 This text is adapted from *The Usborne History of Britain* by Ruth Brocklehurst.

# Prehistoric Britain

The story of life in Britain goes back to a time before people knew how to read and write, in an era known as prehistory. Although Britain's earliest inhabitants didn't write anything down, they did leave other clues behind. Traces of their houses, their tools and ornaments, and sometimes even their bodies, have survived down the ages. They help to build up a picture of how people lived in Britain from around 700,000 years ago.

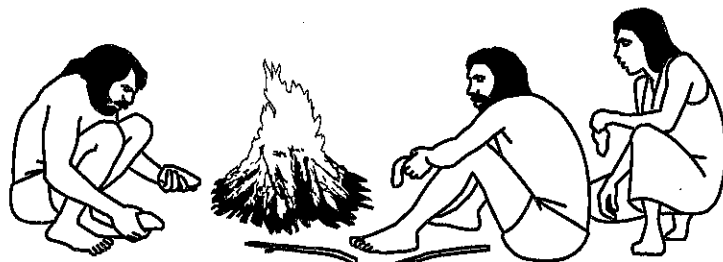
## The Ice Age

When early people first set foot in Britain, things were very different from today. It was a period when temperatures swung between extremes. For thousands of years at a time it was bitterly cold. The sea that now divides Britain from the continent of Europe wasn't there, as much of the water was frozen into ice. Rivers of ice criss-crossed the land, and people, animals and plants just couldn't survive.

But, every hundred thousand years or so, the weather grew warmer and the ice melted. Plants grew, attracting herds of animals, such as mammoths, deer and wild horses, cattle and pigs. They walked to Britain on the dry land that connected it to Europe.

## Hunting and gathering

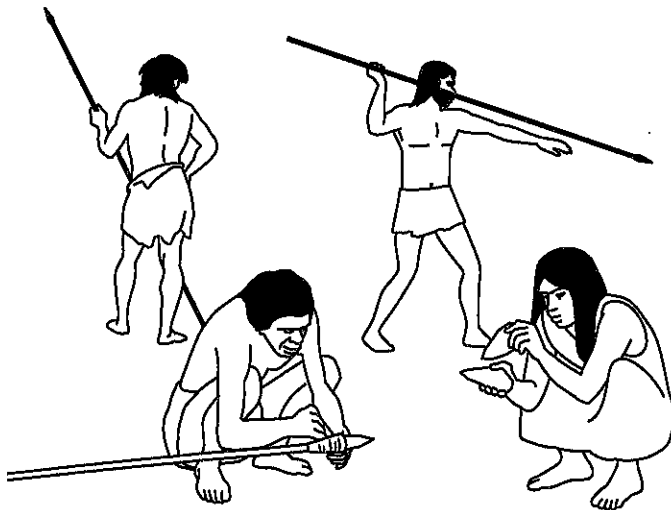
The first people arrived in Britain on foot, following the animals. They needed animals to survive – they ate their meat and used their skins for clothes. But many animals were huge and fierce, and people only had simple hunting tools, such as pointed wooden spears. So they chased animals for long distances to tire them out, or scared them off cliffs or into bogs (areas of wet, spongy ground), to make killing them easier.



They also made use of any animals they found that were already dead. This saved the effort of hunting. But the hunters of the Ice Age didn't just eat meat. They also caught fish and gathered shellfish, wild nuts, fruits and roots. They twisted plant stems and leaves to make rope and twine. And, to help with all these tasks, they made themselves tools from wood, bone and stone.

### On the move

Because they relied so much on wild animals, Ice Age hunters didn't have fixed homes. They moved around, following herds as they migrated in search of the best grass. At night, people slept in caves – if any were handy – or in shelters made of things they found nearby. But, every hundred thousand years or so, the cold weather returned again, the ice expanded to cover more of the land, and people and animals had to leave once more.



### Getting warmer

During the Ice Age, the weather kept swinging from very cold to warm – though this happened very slowly, about every 100,000 years. Plants, animals and people could only survive in Britain in the warm periods.

In 2003, archaeologists discovered rare Ice Age art in caves at Creswell Crags in Nottinghamshire. Outlines of deer, wild cattle and bird-like creatures survive, carved into the cave walls.

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Prehistoric Britain

1 When did people first arrive in Britain?

2b  
1 mark

2 Draw lines to match the objects used by the earliest inhabitants of Britain to the materials they used to make them. One has been done for you.

Objects	Materials
spears	plant stems and leaves
rope	animal skins
tools	things found nearby
clothes	wood
shelters	wood, bone and stone

2b  
1 mark

3 Tick to show whether the following sentences about the first inhabitants of Britain are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
They could not read or write.	✓	
They relied heavily on the tools they made.		
They built permanent settlements.		
They stayed in Britain throughout the Ice Age.		
They used clever hunting techniques.		

2d  
2 marks

/ 4  
Total for this page

4 Why would chasing a large animal into a bog make it easier to kill?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark 2d

5 Look at the paragraph headed *On the move*.  
What do you find out about Ice Age people? Write **two** things.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

2 marks 2b

6 Which of the following descriptions best fits this text? Tick **one**.

explanation

persuasion

recount

report

1 mark 2f

1/4  
Total for this page

7 Think about the whole text. What is it **mainly** about? Tick the **best** answer.

- The people who lived in Britain during the Ice Age
- The weather in Britain during the Ice Age
- The animals in Britain during the Ice Age
- The geography of Britain during the Ice Age


2c  
1 mark

8 Where would you expect to find this text? Tick the **best** answer.

- in a newsletter
- in a textbook
- in a catalogue
- in a magazine

2f  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test

 This text is from *Carrie's War* by Nina Bawden, adapted for the stage by Emma Reeves.

# Carrie's War

## ACT 1

### DRUID'S GROVE

*Darkness. The wind whistles through the trees in the grove. Train sound effects. Smoke, as if from a train. Loud train whistle – an unearthly shriek, 'more like a volcano erupting than a steam engine blowing its top'. Mixed in with the whistling sound is a girl's scream. The sound dies away.*

*Sounds of a summer's day. Daytime, in a wooded, shady place where the light has had to make its way through layers of foliage. Near the top of the slope, ADULT CARRIE pushes through the trees, and enters with a suitcase. She is breathless, as if she has just run up a hill. She is wearing a long, flowing coat. She pauses on the brink and gazes downwards. The unearthly whistle, not as loud as before – as if in CARRIE's memory. CARRIE shudders, and sways on the brink of the slope. The sound dies away.*

*CARRIE'S SON enters through the trees, brushing off bits of leaf and twig. He is wearing jeans, etc. – 1970s clothes with a strong contemporary feel.*

SON: Mum?

*CARRIE turns and looks at him blankly.*

Mum! How much further?

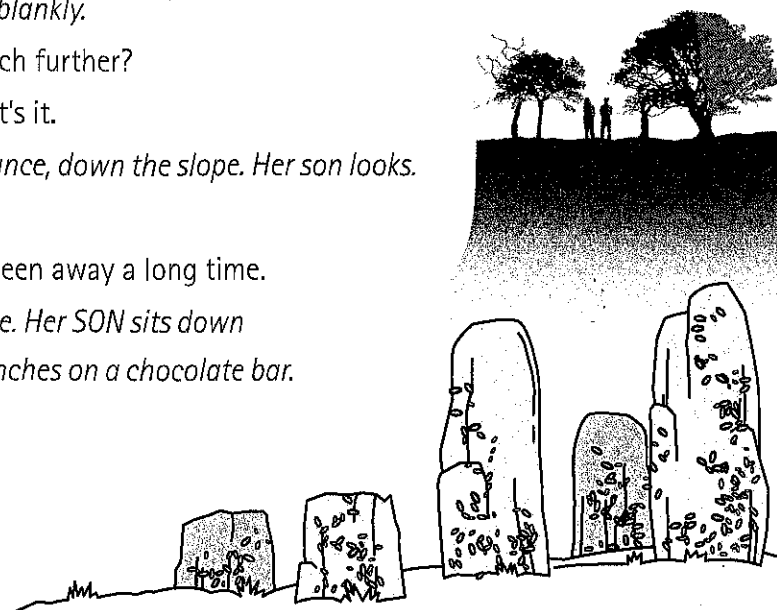
CARRIE: No further. That's it.

*CARRIE points off into the distance, down the slope. Her son looks.*

SON: That old ruin?

CARRIE: I forgot – I've been away a long time.

*CARRIE wanders down the slope. Her SON sits down on his mum's suitcase, and munches on a chocolate bar.*



SON: Looks like no one's been here for hundreds of years.

CARRIE: No. No – it's only – *(With wonder.)* thirty years...

SON: Exactly.

CARRIE: We used to come here all the time, during the war. Me, and little Nick.

SON: Little Nick? What, fat Uncle Nick?

CARRIE: He wasn't fat then. Actually, he looked a lot like you.

*CARRIE'S SON offers his chocolate bar to his mum.*

SON: D'you want the rest of this?

*CARRIE shakes her head. She walks along the top of the bank.*

CARRIE: Nick and I used to walk here from the town, along the side of the railway.

SON: What railway?

CARRIE: There used to be a railway. This is the exact spot where the train whistled when it came round the bend. Right by the slope down to Druid's Bottom.

SON: Druid's Bottom?

CARRIE: *(Laughs.)* That's the name of the house. Druid's Bottom. Because it's at the bottom of Druid's Grove.

SON: What's Druid's Grove?

CARRIE: This is. Thousands of years ago, this place was sacred to the Druids. The Old Religion. There's a spring that's supposed to have healing powers, and a stone circle – the remains of a temple. Well, it might be. Albert thought it went back to the Iron Age.

SON: Who's Albert?

CARRIE: Albert Sandwich. He thought there might have been an Iron Age settlement here. He was interested in that sort of thing.

SON: Dad would have been.

CARRIE: Yes. Dad would have been interested, too. Albert and your dad were quite alike. In some ways.

*Pause. The stage darkens as the sun passes behind a cloud. A faint, rumbling noise of ancient breathing.*

CARRIE: Listen.

SON: What for?

CARRIE: Something old, and huge – and nameless.

SON: *(Unimpressed.)* You mean like a ghost? A monster?

CARRIE: Nothing so simple. Albert said the druids used to make human sacrifices...

SON: You're being weird, you do know that, don't you?

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Carrie's War

1 Draw lines to match each word with its meaning in the text.  
One has been done for you.

Word	Meaning
unearthly	belonging to the present day
brink	priest of an ancient religion
contemporary	strange or supernatural
sacred	edge of a steep place
druid	holy

2a  
1 mark

2 Read these lines from the text:

SON: Mum?  
*CARRIE turns and looks at him blankly.*

Why does Carrie look at her son blankly? Tick the **best** answer.

- She is annoyed with him.
- She doesn't recognise him.
- She doesn't hear him call her.
- She is preoccupied by her thoughts.

2d  
1 mark

3 Look at this line from the text.

CARRIE: No. No – it's only – (*With wonder.*) thirty years...

What does *With wonder* tell you here?

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2a  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page



4

Why does Carrie's son offer his chocolate bar to his mum?

	2d
1 mark	

5

Stage directions are written in italics.

At a later stage, the directions are indented and look different to the beginning of the play script.

SON: D'you want the rest of this?

*CARRIE shakes her head. She walks along the top of the bank.*

Why do you think the writer has indented the later stage directions?

	2f
1 mark	

6

Look at these sentences that the writer uses in the text.

*Dad would have been.*

*Yes, Dad would have been interested, too.*

*Albert and your dad were quite alike.*

Why has the writer included these sentences?

	2g
1 mark	

/ 3
Total for this page

7 Read these lines from the text.

*CARRIE points off into the distance, down the slope. Her son looks.*

SON: That old ruin?

CARRIE: I forgot – I've been away a long time.

*CARRIE wanders down the slope. Her SON sits down on his mum's suitcase, and munches on a chocolate bar.*

SON: Looks like no one's been here for hundreds of years.

CARRIE: No. No – it's only – (*With wonder.*) thirty years...

SON: Exactly.

From what Carrie's son says here, what can you tell about his attitude towards the house? Tick **one**.

He is wary of it.

He is curious about it.

He is excited by it.

He is unimpressed by it.

2g  
1 mark

8 a) How does the writer create an eerie atmosphere in this scene?  
Write **two** things.

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2g  
2 marks

b) The writer lightens the eeriness with humour. How does she do this?  
Mention **one** thing.

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2g  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test