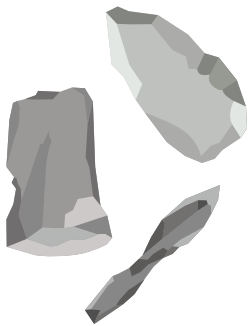
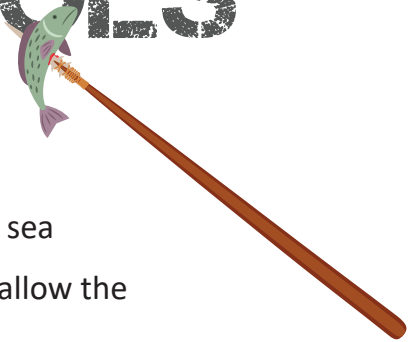


STONE AGE TOOLS

Harpoons

Harpoons were sharpened sticks with barbed heads. They were similar to a spear but much longer. They were used to hunt animals, particularly sea animals such as whale and dolphin. A rope might have been attached to allow the hunter to pull the carcass back to him.



Flake Tools

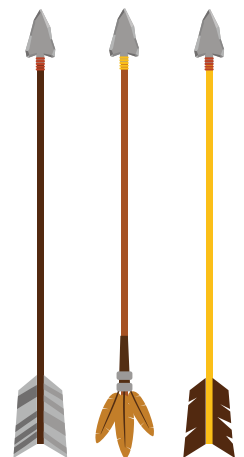
Flakes were small shards of flint made by chipping pieces from larger lumps of stone. They were useful for cutting and carving and were often made into small hand-tools. Flakes were often too small to be useful for larger tools like axes or hammers. A larger hammer-stone was used to break off the flakes.

Net

Stone Age people were adept at making nets from the twisted bark of trees, particularly birch. The earliest nets found were from the Mesolithic period, but they were so well made that archaeologists can assume they had been making them for a very long time. Nets could be used to catch animals on land and in the water.

Bows and Arrows

The heads of Stone Age arrows were made from different materials depending on their purpose. This level of intelligence made them more proficient hunters. For instance, a flattened arrow-head made of bone would have been used to knock birds from the sky. It wouldn't have damaged the skin and so the bird could be eaten. Sharper stone heads would have been used to pierce tougher prey.





Axes

Axes would have been used as weapons but also to chop wood for fires. As early as 160,000 years ago, there is evidence of Stone Age people using fires to heat up stones to make them easier to flake. This makes them the earliest blacksmiths in history. Knowing how to use fire would also have helped the first humans to come out of Africa keep warm in the colder climates of Europe.

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What would Stone Age people have used to break of smaller flakes of stone?
2. Which type of tree did they prefer to use to make nets?
3. Why might a hunter attach a rope to a harpoon?
4. Which type of arrow-head might have been most suitable for killing a bird?
5. What did Stone Age people use to make stone easier to flake?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Find a word or phrase that means a dead animal.

I

Why would knowing about fire have helped early humans in colder Europe?

V

Which word is best defined as “a small, jagged piece”?

S

Why do archaeologists think that Stone Age people had been making nets for a long time?

P

Why do you think Stone Age tools were eventually replaced by bronze tools?

Answers:

1. A hammer-stone
2. Birch
3. To drag the animal back to him
4. A flat bone arrow-head
5. Fire

V: Carcass

I: They could have lit fires to keep warm

V: Shard

S: The ones found from the Mesolithic period are so well made

P: Accept any prediction that discusses the better strength, durability etc of metal over stone