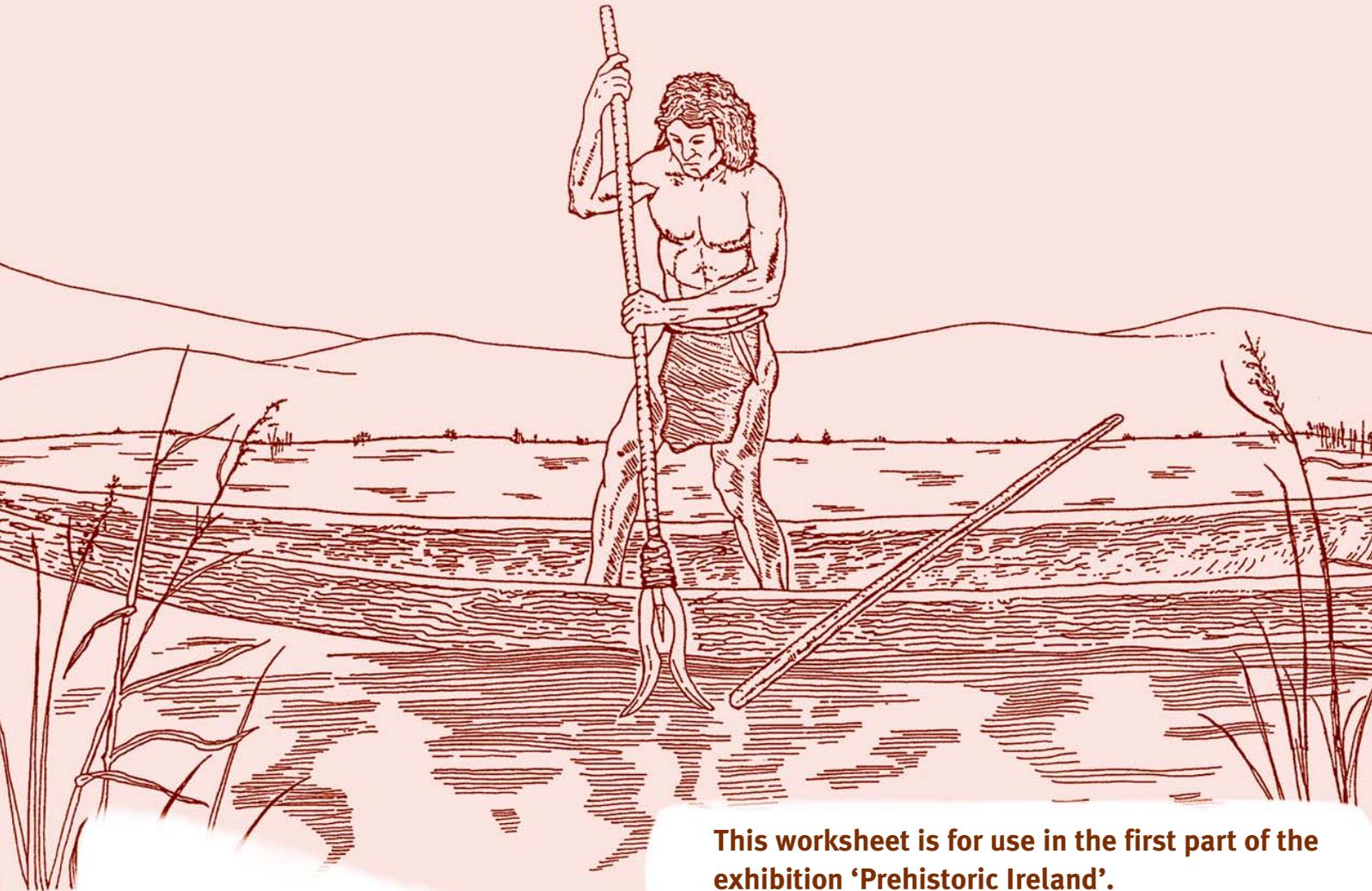


# Stone Age Activity Sheet

ages 7 - 12 years



This worksheet is for use in the first part of the exhibition 'Prehistoric Ireland'.

## Time-line

Stone Age	7,000 BC
Bronze Age	2,000 BC
Iron Age	300 BC
B.C. - A.D.	0
St. Patrick	432 AD
Vikings	795 AD
Present	21st Century

This sheet belongs to  
name :



**Did you know:**

The first people arrived in Ireland around 9000 years ago!

This time is known as the Stone Age.

**fact BOX:**

People hadn't yet discovered metals like bronze or iron. **Flint** was often used to make tools and weapons because it is a very hard stone, which can be sharpened easily.

Enter the Museum and *turn* to your left.

# 1. Stone Tools

**Look** in the first few cases and find some **stone** tools.

**Q.** Can you guess what they were used for? Try to **match up** the following, like in the example:

The first settlers lived beside the sea and along river valleys. They travelled around looking for food: hunting animals and gathering nuts, berries and shellfish.

Can you **find** some burnt hazelnut shells in the second case? These were eaten by somebody around 8,500 years ago!

Flint Blade	Digging
Stone Spearhead	Chopping
Flint Axe	Cutting
Stone Pick	Hunting





### fact BOX:

Around 6000 years ago people in Ireland started to learn about farming. They grew crops like wheat and barley and also raised animals such as cattle, sheep and goats. This meant they no longer needed to move around in search of food.

*Walk around* the last pillar on your right, to the case with the picture of a woman grinding grain into flour.

## 2. Quernstone

The woman is using a **quernstone** and is watched by her child. Behind them you see their house. **Find** the example of a quernstone in the case.

**Q.** Do you think grinding grain would be an easy or difficult job in the Stone Age and why?


In the same case you can also see some pottery, which would have been used for storing food and drink.

Besides grain and meat, other foods were eaten. Can you **find** clues that show us two other types of food.

**Hint - Look in the front of the case!**

1.

2.

**Go** to the model of the passage tomb in the corner of the exhibition.

### 3. Passage Tombs

During the Stone Age, stone monuments were built to honour the dead. A well-known type is called a **passage tomb**. Newgrange in Co. Meath is Ireland's most famous example. The cremated (or burnt) bones of more than one person were usually placed in this kind of tomb.

**Look** into the tomb and see the chamber where the ashes were placed. **(Don't climb in yourself!!!)**

The large stones in the tomb are called **kerbstones**. Can you **draw** some of the designs on the kerbstones?

Some people say these shapes were:

- Stone Age drawings
- People's names
- Magic signs
- Ancient calendars

**Q.** Do you agree with any of these?

Have you any other ideas?


**fact BOX:**

In the Stone Age when people died, their family and friends often buried something they owned with them.

Passage tomb, Newgrange, Co. Meath. c.3200BC.



Now **walk** past the case with the quernstone, past the ramp and go to the next case on your right.

### 4. Shell Necklace

**Find** the **shell necklaces** in the case. These were found buried in a grave. They are like the one the woman wears in the picture you saw earlier.

**Name** two other things in this case that were found buried with the dead.

1.

2.



Lastly, take a look at the **logboat**. (It's hard to miss!!!)

## 5. Logboat

This dates to around 4,500 years ago! It is made from one huge oak tree and is over 15 metres long. It was found in a bog in Co. Galway, in 1902.

The logboat is made from half a log, with the wood hollowed out of the middle. What do you think it was made with? (**Tick** the answer you think is correct.)

- Chainsaws
- Stone axes
- Pickaxes

**Q.** Do you think it is different from boats today? If so, in what way or ways?




### fact BOX:

In peat bogs, the acids in the soil and the lack of air help to stop decay.

6.

In the space below, **draw** your favourite object from the Stone Age exhibition.



## **Congratulations!**

You have finished the Stone Age Activity Sheet.

## ***Follow up activities...***

- 1.** In class or at home, write a story or poem about life in the Stone Age.
- 2.** With some clay or plasticine, make some pots like the ones you saw in the exhibition. Decorate them with your fingernail, twigs, a fork or anything that makes a pattern.
- 3.** Next time you're at the seaside, collect some shells and make a shell necklace, using a long piece of string or wool.

**museum**

National Museum of Ireland

*Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann*

Education and Outreach Department, National  
Museum of Ireland, Dublin. 2002

Tel: 01-648 6453.

Fax: 01-679 1025.

Email: [bookings@museum.ie](mailto:bookings@museum.ie)

[www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)

Text: Eimear Synnott, 2002