History Home Learning Pack: Ancient Civilisations
Meet a Stone Age human

Stone Age people had the same basic needs that people do today. We all need food, clothing, shelter, and companionship. But Stone Age people had to go out and hunt for their own food. They made their own clothes and shelters. In some ways, they were more skilful than we are today! Let’s compare a Stone Age hunter with a modern adventurer ...

**Stone Age hunter**

Stone Age hunters like this one lived towards the end of the Stone Age. They used animal skins to keep warm and to build shelters. They were skilled at making stone tools, rope, and fire. They were strong and capable, and true adventurers!

**Species:** Homo Sapiens  
**Time period:** Late Stone Age  
**Where did they live:** Every continent apart from Antarctica

**Stone Age human wears a tunic made from animal skin for protection from the cold.**

**Animal skin shelter**

When following herds of animals, people needed shelters that were quick and light to put up, like this one made from deer skin.

**Fire-making kit**

Making fire was an essential skill. One way was to use a bow and a stick (drill) to create fire by friction. This was called the bow-drill method.

**Cordage**

Cordage was rope made from plant or animal fibres. It was used for everything, including carrying firewood, making baskets, and building shelters.

**Stone tools**

Stone tools helped people to cut down branches, hunt, and prepare food. Making stone tools was one of the first skills humans mastered, and was essential for their survival.

**Bull roarer**

This was a piece of wood or bone attached to rope that made a loud noise when spun around. It was a way of checking to see if other people were nearby.

**Today’s human wears a waterproof jacket for protection from wind and rain.**

**Rope**

Campers use lightweight but strong nylon rope. It is similar to cordage, but even stronger.

**Modern day adventurer**

Modern humans do not need to hunt animals for food and skins to survive. They can go to a shop to buy the food and equipment they need. The tools they use have been designed and made by specialists. Are they real adventurers?

**Otzi the Iceman**

The fully dressed body of Stone Age adventurer Otzi the Iceman was found in a glacier in the Austrian Alps. He was wearing a bear skin hat and had a waterproof cloak made of grass. Studies on his body showed that Otzi had been murdered by being struck with an arrow and then being hit on the head.

**Using the information on this page, write about how a caveman’s camping trip would be different to yours!**
The Ancient Egyptians

The Ancient Egyptians were people who lived in the lands around the River Nile thousands of years ago, in what is now modern-day Egypt. They loved their country, which they thought was the most advanced place in the world!

**Why was the Nile so important?**
The Nile’s waters made life in the desert possible, creating a strip of green land where crops could grow along its banks. It also gave the Egyptians an easy way to travel the length of their country!

**Where did they live?**
The Egyptians lived where the land was sheltered on all sides – by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, deserts to the east and west, and rocky sections of the Nile, called cataracts, to the south.

**What did the Egyptians call Egypt?**
The Ancient Egyptians called their country Kemet, meaning “Black land”, after the black mud from the Nile that turned the desert into farmland. They called the surrounding desert Deshret, meaning “Red land”.

**How big was the Egyptian Empire?**
When it was at its biggest, the Egyptian Empire stretched from ancient Syria in the north down to Nubia in the south. This was under King Thutmosis III in the New Kingdom.

**How long were they around?**
The first traces of people living in Egypt are from 7000 BCE, but the first pharaohs ruled from 3100 BCE. Their civilization lasted for 3,000 years until Egypt became part of the Roman Empire.

**Who was in charge?**
In peaceful times, one Egyptian king or queen, called a pharaoh, ruled all of Egypt. However, there were unsettled times, and often the ruling pharaoh was from a foreign land that had conquered Egypt, especially towards the end of Ancient Egyptian history.

**Who was a pharaoh in Ancient Egypt and what was his role in society?**

From: *DKfindout! Ancient Egypt*

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Ancient Rome

By the 1st century BCE, the Romans had built one of the world’s largest empires. Their talent for organization and the power of their army kept the empire together. The Roman Empire was ruled by an emperor from 27 BCE onwards.

**Empire and conquests**
The Romans conquered most of western Europe and large parts of western Asia and North Africa. They introduced their own culture, such as coins and style of clothing, to most of these places.

**Emperors**
Roman emperors used their power in different ways. Trajan conquered new lands while Hadrian, who came after him, spent more time defending the empire’s borders.

**Army**
The Roman army was huge, well organized, and well trained. The men were generously paid. They fought battles, but also guarded the empire’s borders and worked on big projects, such as building roads.

**Gladiators**
The emperors kept people entertained with shows featuring fights between gladiators. Gladiators were usually slaves or criminals who were trained to fight to the death. They were sometimes freed if they survived.

**Master builders**
The Romans built temples, aqueducts (bridges or tunnels that carry water), and other structures all over their empire. These buildings were strong and well made.
There is so much to learn about the Maya, Incas, and Aztecs. We’ve gathered together as many fascinating facts as we could fit onto these pages.

**The Maya didn’t have sugar. They ate honey as a sweet treat.**

**The Incas built roads stretching around 24,000 km (15,000 miles) across their vast empire.**

**There are around 6 million Maya people alive today.**

**The Maya pyramid the Temple of the Jaguar, at Tikal, rises 47 m (212 ft) high. This is equivalent to around 10 giraffes stacked on top of each other.**

**The word jerky comes from the Inca word ch’arki, for dried Llama meat.**

**8 MILLION PEOPLE SPEAK A VERSION OF THE INCA LANGUAGE, QUECHUA, TODAY.**

**The word venus comes from the Inca word Pacha Mama, mother earth.**

**Aztec children may have been pricked with maguey cactus spines as a punishment.**

**The Maya kept a look out for Venus and may even have started wars when they saw it in the morning sky.**

24,000
The Incas built roads stretching around 24,000 km (15,000 miles) across their vast empire.

6 million
There are around 6 million Maya people alive today.

90%
Up to 90 per cent of the Aztecs and the Maya died when the Spanish came, mostly from European diseases.

700
It is said that 700 sheets of gold were used for the walls of the Inca Golden Temple in Cusco, Peru.

650
In 2017, archaeologists digging beneath Mexico City found 650 skulls of human sacrifice victims.

Answer these questions: 1) How many Mayan people are alive today? 2) The Incas built 24,000km of what? 3) How were Aztec children punished?