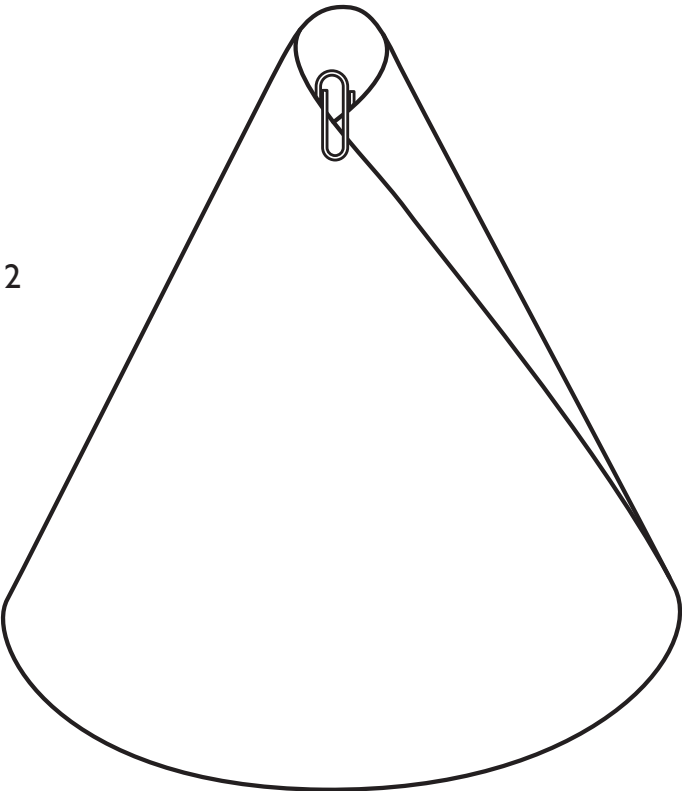
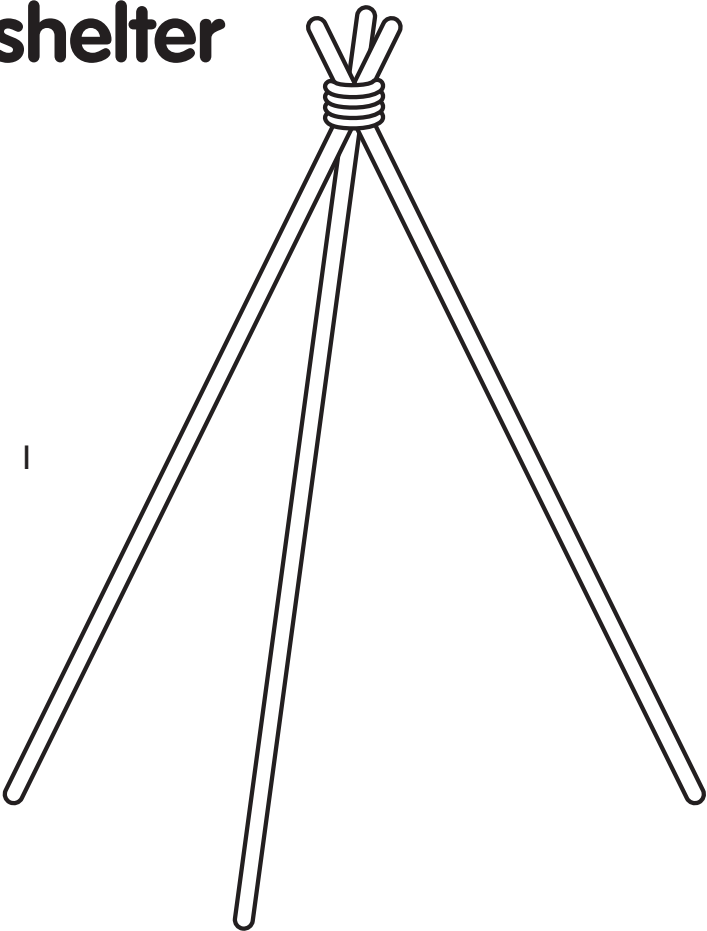


# Making a shelter



## Making a shelter

### Objectives

- To learn how a shelter can be made by using materials available to people in the Stone Age.

### Cross-curricular links

#### History

- 2a The characteristics of a period.
- 3a Find out about people from an appropriate range of resources.

### Design and technology

- 2a Select appropriate techniques for making their product.
- 2b Suggest alternative ways of making their product, if first attempt fails.
- 3a Reflect on progress of their work as they design and make, identifying ways they could improve their product.

### Resources

Each child or group will need worksheet **8** (page 46) three thin garden canes (less than a centimetre thick) and about 30–40cm long, a piece of string 20cm long, scissors, three paperclips, a square of chamois leather or similar material with a side length of about 35cm.

You will need a piece of sheepskin rug – the bigger the better, three long pieces of wood like broom handles, a piece of thin rope and cloth to make a large version of the children's shelter in the plenary.

### Starter

Ask the children what kind of clothes Stone Age people wore. Dismiss answers about wool (they couldn't spin, weave or knit) and answers about cotton (not discovered). Bring the conversation around to the people using the skins of the animals they had eaten. Show them the sheepskin rug and see if it can be wrapped around yourself or one of the children. Ask the children how they would feel to be wearing animal skins. Give out the pieces of chamois leather and let them wrap them around their arms to get a slight idea.

### Main activities

1. Remind the children that Stone Age people were always on the move following their food supplies as they hunted and gathered. Evidence has been found of people living in caves but they may also have made temporary shelters.
2. Ask the children what the Stone Age people might have used for temporary shelters and look for answers about breaking off branches, fitting logs together and covering with leaves. Ask the children what they might do if they were travelling across plains where trees were absent. Give them a hint by asking them about the homes of Native Americans of North America and look for an answer about teepees.
3. Challenge the children to make a model teepee out of the canes, string and chamois leather and paperclips. The paperclips represent a way of stitching the leather to make an appropriate shape. Issue the worksheet to help them visualise what they have to do.
4. The children should then work on solving the problem. They may join the sticks at the top with simple knots they use when tying shoes or experiment with knots they have learnt. They should try and make the shelter with hardly any hole in the top. They may use other suitable materials to improve on the basic model.

### Plenary

The children can display their shelters and you could test their rigidity by shaking the top a little as if the shelter was being blown by a gale. You may like to assemble a large version of the shelter, which the children could enter and imagine what it would be like to be out on the plain in such a structure. Tell the children that when the people broke camp they carried their shelters with them. All the materials that were used for making shelters have rotted away but scientists believe the people made them because people who are hunter gathers today still make them.

### Outcomes

The children:

- Can work together to make a simple model.
- Can think of ways of improving their work.
- Are aware that Stone Age people did not only live in caves.