

To construct knowledge from the past using a range of sources

Please read the information from the PowerPoint slides:

## Skara Brae

Skara Brae is a well preserved Stone Age village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000 BC.

It was discovered in 1850, after a heavy storm stripped away the earth that had previously been covering what we can see today.



### What has been discovered?

The houses were linked by covered passageways

There are **eight houses** that remain on the site. They were **not built together** but have similar layouts. Only one building, separate from the others, has a different layout.



The earlier houses had more of a circular shape.

There was one main room with a fire pit in the middle, and beds built into the walls at the sides.



Think about how your houses are different/similar to houses built during the Stone Age.



The later houses were slightly bigger and more rectangular, although the corners were still rounded.

They still built stone beds, but not into the walls. The fire pit and stone shelves remained.



**Stone dresser** - the most important piece in their home. It faced the entrance and used as shelves.

This shows that they had furniture in their homes. People were beginning to use shelves to store and decorate their homes.



**Box beds** - made from stone slabs.

The Stone Age people of Skarfa Brae were now sleeping on structured beds. As it was cold in Skara Brae, we can assume that they used animal fur to keep them warm.





The **door** to the house - a large slab of stone. When the door was closed it was held by a bar slotted in the holes.

People wanted their own homes and privacy. They were settling in these homes and they were not temporary.

### Stone Age artefacts found

Animal bones including cattle and sheep, and barley and wheat grown nearby, suggest a farming community.



Plentiful remains of fish and shellfish indicate they were also skilled fishermen. Large piles of limpets were found, but these weren't necessarily part of their diet, they may have been used for bait.

The lack of weapons found suggest that life was peaceful.



Richly carved stone objects might have been used for religious rituals.



Bone tools, along with the absence of tools for weaving, indicate that animal skins were used for clothing.



Many examples of jewellery were found including pendants, pins, necklaces and beads.



### Task 1- Answer these questions below into your Home learning books

1. What do the artefacts found tell us about how people in the Stone Age lived?
2. Using your knowledge of types of homes/shelters in the Stone Age, what period do you think Skara Brae was built? How do you know this?
3. Why do you think finding artefacts is important?

**Task 2-** Complete the table below using the pictures and facts to think about how the people lived in Skara Brae and what things were used for. There is an example below to help.



**Mild:** Use the 3 pictures below and write facts about the artefacts.

**Spicy/ Hot:** Use the 3 pictures below to write facts about the artefacts and explain what they were used for and how it helped the people live during the Stone Age.

**Weapons**

**Jewellery**

**Sheep and Cattle**

Image			
Fact			
What was this used for?  How did people live?			

**Example of a Stone Age Artefact: Wild Boar and Red Deer bones**



Fact	Wild boar and red deer were hunted for food and clothing to keep people warm. They were also used as blankets and to make bedding comfortable.
What was this used for?  How did people live?	Red deer was important for people to live because it was essential food. Usually red deer were hunted by older juveniles or young adults. Wild Boar were difficult to hunt but when they were it was extremely important for people during the Stone Age.

## Answers

1. What do the artefacts found tell us about how people in the Stone Age lived?

The artefacts found tell us the types of homes people lived in, weapons they used to hunt animals and live and how they survived day to day life.




2. Using your knowledge of types of homes/shelters in the Stone Age, what period do you think Skara Brae was built? How do you know this?

I know that the Skara Brae was built around the Neolithic period (2500-3100BC)

3. Why do you think finding artefacts is important?

I think finding facts is so important as it is a way of showing you about a period of History and makes it more realistic for you to see how people lived.

## Task 2- Some ideas for your completed tables

	<u>Weapons</u>	<u>Jewellery</u>	<u>Sheep and Cattle</u>
Image			
Fact	Weapons were not found by archaeologists.	Three types of jewellery were found here. Most of the jewellery was made from bone, some was carved into shapes.	People kept animals like cattle and sheep.
What was this used for?  How did people live?	This tells us that people lived a peaceful life. Tools were used for making jewellery and cooking.	Jewellery was worn by both men and women from animal bones. This tells us that the people from <u>Skara Brae</u> followed fashion.	Sheep and cattle were kept for farming during the Neolithic period. Barley and wheat was also grown.



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