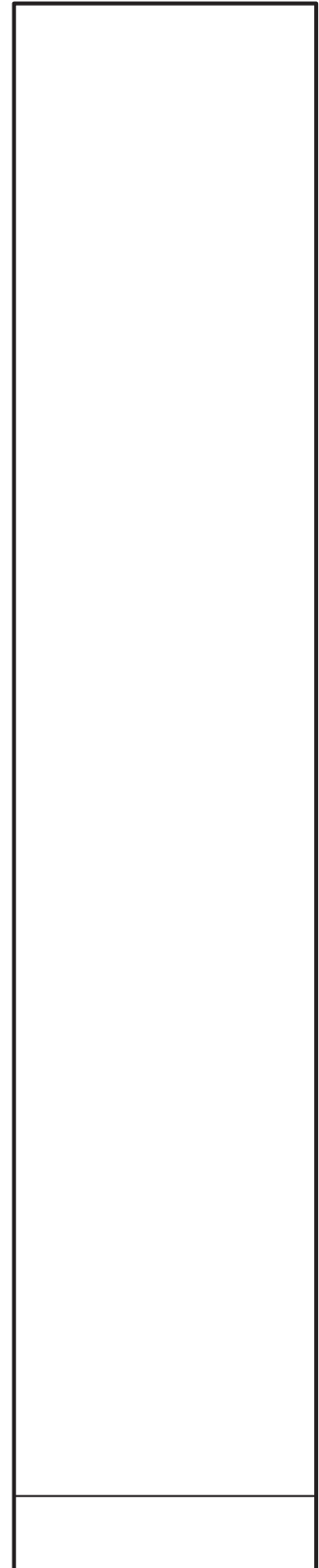
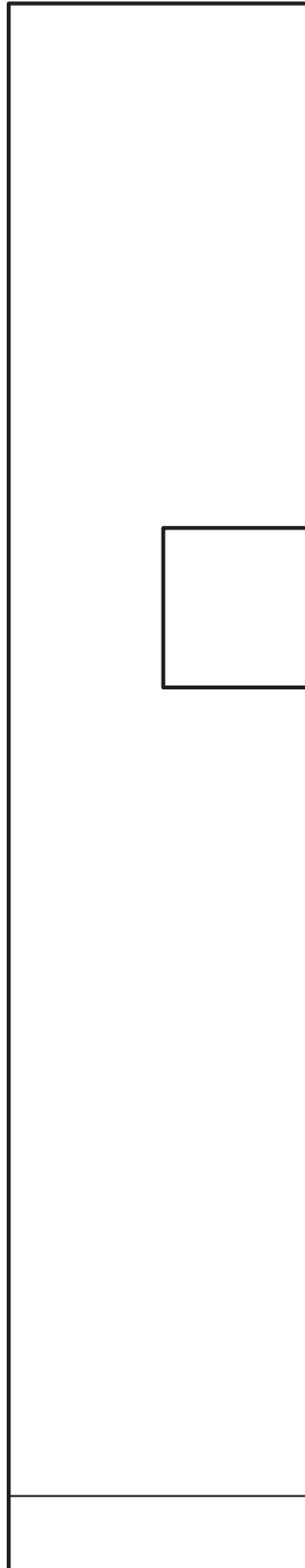
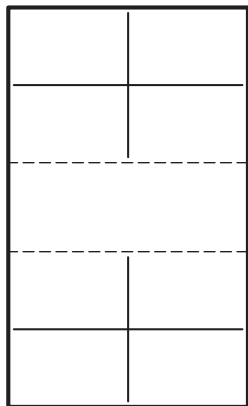
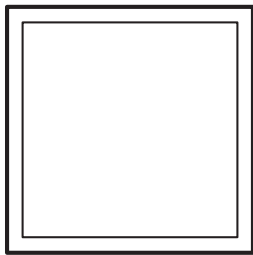
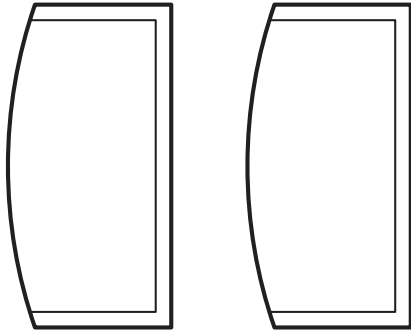
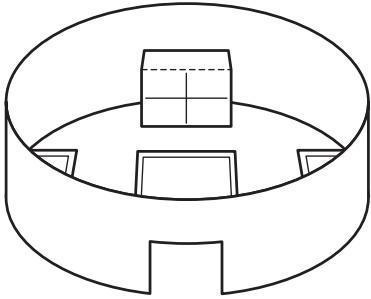


# A Stone Age house



# A Stone Age house

## Objectives

- To construct a model based on archaeological evidence.
- To speculate on the shape and structure of the roof and make it to fit on the model.

## Cross-curricular links

### History

- 4a** Find out about events from an appropriate range of resources.

### Design and technology

- 2d** Cut, shape a range of materials and assemble, join and combine components and materials accurately.
- 3a** Reflect on progress of their work as they design and make, identifying ways they could improve their products.

### English

#### En1

- 1e** Speak audibly and clearly, using spoken standard English in formal contexts.

- 8b** Presenting to different audiences.

## Resources

You will need pictures of the houses of Skara Brae, a selection of material for the children to use to make roofs for their houses. These materials may include paper for making a paper cone to fit over the house, strips of paper and a balloon or suitably sized melon to form a mould for a papier mâché hemisphere, modelling clay which may also be used to make a hemisphere, straws, lollipop sticks and soft cloth to simulate turf. Each child or group will need a copy of worksheet **13** (page 58) photocopied onto card, scissors, glue, a bowl of sand (optional).

## Starter

Tell the children about the Stone Age people of Skara Brae and the houses they built. Say that these people did not move about like the hunters in activities **3** and **8** but were farmers and sea fishermen. Say that as timber was in short supply some of the furniture inside the houses – beds and a dresser – were made of stone and survived through the centuries and have given archaeologists a good idea about the interior of the house. Mention that there was a hearth lined with stones just like the

stones placed around a campfire today to stop the fire spreading. There was no evidence of stone being used for the roof so other materials such as the precious wood or even whale bones may have been used for roof supports and the roof covered in thatch, turf or even seaweed.

## Main activities

1. Tell the children that they are going to make a simple model of a stone house and issue copies of worksheet **13**. Explain how they should cut out the walls and use the tabs and glue to stick them together to make a circular structure. Remind them to cut out the door.
2. Let the children cut out the beds and trim their rounded ends to fit with the curve of the walls. They should use the picture to help position the beds.
3. The children should then cut out the dresser and fold it along the dotted lines and stand it against the wall opposite the door.
4. They should cut out the hearth and place it in the centre of the room.
5. Tell the children that where the stone houses were built strong cold winds blew so a porch was made to stop the door opening straight onto the outside. Ask them to design and make a porch using some of the remaining card. Look for a small structure a little taller than the door which opens at a right angle to the door.
6. If you wish to make the model more realistic the children could then set it up in a bowl and put sand around the wall on the outside to a depth of half the wall.
7. Remind the children that archaeologists have had to guess about the shape and structure of the roof and challenge them to design and make a roof from your collection of materials. Leave them to decide whether the roof had a central hole to let the smoke out.

## Plenary

Let the children display their houses and give their reasons for the roof they have constructed.

## Outcomes

The children can:

- Make a simple model house from the Stone Age.
- Use a range of materials safely to make a roof.
- Explain the reasons for their roof design and structure.