

Hunter Gatherer

Long before humans began farming in Britain, they hunted and gathered food that was around them. That's why we call them *Hunter Gatherers*. Early humans knew what plants, roots and berries were safe to eat.

Hunter gatherer groups would have travelled across the land, often in small groups, following herds of animals and taking food from the land where they could. We call people who travel in this way, *nomads*. Some people across the world are still *nomadic*. Can you find out where?



FIRE!

There is evidence that fire was used to cook food a million years ago! We don't really know how fire was discovered or what made the first people decide to place their food on the fire but it was probably an accident. What we do know is that in Stone Age Britain, there is evidence that prehistoric humans have been using fire to cook since early stone age (Palaeolithic) times. Archaeologists even have a good idea of some prehistoric recipes.

Megaloceros Giganteus

This giant Elk was very common across Europe and Britain. One Megaloceros would have fed a large group of stone age people and they would have used every part of the animal. The bones were used to 'knap' flints into sharp blades, hand axes, spear points and arrow heads. Skins may have been worn or used to make a roof on a shelter.

Prehistoric Popcorn Treat

There is evidence that prehistoric humans enjoyed placing corn in the embers of a fire to pop!

Where are they now?

Archaeologists have found evidence that Megaloceros Giganteus (also known as Irish Elk or Giant Elk) roamed Britain and Europe as long ago as 400,000 years. It's likely that Megaloceros was on the menu from Palaeolithic to the early Neolithic period.

No one really knows why the Megaloceros became extinct. It could have been because early people hunted them to extinction. It is also thought that their antlers had a part to play. They were huge! The biggest antlers ever seen on an animal, a massive 2.7m from end to end. It's possible that they became just too big for the elk to forage for food and so they slowly died out.

