

MEET THE UG FAMILY

Meet The Ug Family

Once upon a time, a long time ago – say 20,000 years before you were born – there was no such thing as science, no experiments and definitely no science lessons!



Wow, no double physics! What a happy thought! However, in those days people were just as curious about their surroundings as the average two-year-old is today. And they made a lot of discoveries. Like fire! Early humans might have got fire from bush fires or fires started by lightning. They soon found fire was a hot idea for cooking and heating and making chewy mammoth steak a bit less rubbery.

Then they learned how to make fire by rubbing sticks together. Of course, because scientific methods hadn't been invented yet, these discoveries were made by trial and error. Let's take a look at an average Stone Age family. Meet the Ugs...

The Ugs... A very bright idea!



Ancient astronomers

This Stone Age family probably gazed at the skies in wonder, like kids today, and tried to imagine where the stars came from and why they shine. And if that sounds boring, remember they didn't have telly!



Bet you never knew!

Some people think that Stonehenge and other rings of stone – built a mere 4000–5000 years ago – are rather large clocks. They lined up with the rising of the Sun at special times like Midsummer Day and told the people who built them what day it was. Well, at least they didn't need batteries!



Awful alchemists

The Ug family would have also been thrilled by the various substances they saw around them, just like modern toddlers playing in a sandpit. Stuff like different coloured soil and rock that they could use to make colours for cave painting. This was the hottest new discovery in those days. Mrs Ug even ordered a bright-ideas catalogue...



Again, these colours were found by trial error, but you might think that it would be easy for early people to learn how to investigate chemicals in a more scientific way. But you'd be wrong. Wrong, because chemistry, like all the other sciences, hadn't been invented yet.

Learning from life

The Ugs would have been especially interested in plants and animals, for one reason – they were after food. And they knew all about the creatures they hunted.



And yes, you guessed, by trial and error they found out quite early on which things were good to eat...



Since some things are deadly poisonous you can be sure that fatal mistakes were made along the way! And although they didn't realise it, the Ugs made use of physics... They discovered about the transfer of energy from human muscle to a streamlined arrow, for example.



RECIPROCAL READING

You are going to be unpicking the text by becoming a:

- **Clarifier** – *find the meaning of words*
- **Questioner** – *Generate comprehension questions about the text. You can use the question cards to help you.*
- **Summariser** – *What information have you found out?*

Clarify

Is there anything you need to make clearer, such as words, phrases or ideas?



Question

Deduction

Questions about what the text doesn't tell us, but we can work it out from clues in the text.

Inferential

Questions about what the text doesn't tell us, but we can work it out from our knowledge and experience.

Authorial

Questions about the author's use of language.

Literal

Questions about what is actually going on in the text (the more obvious things).



Summarise

Sum up the text and go over what you've found out. Were your predictions correct?





SHARE YOUR FINDINGS.