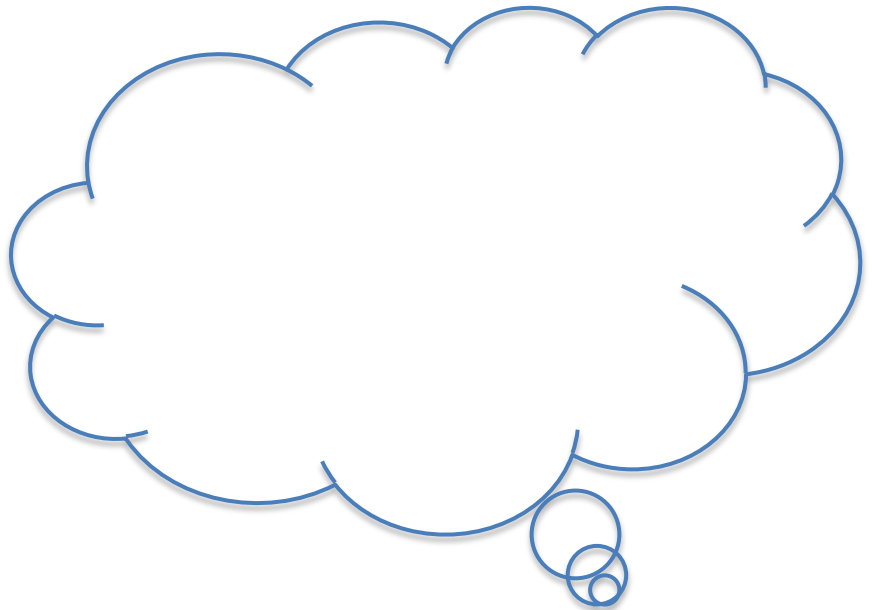


LESSON 2: How do we know about the Stone Age if nothing was written down?

Glossary	
archaeologist	someone who digs in the ground to find clues about the past
artefact	an object made by a human. Usually these objects are interesting to historians because they give them information about how people used to live in the past.
fragment	a small piece of a larger object
knapping	removing flakes of stone by hitting with another stone
animal hide	animal skin

We are able to discover more about the Stone Age by looking at artefacts dug up by archaeologists.

What can you tell about the whole picture from looking at one jigsaw piece?



Archaeologists have to try to work out the whole picture from the small fragments that they find in the ground.

Artefact detectives

Archaeologists see artefacts as jigsaw pieces. They often ask questions about the artefacts they find to work out what they were used for.



What can you tell by looking at each artefact?

What kind of questions could you ask to find out more?



Can you match the artefact to its description?



Core: The centre of the flint.

Chunky with ridges and ripples on the surface. Flakes have been knapped from it.



Scraper: Used to scrape animal skins so has one rounded edge.

Thicker than a blade or an arrowhead.



Hammerstone: round and heavy, rough.



Burnt flint: White and covered in cracks .









Arrowhead: Small and triangular with three points.



Blade: Longer than it is wider. Used for cutting so might have had one sharp, thin edge.

Did you match the right artefact with the right description?

	Arrowhead: small and triangular with three points	Arrowheads were used for hunting. They were attached to long wooden sticks or were attached to bows and released into the air by hunters. They needed to be sharp so that larger animals like deer and cows could be killed.
	Blade: Longer than it is wider. Used for cutting, so might have one sharp, thin edge	Blades were used for cutting animal flesh or for cutting through animal skin to make items of clothing or bedding.
	Core: The centre of the flint. Chunky with ridges and ripples on the surface. Flakes have been knapped from it.	The Core was what was left of a stone after flakes had been knapped (removed by hitting with another stone).
	Hammerstone: round and heavy, rough.	Hammerstones were made out of very hard stones, like limestone. They needed to be hard because they were used for carving animal bones and crushing and hitting other stones.
	Scraper: Used to scrape animal skins so has one rounded edge. Thicker than a blade or an arrowhead.	Scrapers came in many shapes and sizes and they had lots of uses. Depending on their shape, they were either used for cleaning animal hides (skin), chop up animal flesh or crush plant material. The plant-crushing scrapers would be rounder and the flesh-chopping scrapers would be pointy and sharp.
	Burnt flint: White and covered in cracks	Flint was a valuable material when making weapons and every day objects. Any left over flint would be thrown into the camp fires, and would turn from a dark brown colour to a white colour



Let's watch this video to find out more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk/articles/z34djxs>

Were you watching carefully? Now try answering these questions:

1. Objects or artefacts tell us about the way people lived a long time ago. What else keeps historians informed?

Burials, _____ and m_____.

2. How was the landscape during the Stone Age different from how it is now?

_____.

3. What did the man do to show that flint stones were very sharp?

4. How did the Stone Age people stick flint pieces onto bits of wood to make arrows?

5. What was this special glue made from?

Bonus activity

What not try making your own arrowhead or axehead? Instead of flint knapping, use soap!

Send a photo of your soap-knapping to your teacher!

