

PREHISTORY TIMELINE



9000BC
There is evidence that hunter-gatherers lived in groups across Ireland.



6000BC
Sea levels continue to rise. Britain is separated from the continental mainland and becomes an island.



3500BC
Elaborately decorated pottery is now being made.

2500BC
The earliest copper objects and Beaker pottery date from this time.



Reyfard Stone, County Fermanagh

800BC
A new type of metal - iron - comes into use.

Late Upper Palaeolithic

Mesolithic

Neolithic

Bronze Age

Iron Age



(End of the Ice Age)

(Middle Stone Age)

(New Stone Age)

12000BC
Ireland emerges from the Ice Age and begins to warm. People return to the land for the first time and hunt mammals. They also make engravings of animals inside caves.

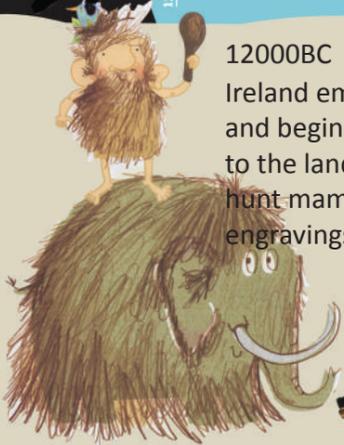
9500BC
As it continues to get warmer, the cold dry habitat is replaced by woodland. The large mammals are replaced by forest creatures like red deer and wild cattle. They are hunted with bows and arrows.

4000BC
Technological advances emerge, such as handmade pottery. Flint mining begins.

3000BC
The first timber and stone circles date to this period.

1500BC
Settled farming communities emerge. Metal tools replace flint.

100BC
The potters wheel and coinage emerge.



Drumskinny Stone Circle, Irvinestown

1. Try matching each Stone Age sickness with its crazy Stone Age cure!

1. toothache
2. headache
3. backache
4. measles

- a) drill a hole in the skull
- b) climb through a hole in a boulder
- c) hollyhock flowers
- d) tattoos on the body

2. What did Stone Age people use to make fire?

- a) A lighter
- b) Stones
- c) Matches



STONE AGE QUIZ

3. Stone-Agers made paint by mixing powdered minerals with which liquid?

- a) Mammoth pee
- b) Gooseberry beer
- c) Blood

4. How did Stone Age people find their food?

- a) farming and hunting
- b) online shopping
- c) supermarkets



IMAGINE...

you are an archeologist and you have discovered these fragments of pottery in the ground. Would you be able to put them back together to make a neolithic pot?

LOOK OUT...
for a pot just like this in the museum!

HAVE A GO at cutting out the pieces from this picture and sticking them back together in the space above...



The Community Engagement Initiative is a partnership between the Northern Ireland Museums Council and National Museums Northern Ireland, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



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STONE AGE POTTERY

The Neolithic, or New Stone Age, in Ireland lasted from 4000BC to 2500BC. During this time our ancestors developed from being hunter-gatherers to simple farmers. The earliest Irish pottery is thought to have been made during this period. By coiling clay round and round they could build up a simple pot shape. These were then smoothed down. Some pots have been decorated by pressing stones, sticks or even fingers into the wet clay. The pot was then hardened by placing it in a hot fire. They had many uses; as well as for storing food, a pot filled with a small amount of fat and set alight was a simple but effective lamp.

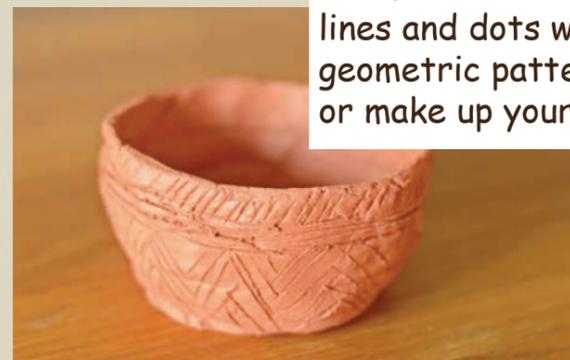
MAKE IT!

Make your very own Neolithic pot by rolling out a small circle of airdrying clay about 0.5cm thick and cut out a circle - this will make the base of your pot. Roll the rest of the clay into a long sausage shape about 1cm thick. Wind the sausage round the base and build it upwards into a bowl shape.



You can then smooth the outside of the bowl with your fingers.

Next, decorate the outside of the bowl. In Neolithic times, zig zags, lines and dots were all used to create geometric patterns. You can try this or make up your own pattern!



Once your pot has dried you could use it to collect some wild berries and have a Neolithic feast!