

## Surviving the Stone Age

Salisbury Museum's Wessex Gallery showcases over 2,500 rare objects which tell the story of early Britain from the mathematical genius of the ancient Britons and Beaker people through to the Roman invasion and the Norman Conquest.

A standard class visit of up to 35 children will include led activities and exploration in the gallery.

The session is designed to be compact and with a pace to keep a class motivated and engaged. Additional student numbers and additional activities can be discussed with the Learning Officer before your visit and will mean extending your museum day beyond lunch time.

### What will we achieve?

Handling artefacts from the Neolithic, Mesolithic and Palaeolithic.

Discussing how archaeology can provide us with information about prehistory

Finding out about life in the Stone Age.

Learning how to record archaeological finds, and how important this is for research.

Comparing everyday life today and during the Stone Age.

Exploring a museum gallery and learning how to use a museum as a resource for research.

### Activities:

#### 1 Introduction

What do you know? Very brief recap of existing knowledge.

Thinking about the Stone Age using images of Palaeolithic animals from Salisbury in the museum collection.

#### 2 Stone Age handling

Finds are then recorded on individual Archaeology Record Sheets. Includes sketching and measuring.

#### 3 Introduction to the 'Surviving the Stone Age Game'

Putting together a class list of positive and negative events which may occur in your Stone Age lifetime.

4 Children shown how to create an **action square** – an A4 sheet with a lucky or unlucky Stone Age event on it.

5 **The Surviving Game** is put together on a large floor space. Children divided into teams and a 'counter' chosen from each team. Using a giant die the counters move around the board – who will get to the end and survive?

If time –

#### 6 Costumes

Each child given Neolithic costume to try.



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Pre and Post visit activities

### Pre Visit

Your visit to the museum will focus on life during the Stone Age including Stone Age technology and Stone Age fauna. Pre visit activity could include the following activities.

### Post Visit

Follow on activities and research to build on what your class have learnt about the Stone Age.

#### Timeline

Looking at how far back the Stone Age was, and where objects, characters and moments from time sit in that time line.

#### Book

A Street Through Time:

A 12,000-year Journey Along the Same Street by Dorling Kindersley

#### BBC British History TimeLine

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch\\_tl\\_british.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_tl_british.shtml)

#### BBC Ancient Britain Pages. short films, colouring sheets etc.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/handsonhistory/ancient-britain.shtml>

Look at the Portable Antiquities Scheme and see how finds are recorded and what has been found near you

<http://finds.org.uk/>

#### Look at the collection at Salisbury Museum

<http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/collections>

#### Activities online and off at the Young Archaeologist's Website

<http://www.yac-uk.org/funandgames>

#### 'Rot or Not'

Make a selection of objects ranging in material and bury in various situations in the school. Try different soil types and moisture and maybe somewhere that is walked over and somewhere that is undisturbed. Record the objects before and after they are buried.