

## Stone Age Loan Box

Use this box to explore and uncover the Stone Age story of Eastbourne and the surrounding area.

Find a selection of real artefacts used and made by people in Eastbourne as well as a mammoth tooth!

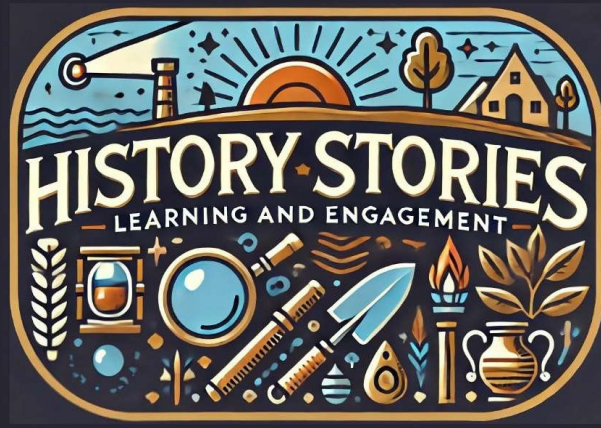
After hundreds of thousands of years hunting and gathering, around 6000 years ago, people in Britain began to change their ways. Slowly over the next two millennia domestication of animals and then plants developed along with a more settled way of life which in itself led to permanent settlements, religious monuments and population growth.

In Eastbourne, most of the evidence we have of these people is from the flint and stone tools with which they used to clear the downs for farming. We also have two rare monuments built around 3500BC, traces of which can still be seen in the form of banks and ditches on the downs at Butts Brow and Combe Hill. We are not sure what these enclosures were used for but suggestions range from meeting places or animal enclosures to sacred spaces for funerary rites.

### **Mammoth tooth**

The woolly mammoth became extinct in Europe about 12 000 years ago, towards the end of the last ice age and the Palaeolithic period. It was a large animal, slightly smaller than an elephant, with thick fur and long curved tusks. Our knowledge of these animals comes from cave paintings showing them being hunted





and from specimens which have been found almost perfectly preserved in the frozen ground of Siberia.

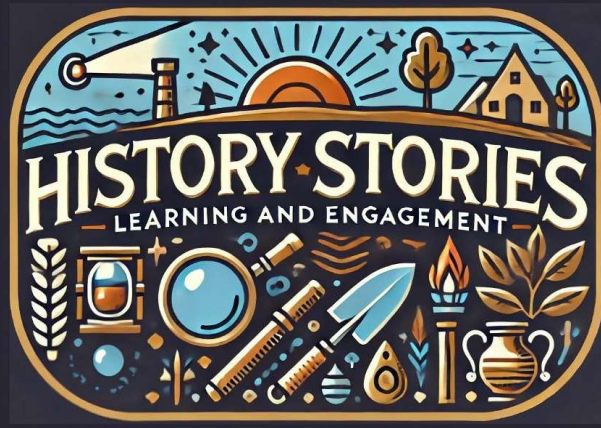
The mammoth was once a common animal in Britain along with cave bears, woolly rhinoceroses, hyenas and lions. It may have become extinct because of hunting by humans or climate changes or likely a mixture of both.

There have been people in Britain since 800 000BC. For most of that time, tools and weapons were made from stone. Flint is one of the best stones for making tools as it can be quite easily worked and is very sharp. As so much flint occurs naturally around Eastbourne, lots of ancient tools are also found. The tools in this box have been found in and around Eastbourne.

**Palaeolithic Hand Axe** used for everything including cutting meat



**Palaeolithic Chopper** for chopping through bones and wood



**Mesolithic Pick**  
for digging holes,  
digging up roots  
to eat and  
removing roots  
from trees

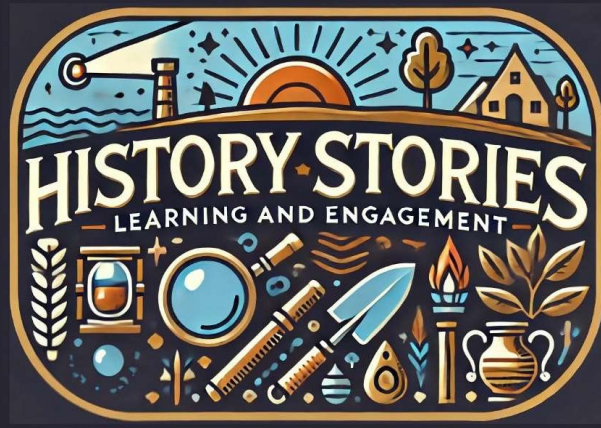


**Neolithic Blade** possibly had a  
wooden handle

**Neolithic Saw** for cutting through wood



**Neolithic Axe Head** mostly used for cutting  
down trees to clear the area for farming. It  
would have been hafted on a wooden handle



### **Neolithic Polished Axe**

**Head** also used for cutting wood and would have had a wooden handle. When this was made around 5000 years ago, it was polished by rubbing the flint against an abrasive surface to strengthen it.



**Neolithic scraper** for removing fat from animal hide to stop it rotting and soften it ready for making clothing or shelter

**Neolithic Arrow Heads** used for hunting with bows and arrows. More recently, people thought that flint arrowheads such as these were the weapons of fairies or elves, and there were numerous superstitions surrounding them. It was believed that you could not find one by searching for it, and that once found they should never be exposed to the sun or the fairies would recover them and work some mischief.

