

Stone Age Homes



Why do we need shelter?



What do houses look like today?

How do they differ around the world?

What is important when it comes to building a house?



What shelter might early humans have found or made in Britain?

What materials would they have had available?



What evidence do we have?



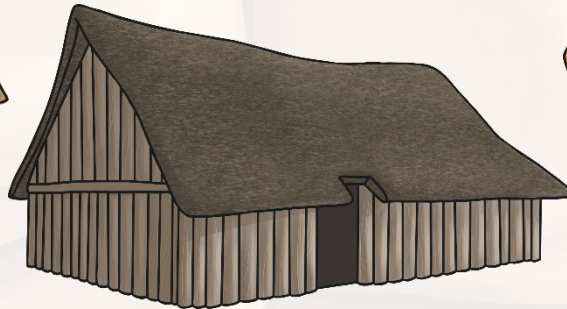
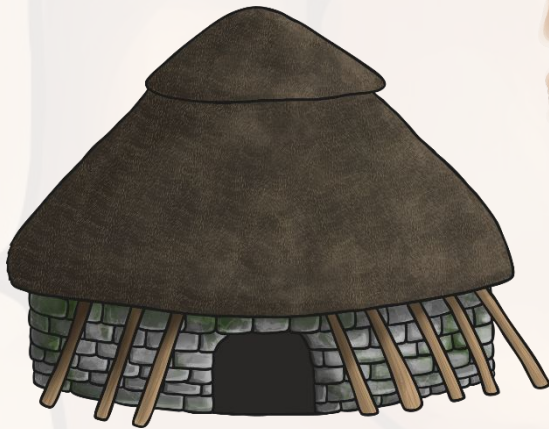
Do you think the houses were all the same?
Why?



What Types of Houses Did They Live in?

This depended on the time and the country.

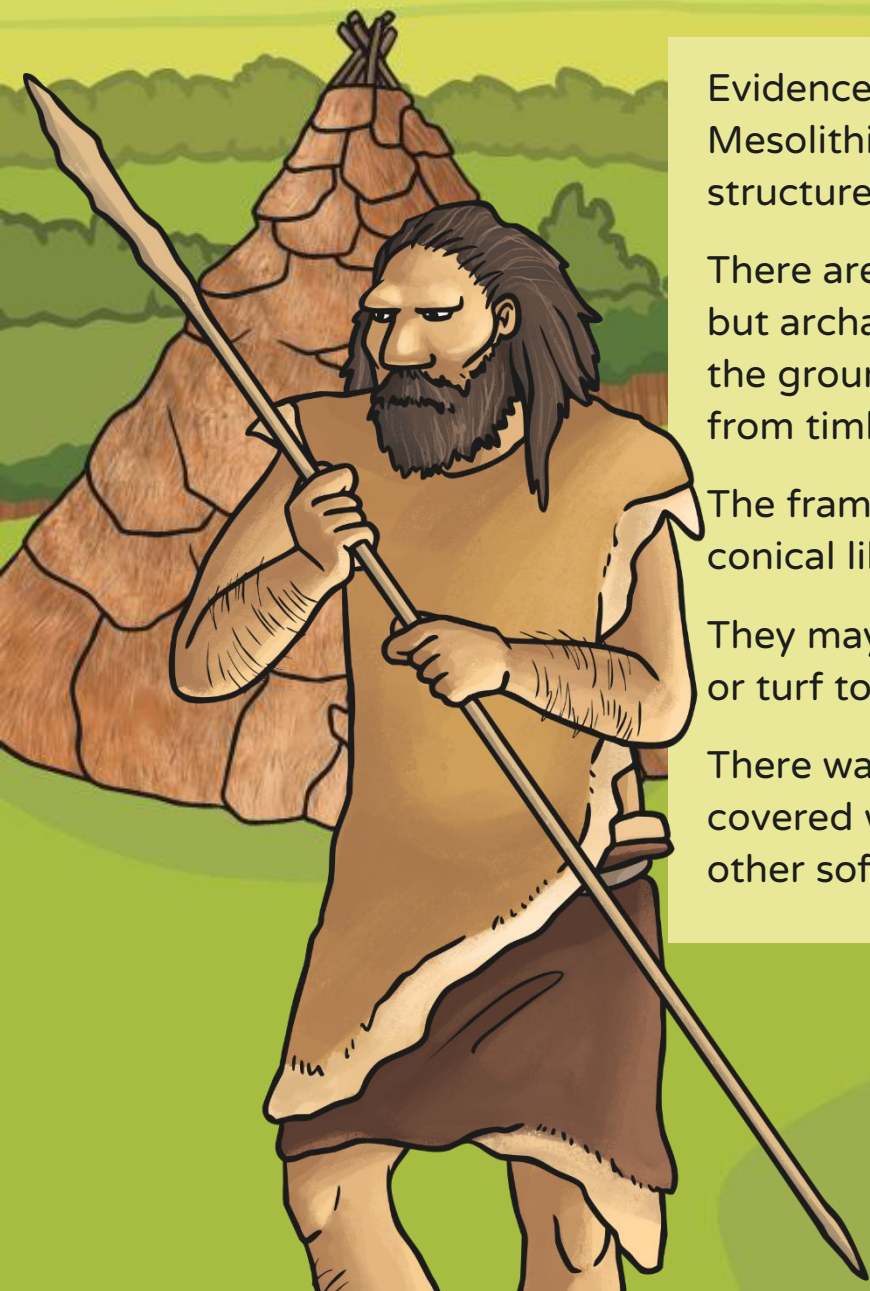
In Britain, archaeologists have found evidence of four different types of dwelling.



During the Palaeolithic time period, when the ice came, some early humans sheltered from the cold inside caves.

Why build your own house when there's one already available?





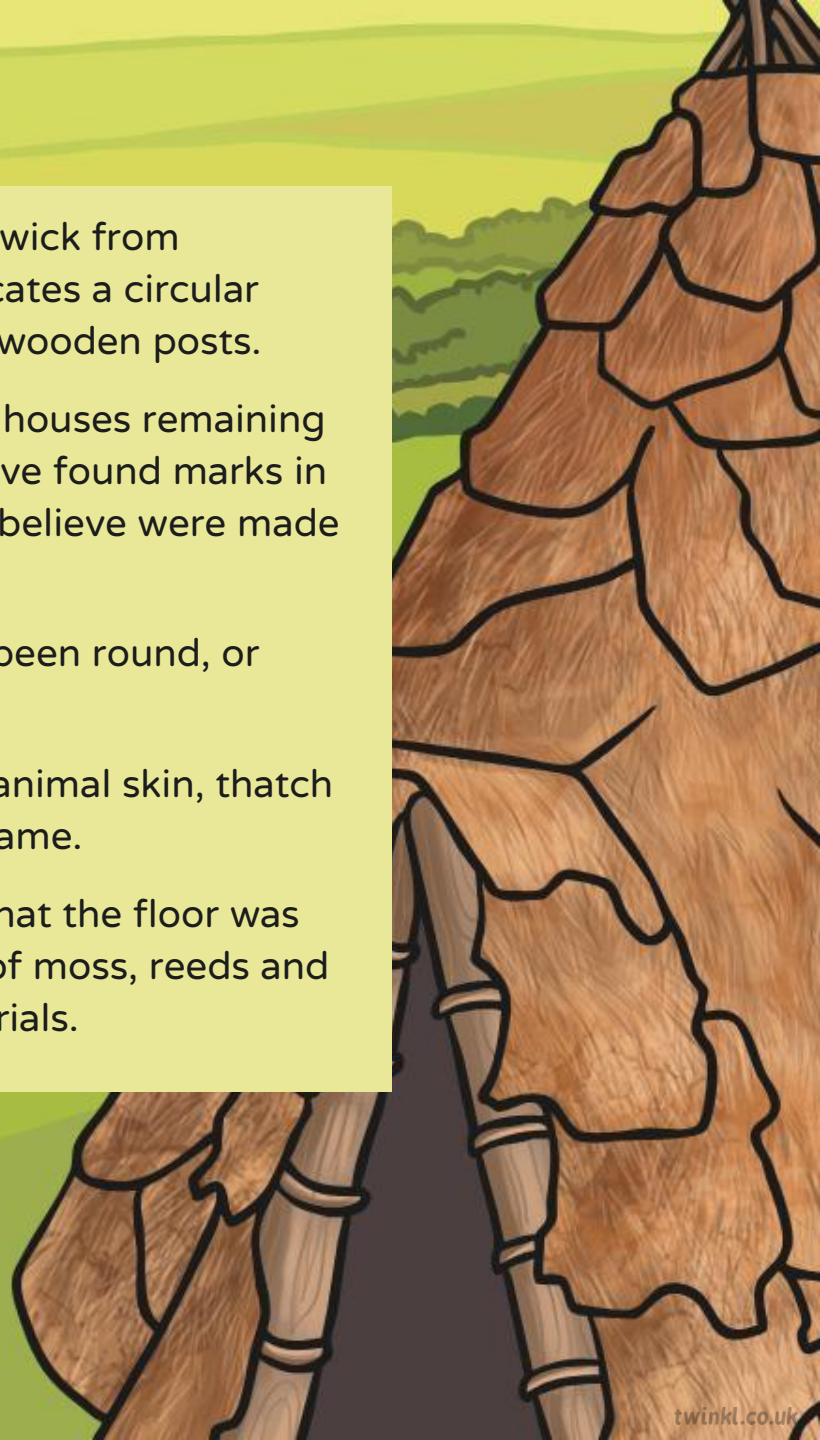
Evidence found in Howick from Mesolithic times indicates a circular structure made from wooden posts.

There are no existing houses remaining but archaeologists have found marks in the ground that they believe were made from timber poles.

The frame may have been round, or conical like a tepee.

They may have used animal skin, thatch or turf to cover the frame.

There was evidence that the floor was covered with a layer of moss, reeds and other soft plant materials.



Evidence suggests that houses were usually rectangular and constructed from timber in the Neolithic period.

None of these houses remain, but we can see the foundations. Some houses used wattle and daub (a mixture of manure, clay, mud and hay stuck to sticks that have been woven in and out of the timber frame) for the walls and had thatched roofs.



Some houses in the Neolithic period, like those uncovered at Skara Brae, were built from stone.

They were built into mounds of rubbish known as midden. This could include small stones, shells, mud and animal bones.

It would provide some stability as well as insulation.

These houses were usually round.

They had beds and storage shelves, and a hearth in the middle.



None of the houses still have a roof, so they must have been made from something that has since perished.

A common early roofing material in Orkney was seaweed, fixed with ropes and stones.

They could also have used straw, animal skins or turf, laid over a frame of driftwood or whale bones found on the seashore.



