



PREHISTORIC TIMES Part I

Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

MESOLITHIC AGE (Middle Stone Age) 7000-4000 BC

Mesolithic people were hunter-gatherers which means they ate whatever they could catch or find and they never stayed long in one place. They hunted with spears, arrows and harpoons with sharpened stone blades called microliths.

What did the Mesolithic people eat?

Choose from the list

SEAFOOD	BERRIES	CHICKEN
BREAD	NUTS	FRUIT
MILK	CAKE	WILD BOAR

BRONZE AGE 2500-500 BC

The Bronze Age introduced metalworking in bronze (a mix of copper and tin) and gold. The metal tools and weapons were stronger and worked better than stone ones.

Did you know:

The Bronze Age people threw weapons, ornaments and coins into the river probably as an offering to Gods for safe-crossing.

Did you know:

There is evidence that people used the ford on the river Shannon over 8000 years ago.

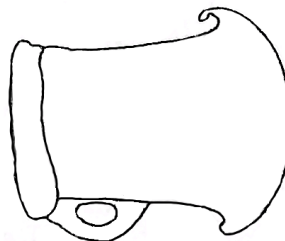
NEOLITHIC AGE (New Stone Age) 4000-2400 BC

The first farmers were **Neolithic** people, who lived here 6000-4500 years ago. They grew cereals like wheat and barley and kept goats, sheep and domesticated oxen.

They used tools made of polished stone to cut the forest, prepare little fields for growing cereal, and to make houses and boats. And build Megalithic monuments like the Portal dolmen at Mihanboy, passage grave at Scregg, wedge grave at Fuerty.

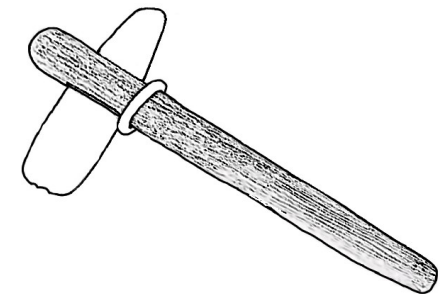
Did you know:

The oldest Neolithic field system known in the world has been preserved under the peat in Ceide Fields co. Mayo



Bronze AXEHEAD

Look at the two drawings of prehistoric objects from Athlone Castle collection. Can you guess which of the 3 Ages they came from?



Stone ADZE (a tool used to make boats out of tree trunks as well as digging and preparing land for planting)