



Stone age crafts;

Humans have always loved to make things. Sometimes those things are tools, things we need to live. But human beings also love making art. There are many examples of beautiful carvings, paintings and jewellery from the Upper Paleolithic and later bits of the stone age.



Why not have a go at creating some art of your own!

Ice age sculptures were usually very small. People moved the land, rather than staying in the same place, and everything needed to be easy to carry so try and make your sculptures small.

For sculptures you can use modelling clay, salt dough, play dough or you can use the recipe below to make your own sculpture material.

you will need;

- 15-20 sheets of toilet paper(the cheaper the better)
- a bowl to mix it in
- 4 teaspoons of flour
- a pointed cocktail stick or kebab stick to use as a tool and to poke holes through the beads.

Put the toilet paper in a bowl and add a mug full of warm water. Squish the paper around with your hands until it has broken into a paste, then squeeze out as much water as you can, sprinkle the flour over the paper mush and mix it all together. Leave it to sit for a minute or two... then you can get sculpting!



The mixture will be slightly sticky, so lay out a piece of plastic or the lid of a plastic tub as a work surface. When you have finished your sculptures, they will need to dry. Put them somewhere safe and warm (like on top of a radiator or in the airing cupboard) and leave them to dry for a couple of days. When they are completely dry, you can paint them. Although bone, Ivory and antler are all white coloured, so you won't need to paint them much.

Here are some sculptures you could try and copy:

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| <i>Venus Willendorf</i> | <i>Swimming reindeer</i> |
| <i>Vogelherd Mammoth</i> | <i>The lady of Brassempouey</i> |
| <i>Star carr pendant</i> | <i>The lion man of Lowenmensch</i> |
| <i>Bison of Abri de la Madeleine</i> | <i>.....and many others!</i> |





Above; Fossil Cave bear tooth.

Jewellery was often made of the teeth and claws of animals- Cave bears, eagle talons, pretty seashells, amber beads and beads of bone and ivory (Mammoth tusk) and shell.

Jewellery probably worked as a way to display status, and may have worked as a sort of early money. Beads, shells and amber were traded over long distances and probably handed down from parents to children. Beads were also sewn onto clothes. (look up 'sunghir burials' for a spectacular outfit with thousands of beads!

Making beads from Ivory, bone or shell is a long, fiddly and very skilled job. Making one bead can take up to 2 hours or more using flint tools ! Which is why it is so valuable.

- Shale (a type of stone), bone and amber being shaped into beads. The flint tool is not an arrow, it's a drill used to make holes in beads.

