

The Palaeolithic Age

The Palaeolithic Age — also called the **Old Stone Age** — was a period that began around 2.5 million years ago and lasted until about 10,000 BC. It is the earliest and longest part of prehistoric times, long before writing, farming or villages existed.

People in the Palaeolithic Age were **hunter-gatherers**. This means they did not stay in one place. Instead, they moved from place to place following herds of animals to hunt and searching for plants, berries and nuts to eat. Because they kept moving, they did not build permanent homes. They used caves, overhanging rocks or simple shelters made from branches and animal skins.

One of the most important skills these early people developed was making tools from stone. They chipped and shaped flint — a hard type of rock — to create sharp blades, hand axes and scrapers. These tools helped them hunt, prepare food and make clothing from animal hides.

Fire was another hugely important discovery. It gave warmth, light, protection from wild animals and a way to cook food.

Questions

1. What does "Palaeolithic" mean?
2. When did the Palaeolithic Age begin?
3. When did it end, approximately?
4. What is a hunter-gatherer?
5. Why did Palaeolithic people keep moving from place to place?
6. Name two types of shelter they used.
7. What type of rock did they use to make tools?
8. Name two types of tool they made from stone.
9. Give two things that fire was useful for.
10. Why do you think the discovery of fire was so important for early people's survival?



Text B Quiz



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