Piece of fur

Leather

Scallop neck plate

Flint knife

Bone hammer



Match the name of the tool to the task

Palaeolithic people made tools from wood, animal bones and stone. These tools helped them to survive life during the Ice Age.

Do you know the correct use for the tool?



STONE AXE

The first stone tools were lumps of stone chipped away to make a sharp cutting edge

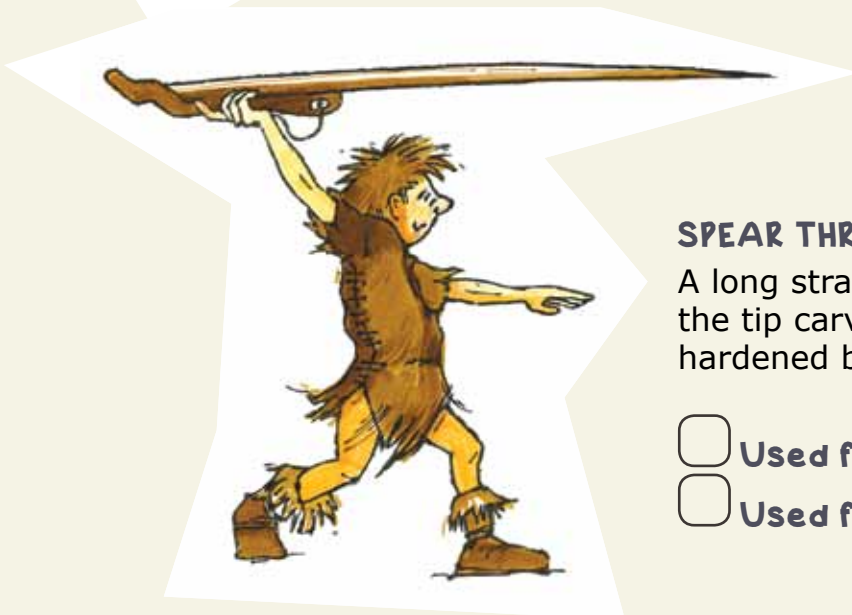
- Used for cutting Used for killing



FLINT TOOL

Flint (a type of stone) would have been made into different tools

- Used for cutting Used for killing



SPEAR THROWER

A long straight wooden pole with the tip carved into a sharp point and hardened by fire

- Used for cutting
 Used for killing