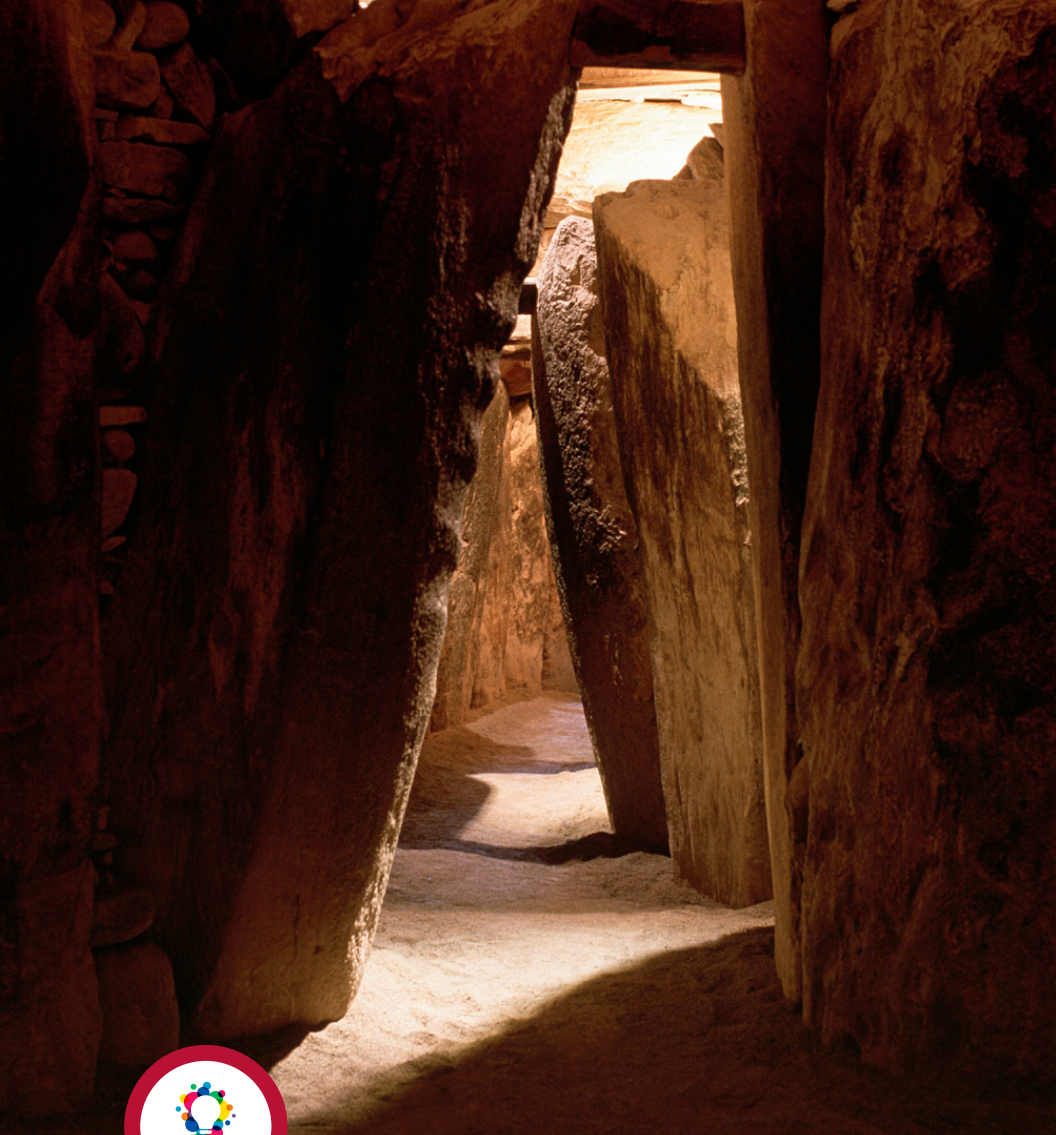


The Stone Age





The Earliest People

Although people have been on Earth for a long time, not much is known about the earliest people. That is because no one has found any art or tools that the earliest people made. Studying things like bowls or spears can tell scientists how people lived long ago.

Once people learned to make tools, they made drawings on the walls of caves. They also made bowls and spears. The earliest tools that have been found were made from stones. Because the people from long ago used stones to make tools, scientists have called this time the Stone Age.

Key Notes:

How do scientists learn about early people?

These cave paintings
were made in the
Stone Age.



People in the Stone Age used tools made of stone, wood, or bone.

Tools

The earliest people probably used sticks to get food. Later, people made tools from stones and animal bones. These new tools were stronger and lasted longer than sticks. Stronger tools helped people hunt for animals without getting close to them. People could also catch fish with hooks that they made from animal bones. In this way, bone and stone tools helped early people get more food and stay safe.

Early people also used stones to make fire. If they rubbed two stones together, they could make sparks of fire. Fire helped early people stay warm, cook food, and keep wild animals away.

Key Notes:

How did the earliest people use tools?



The earliest people planted and stored food like corn, rice, and wheat.

Food

Early people moved from place to place to hunt animals and find places to eat. In winter, food was hard to find. However, stone tools helped people dig holes to hide seeds from animals. Once people learned to grow plants, though, they did not have to go looking for food.

Some of the first plants that people grew were grains such as corn, wheat, and rice. Then, people learned to make flour by using stones to crush and grind grain. They also learned to store flour for winter, when plants didn't grow. Growing and storing food helped early people feed themselves all year.

Key Notes:

What kinds of food did early people eat?



**Tame sheep made
life better for
Stone-Age people.**

Animals

At first, Stone-Age people hunted animals for food. Over time, though, people found that animals could be used in other ways, too. People began to tame the animals that we now call goats, cows, sheep, and dogs. Goats and cows made milk that people used as food. People used the wool from sheep to keep warm. People used dogs to heard other animals, like sheep. Dogs also kept people safe from wild animals.

Once people learned to tame horses, their lived got even better. This is because horses could move people and things in less time and with less work.

Key Notes:

Why were animals important to people during the Stone Age?

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