

Practical activity ideas

Notes for the teacher - If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Shelter building challenge

The resources required for this activity include sticks, leaves, cloth and string.

Activity: Children are to use the resources to build different types of shelters. Compare the designs and talk about how people started staying in one place longer.

Hunting and gathering role play

The resources required for this activity include large animal picture cards, either plastic fruits, berries, nuts, fish or images of them and a basket to collect the plastic food or fruit.

Activity:

- **Palaeolithic** - Organise a “mammoth hunt” scavenger hunt outside. Hide large-animal picture cards around an open space. This simulates hunting large game in a sparse, Ice Age landscape.
 - **Mesolithic** - Have students create a “foraging basket”. Provide them with various items and ask them to collect. This represents the Mesolithic diet, which relied more on diverse plant foods, and river/coastal resources as the climate warmed and forests grew.
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Soap carving

The resources required for this activity include 2 bars of soap per child, images of tools, plastic clay tools and sticks.

Activity:

- **Palaeolithic** - Children will create a simple “Palaeolithic” tool by chipping a soap bar with a wooden stick or clay tools. The goal is to create a large, crude tool like a **hand axe**. Emphasise its multi-purpose use for butchering and digging.
- **Mesolithic** - Give students smaller pieces of soap or clay. Have them use a sharp, pointed stick to create tiny, geometric shapes. These are **microliths** — the small, specialised tools of the Mesolithic. Explain how these were attached to wood or bone to make tools like spears with multiple small blades, fish hooks, or sickles for harvesting wild plants.

