



PEREGRINI Lindisfarne
Landscape Partnership



PREHISTORIC
ARTEFACT BOX



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PREHISTORIC ARTEFACT BOX: COMPLETE BOX



1	Antler Retoucheur	11	Leather Cup
2	Flint Retoucheur	12	Flint Scrapers [1 large & 4 x small] in pouch
3	Hammer Stone	13	Flint Arrowheads [x2] in box/pouch
4	Comb	14	Bronze Age Flint arrowhead in pouch
5	Needle & Thread	15	Hair Ornaments [x 2] in pouch
6	Slate Arrow	16	Mesolithic Arrow
7	Small Knife	17	Goddess Figurine
8	Resin Stick	18	Antler Tool
9	Bead Necklace	19	Prehistoric Loan Box- Risk Assessment
10	Hand Axe and Leather Covers	20	Artefact Box Booklet-Prehistoric

Acknowledgements

The artefacts were made by Emma Berry and Andrew Bates of Phenix Studios Ltd of Hexham, Northumberland. <http://www.phenixstudios.com/>



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Item: 1

Brief Description: Antler Retoucheur



Further Information:

- This tool is made from antler.
- It was used to retouch flints—that means it was used to sharpen it by carefully chipping away small flakes away from a stone tool's edge that had become blunt through use.
- Mesolithic and Neolithic flaked tools were made with a lot of retouching, as they were very small and very fine.
- Even Palaeolithic tools could be sharpened by retouching.

Explore:

The periods of prehistory covered in this artefact box are called: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Ages (the Old, Middle and New Stone Ages) and the Bronze Age.

What "Age" do we live in today? The Steel Age? The Plastic Age?

Is **everything** we use made of this material?

To find out more about each of these Stone Age periods follow this link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zpny34j#z98q2hv>



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Item: 2

Brief Description: Flint Retoucheur



Further Information:

- The tip of this tool was made from antler and the handle is lime wood.
- The inner bark of the lime tree was used to make the cord.
- It would have been hung on a belt so it was always handy
- This tool is used to work flints to get a sharp edge/flake.
- A similar tool was found with Otzi, also known as the Iceman.
- He lived around 3,300 BCE [BC].
- Otzi is the nickname that was given to a mummy that was found in 1991 in the Alps between Austria and Italy.
- His body was preserved naturally in the glacier ice.
- He is Europe's oldest known natural mummy.

 Explore:

 Find out more about Otzi by visiting <http://www.iceman.it/en/>



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Item: 3	Brief Description: Hammer Stone
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Further Information:

- This was used for flint knapping.
- It would have been used to take off large flakes from a bigger rock.
- These large flakes would then be worked into their final shape with smaller tools like Item 2.
- Other animals make tools, but humans are unusual because we use tools to make other tools.
- This technology was probably used from the Palaeolithic through to the end of stone tool-making

 Explore:

 Learn to speak like an archaeologist. Match up the words on the left with the correct definition on the right.

Key Words

1. Archaeology
2. Artefact
3. Evidence
4. Excavation
5. Interpret

Definitions

- A. To try and explain what something means.
- B. The study of the lives of people in the past.
- C. To dig up and record archaeological remains.
- D. Any object made or altered by a person eg a flint tool.
- E. Information to support an idea or interpretation.



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Item: 4



Brief Description: Comb



Further Information:

- This comb was made from bone, probably from a cow or an ox.
- Sometimes they were made from antler.
- A similar comb was found at a Neolithic site in Denmark.
- It dates from around 3,000 BCE [BC].
- The comb is decorated at the top of the comb with the head of a man at one side and the head of a horse at the other.

 **Explore:**

-  Why do you think Stone Age people decorated their combs and other items?
-  What other material could be used to make a comb?



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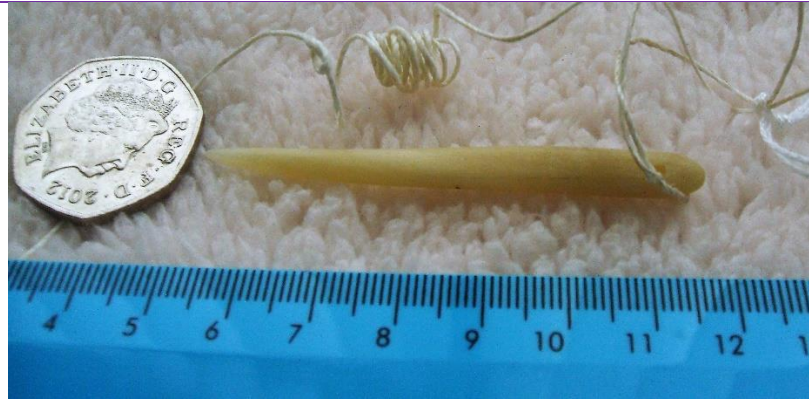
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Item: 5





Brief Description: Needle and Thread



Further Information:

- The needle is made from bone. The thread/string here was made from flax.
- String was a very useful piece of technology in prehistory.
- The string or thread could be made from wool, lime bast, nettle or flax and would give string of different thicknesses.

 **Explore:**

-  String had many uses. Look at the other items in the box. See if you can find:
 - an item where string has been used to tie parts of an object together.
 - an item where it has been used to thread smaller items together.
-  Can you think of other uses prehistoric people might have used string or thread for? [Clue: think about catching animals, making jewellery, making weapons/tools]
-  What different uses would the various thicknesses of string be used for?
-  Which of the materials used to make string would have been the most durable? Why?

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Item: 6



Brief Description: Slate Arrow



Further Information:

- This was found in Switzerland.
- The shaft of the arrow is made from holly.
- The arrowhead is made from slate and is very sharp.
- The arrowhead is fastened to the shaft with a mixture of pine resin and beeswax.

 **Explore:**

-  What are two of the main reasons prehistoric people would have used arrows?
-  What other methods might they have used to capture and kill animals for food?



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Item: 7 **Brief Description: Small Knife**




Further Information:

- This knife is made from oak with a flint blade.
- The blade was attached to the handle with twine and fixed in place with pine resin and beeswax.
- It would have been carried around and used as a general purpose tool like a pocket knife.
- A similar tool was found with Otzi, also known as the Iceman.
- He lived around 3,300 BCE [BC].
- Otzi is the nickname that was given to a mummy that was found in 1991 in the Alps between Austria and Italy.
- His body was preserved naturally in the glacier ice.
- He is Europe's oldest known natural mummy.

 **Explore:**

 Tools made of multiple materials are known as compound tools. **Draw a flow chart** illustrating the manufacture of this knife. Remember you have to search out all the materials before you can construct the knife.

 Why would only the flint blade have survived to be found by archaeologists?



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Item: 8	Brief Description: Resin Stick
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Further Information:

- This is resin glue on a stick. The glue is made from a mixture of pine resin and beeswax.
- This was very useful as it could be carried around with you easily and used whenever you needed it by heating it up and smoothing it on with your finger.

 Explore:

-  Why would Stone Age people have wanted to carry a resin stick with them?
-  What sort of tasks would they have used it for?



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Item: 9


Brief Description: Necklace




Further Information:


- This Neolithic necklace is made from bone beads strung on lime bast-the inner bark of the lime tree.
- The original of this necklace is in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

 **Explore:**

 What other materials/items might Neolithic people have used to make jewellery like earrings, necklaces, armlets?

 Have a look at some of examples here:

<https://digventures.com/2015/04/neolithic-bling-what-can-jewellery-tell-us-about-the-spread-of-innovation/>

 Make a chart comparing Neolithic and modern jewellery. What is the same? What is different?



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Item:10	Brief Description: Hand Axe
	

Further Information:

- This is a Palaeolithic hand axe dating from 30,000 BCE [BC].
- The original item was found at a site in Wales.
- As well as using smaller flint tools, Palaeolithic people also needed larger tools like this handaxe.
- With use these axes would become blunt, but they could be quickly re-sharpened by striking another flake off the edge.
- Later Mesolithic people attached the axe head to a wooden handle.
- At the end of the Stone Age, Neolithic people polished their axes as well as mounting them on to wooden handles.
- Polishing the stone made it stronger and meant that Neolithic axes were extremely impressive objects.
- Stone axes were traded widely across Britain, which also shows how important they were.
- Some are so delicate they must never have been used.
- In these cases, the practical usefulness of these objects might have been less important than using them as status symbols.

Explore:

- What sort of practical tasks would a handaxe have been used for?
- Why was attaching the axe head to a wooden handle an improvement in technology?
- What sort of things in modern life could be called status symbols - having importance attached to them beyond how well they do a job?


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Item:11 Brief Description: Leather Cup



Further Information:

- This Neolithic cup would have been made from any animal hide that was available eg deer.
- The hide is made by scraping of the fat from the inside of the skin and removing the fur from the outside.
- It was made watertight by coating the inside of it with a mixture of beeswax and animal fat.

 **Explore:**

-  What tools would you use to scrape off the fur and fat?
-  How easy do you think it would be to sew thick leather with a needle and thread?
-  Find out how an awl might help you with the task. In the Stone Age, awls would have been made from finer bones like a fox's leg bone.
-  What other items could be made from leather?
-  Do you think archaeologists find many prehistoric items that were made from leather? Why?



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Item: 12	Brief Description: Flint Scrapers [1 x large & 4 x small]
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Further Information:

- There is one large scraper and four smaller ones.
- These examples of flint scrapers are mostly Neolithic.
- This technology developed in the Palaeolithic period and by the Mesolithic period, it had broadened out to cover a range of uses.
- By the Neolithic period, both flaked and polished stone tools were used.
- Flints were multi-purpose tools and some might have been mounted on wooden handles.
- They would be carried around by a person in a pouch on their belt so they were always available.
- Microscopic analysis of cutting edges can sometimes tell us what the tools had been used for.

Explore:

- What sort of tasks would these flints have been used for?
- How might they have been used alongside a handaxe?
- Stone tools are often the only parts of very old sites to survive even though they might have originally have had wooden handles or string bindings. Why?
- What might archaeologists be missing from sites where only stone tools survive?



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Item: 13 **Brief Description: Flint Arrowheads [x2]**



Further Information:

- These two arrowheads show the development from Neolithic to Bronze Age.
- The Neolithic arrowhead is a simple leaf shape.
- The Bronze Age arrowhead is barbed and tanged making more effective.
- Both are made from knapped flint.

 Explore:

-  Why would the Bronze arrowhead be more effective?
-  These arrowheads are incomplete. What other materials does it need to become a complete arrow?



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Item:14




Brief Description: Bronze Age Arrowhead



Further Information:

- This flint arrowhead is an **original** Bronze Age arrow not a replica.
- It is barbed (points projecting backwards from the main point) and tanged and ready to be set in a wooden shaft.
- The Bronze Age dates from the first appearance of bronze at about 2,200 BCE [BC] to the introduction of iron at around 800 BCE [BC].
- Bronze is a mixture of copper and tin, making it much harder and more useful than the pure copper found with the *Amesbury Archer*.
- Metal objects were usually cast in moulds. Once the mould was made, molten metal was poured into it.
- Bronze was used to make a range of objects including tools, weapons and ornaments.
- Copper ore (rock rich in metal minerals) was collected on the surface and in deep underground mine shafts.
- Over 33,000 bone tools and 2,400 stone hammers used for mining have been recovered.

 **Explore:**

-  What advantages did metal tools have over the earlier stone tools?
-  Some mine tunnels were very narrow and children may have been sent to work in them. How would you feel about being a Bronze Age mine worker?
-  Ask members of your family if they can tell you about any new kinds of technology that have changed their lives?



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Item:15	Brief Description: Hair Ornaments
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Further Information:

- These are direct copies of items found at a very early Bronze Age burial site at Kirkhaugh Cairn, near Alston.
- They date to about 2,400 BCE [BC]
- The original items were made from gold and so were very high status objects.
- These copies are made from gilded copper.
- These items would have probably been worn at the end of a plait, though some people think they were earrings.
- Other items found in the grave were some polished stones used for working copper and gold by the very earliest metalworkers. So it is likely that the person who was buried in the Kirkhaugh cairn was someone who was involved in some way with metalworking, either working directly with the metal, or perhaps, trading in the finished metal objects.

 **Explore:**

 Follow the link to discover more about the Kirkhaugh finds;

<http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/altogether-archaeology/altogether-archaeology-fieldwork-modules/altogether-archaeology-kirkhaugh-cairns/>

 What kinds of materials are used to make personal adornments today?

 Which materials used today might not survive to be found by archaeologists?

[Clue think about thread bracelets, daisy chains and jewellery made from other organic materials]



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Item:16 **Brief Description: Mesolithic Arrow**



Further Information:

- This type of arrow dates from 8,000 BC
- This is made of wood and knapped flints which could be worked until they were very sharp.
- Small flints like these are known as *microliths* which means 'small stones'.
- Microliths can range from a few millimetres long up to about 5cm. They are very characteristic of the Mesolithic period.
- The flints were attached to the shaft of the arrow with pine resin and beeswax glue
- The shaft of the arrow is made from hazel.
- The scorch marks on the shaft show where it was heated and straightened.
- The way the flint heads were set into the arrow would have made it a very effective weapon.
- Some Mesolithic tools would have had several flints down one or both sides and could have been used eg as saws. Larger versions could have been used as spears for hunting.

 **Explore:**

-  Why might Mesolithic people have made tools from lots of little flints, rather than large stones?
-  What kind of animals might Mesolithic people have hunted for? Remember to think about animals in the sea as well as on land.



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Item:17 **Brief Description: Goddess Figurine**



Further Information:

- This is a "Venus" figurine.
- No figurines like this have been found in Northumberland but many have been found across Europe.
- The oldest one found dates from about 35,000 years ago. Many of these items date from 28,000-22,000 years ago.
- Two of the most famous examples are the *Woman of Willendorf* which was found in Austria and is about 28-25,000 years old and the *Westray Wife*. This was found in Orkney in 2009. And is about 5000 years old.

 Explore:

-  Why do you think these figurines were made? Do you think they were good luck charms, ornaments or fertility symbols?
-  Do you think that figurines made over such a long time and in different places in Europe would have all had the same meaning?
-  Find out more about the *Westray Wife* here:
<http://www.orkneyjar.com/archaeology/linksofnotland/venus.htm>



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Item:18	Brief Description: Antler Tool
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Further Information:

- This object is made from antler. This could have been a deer or other animal eg goat.
- It would have been a general purpose tool used for a variety of domestic purposes
- Mesolithic people lived in round huts like the one at Howick in Northumberland.
- This site was discovered from the identification of flint artefacts in the nearby cliffs by amateur archaeologists.
- Later it was decided to recreate a replica Mesolithic hut nearby.

 Explore:

 Find out more about the Howick site:

<http://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=35334>

<http://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com/projects/howick.htm>

<http://www.keystothepast.info/article/10339/Site-Details?PRN=N5690>




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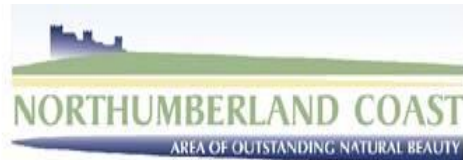
GENERAL QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE




Explore: How We Live

Compare how we live today with how people lived during the Stone Age

HOW WE LIVE	
The Stone Age	The Present Day
Homes:	Homes:
Food:	Food:
Tools:	Tools:





Explore: The Discovery Of Bronze

WHY WAS THE DISCOVERY OF BRONZE SO IMPORTANT?

What is bronze?

Why was the discovery of bronze so important?

Draw a picture of an object people would have used during the Bronze that was made from bronze.



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Explore: Neolithic Rock Art

Neolithic rock art is found in various parts of Britain. Many excellent examples exist in Northumberland eg Doddington Moor, Roughting Linn [near Ford] and Lordenshaws where late Neolithic people carved patterns and motifs, mostly 'cup and ring marks' on flat exposed rocks.



A rock art panel on Doddington Moor. © Historic England. [aa045828]


-  Visit: <http://rockart.ncl.ac.uk/browse> and find another example of a Neolithic Rock art panel and draw a picture of it.
-  Archaeologists do not know what cup and ring marks were meant to show. They don't seem to depict actual things like animals or people. They may have been signposts in the landscape or had some sacred meaning for the prehistoric people who made them – or they could be purely decorative. **What do you think?**
-  Look at these sites on an OS map. Do they have anything in common eg are they set at a high point in the landscape, or near a river or at a known sacred place?
-  Why do you think they didn't carve other designs?
-  Where else in Britain and Europe has Neolithic rock art been found? Are the carvings similar or different to those found in Northumberland?



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 Explore: 'Rot or Not'

[Taken from Historic England Education al Resources <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/resources/>]

Archaeologists have to be detectives. Most of the organic matter that was used by Stone Age people does not survive. Archaeologists can only work with what they find in the ground. This means they have to make 'educated guesses' and interpret the evidence they find to 'fill in the blanks'.

Look at the items below. Which of these do you think would have rotted away and which would have survived in the ground for archaeologists to find?

 Bones	 Leather	 Vegetables	 Bone needle and flax thread
 Glass	 Bread	 Flints	 Resin Stick
 Wood and flint arrow	 Fabric	 Clay beads strung in hide.	 Metal