

## THIS HALF TERM...

I am learning about  
the Stone Age to Iron  
Age  
period.

(2.5 million years ago to  
2,000 years ago)

L.O. I understand that events, people and developments are significant if they resulted in change for the people of that time.

The Stone Age happened so long ago can you explain how do we know so much about the changes and lifestyle of the Neolithic Stone Age person?

Discuss this with someone at home or at school.

To challenge yourself, use the words 'evidence', 'sources', 'changes' and 'significant events' in your answer.

Skara Brae is one of the best preserved Stone Age settlements and has given us huge insight into the lifestyle of Stone Age man.

[https://gridclub.com/scotland/history/the\\_ancient\\_world/a\\_stone\\_age\\_village/index.html](https://gridclub.com/scotland/history/the_ancient_world/a_stone_age_village/index.html)



A settlement is a place where people live.

As you watch the video, think about...

Something you already knew.

Something you learnt.

Something you that surprised you.

# So...where is Skara Brae?

Skara Brae is located on the largest island in the Orkney Isles which is part of Scotland.

We are here.





# So...where is Skara Brae?

Click the link to go to some Google images of [Skara Brae](#)

Spend some time looking at the images of Skara Brae. What do you see, think and wonder?

Remember the more you look the more you see and as historians we are curious about how people from the Stone age lived their lives? What clues can you see from the pictures?



# A guide to Skara Brae

## What is Skara Brae?

Skara Brae is an archaeological site in Orkney that shows the remains of a Neolithic village. It was probably inhabited between 3200 BC and 2200 BC. There are eight houses that are linked together by a series of low passageways. The houses are made of stone and each one is just one single room with furniture such as beds and dressers. The evidence has revealed that the settlement was inhabited for about 600 years before the last people moved away from Skara Brae at the beginning of the Bronze Age.

## When was Skara Brae re-discovered?

The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae was discovered almost by accident during a powerful storm in 1850. The wind was so strong that the sand, earth and plants that had been covering the houses for hundreds of years were blown away to reveal the outlines of a set of ancient dwellings. After further digging, archaeologists were able to uncover the remains of a Stone Age settlement.

## Why is Skara Brae important?

The discovery of Skara Brae became one of Britain's most important archaeological findings. Skara Brae is the best-preserved Neolithic village in Northern Europe and the excellent condition of the settlement gives us an important insight into what communities in the Neolithic period might have been like. The settlement is so well preserved that there is even furniture inside the houses. Archaeologists were also able to uncover a wealth of Stone Age artefacts that give us important clues about this period of history.

## What would it have been like at Skara Brae during the Stone Age?

The many pieces of evidence discovered at Skara Brae give us important insights about what life might have been like there. Crop remains and bones found there show us that people would have been farmers, cultivating crops like barley and rearing sheep and cattle for food. The kind of tools that have been discovered show us that people would also have had to hunt for additional meat and fish. We also know that the inhabitants were skilled craftspeople because jewellery and handmade bowls have also been discovered. The lack of weapons found demonstrates that people were not likely to have been warriors and probably lived peaceful lives.

# Look at the discoveries from Skara Brae

What does it tell you about what was life was like in the Stone Age?







Objects carved out of stone.  
They are about the  
size of tennis balls.





Flint scrapers – just a few centimetres long.

A stone tool  
or weapon





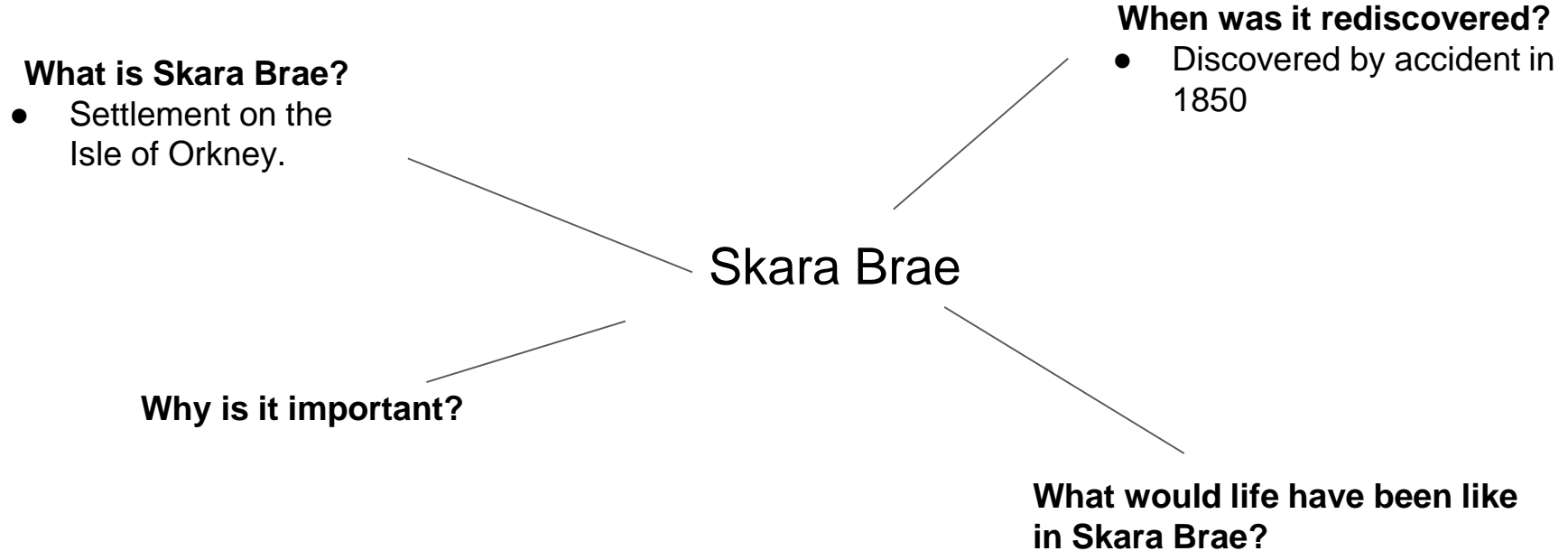
An ox-bone that  
may have been  
used as an axe.

Bone pins and needles.



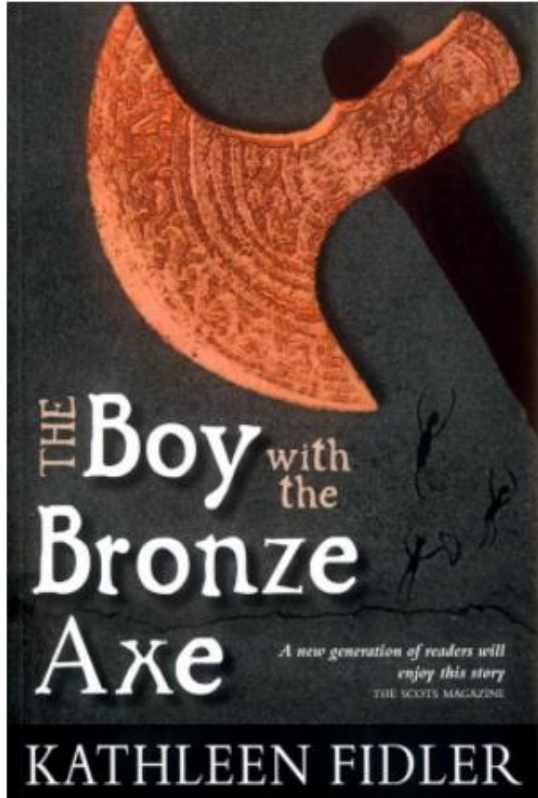
Teeth and bones were used to make necklaces.

Draw a mind-map of all the information you've found out about Skara Brae using these headings.





# The boy with the Bronze Axe



This is a story that is set in the ancient Stone Age village of Skara Brae on Orkney.

Choose an extract that is right for you and read it carefully, looking for clues that tell us more about life on Skara Brae.

## Extract 1 - very mild

Kali sat up in her stone bed filled with heather ... Her mother still slept in the stone bed-place on the other side of the hearth.

## Extract 2 Mild

Kali emptied the limpets and shellfish on to a stone slab and began to scrape the limpets out of their shells into a shallow bowl. She used a tiny flint scraper as a knife. Stempsi [her mother] took the crabs and eel and wrapped them up in a covering of wet clay which she thrust into the glowing heart of the fire, prodding it into place with the long leg-bone of an ox which she used like a poker.

## Extract 3 hot

The women prepared new tunics of the softest sheepskin. With flint scrapers they scraped away the wool and washed the skins in the stream ... They kneaded and pounded them on the stones till the skins were soft and supple. Then they shaped them into tunics, sewing up the sides with sinews from the sheep. Kali joined the women ... She had begged two soft lambskins ... Kali sewed them into a tunic ... She tacked a deep pocket on the inside of the tunic and fastened it with whalebone pins.

## Extract 4 very hot

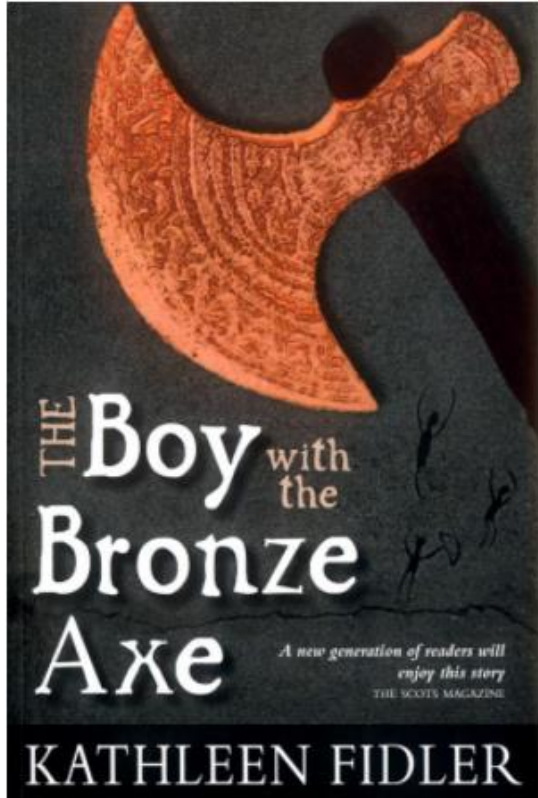
In preparation for the longest day of the year the tribe of Skara had many things to do. The previous day they cast off their old tunics and rushed into the sea. They rubbed their bodies with white sand till the skin was reddened. This was the ceremony of cleansing.

Next came the ceremony of painting. The women had prepared pigments in little basins made from whale bones. There was a yellow paint made from a clay ochre, a red paint made by crushing pieces of rusty-looking stone, and blue paint from a flax plant.

Birno came to the meeting place carrying six beautifully carved stone balls. These were the symbols of the Sun belonging to the tribe of Skara ... Two of them had been carved by Birno himself. Birno looked with pride at the last stone ball he had carved. The carving on it was so deep that the pattern stood out in spikes like a hedgehog. It had taken Birno a whole year to carve ... The spikes represented the rays of the sun.

There were two ways across the moat [into the ring]. Birno halted and lined up his people. Only the men would cross into the sacred ring ... Birno ... gave the word, "Lift up your symbols of the Sun." The six leaders held the carved stone balls high in their hands ... The company advanced across the earthen bridge with the signs of the Sun held aloft ... Three times the tribes of Orkney marched round the Ring of Brodgar and each time the men passed the highest stone of all, they lifted the signs of the Sun which they carried and shouted loudly.

# The boy with the Bronze Axe



Discuss with someone at some or school what you can infer about life during the Stone Age.

Add the extra information you've found out from the story to your mind-map.

Create a video using Chatterpix or AnimateAnything to explain all the things you've found out about Skara Brae.

Or draw or write what life was like as a Stone Age person.



Here is an example using Chatterpix





Now take a picture of a Stone Age person, using the pictures in the next slides, and use the app to make it explain what Stone Age life would have been like when living in Skara Brae.

Alternatively draw or write what life was like as a Stone Age person.





