

All about  
**Neolithic Brighton**




# Neolithic

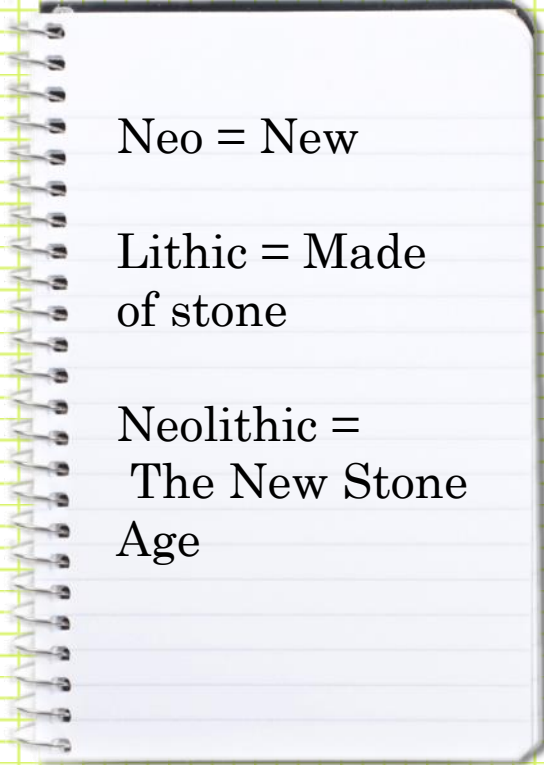


Can you think of any  
other words that  
begin with 'Neo'?  
What do you think it  
means?

# Neolithic?



So what  
does it  
mean?

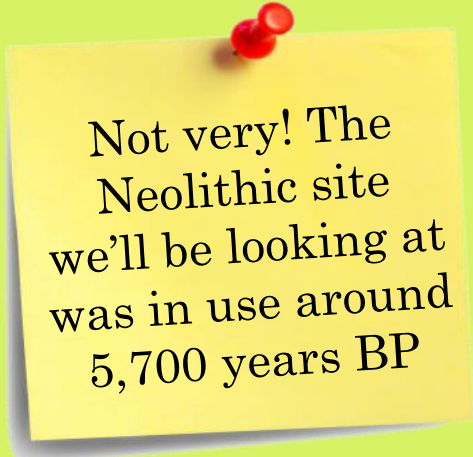


Neo = New

Lithic = Made  
of stone

Neolithic =  
The New Stone  
Age

# So just how new is new?



Not very! The  
Neolithic site  
we'll be looking at  
was in use around  
5,700 years BP



Pssst - BP means  
before present day





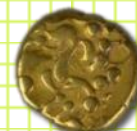
## Palaeolithic

Black Rock  
250,000 years BP



## Neolithic

Whitehawk  
5,700 years BP



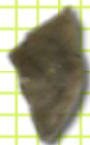
## Iron Age

Hollingbury  
2,600 years BP



## Mesolithic

Falmer  
10,000 years BP



## Bronze Age

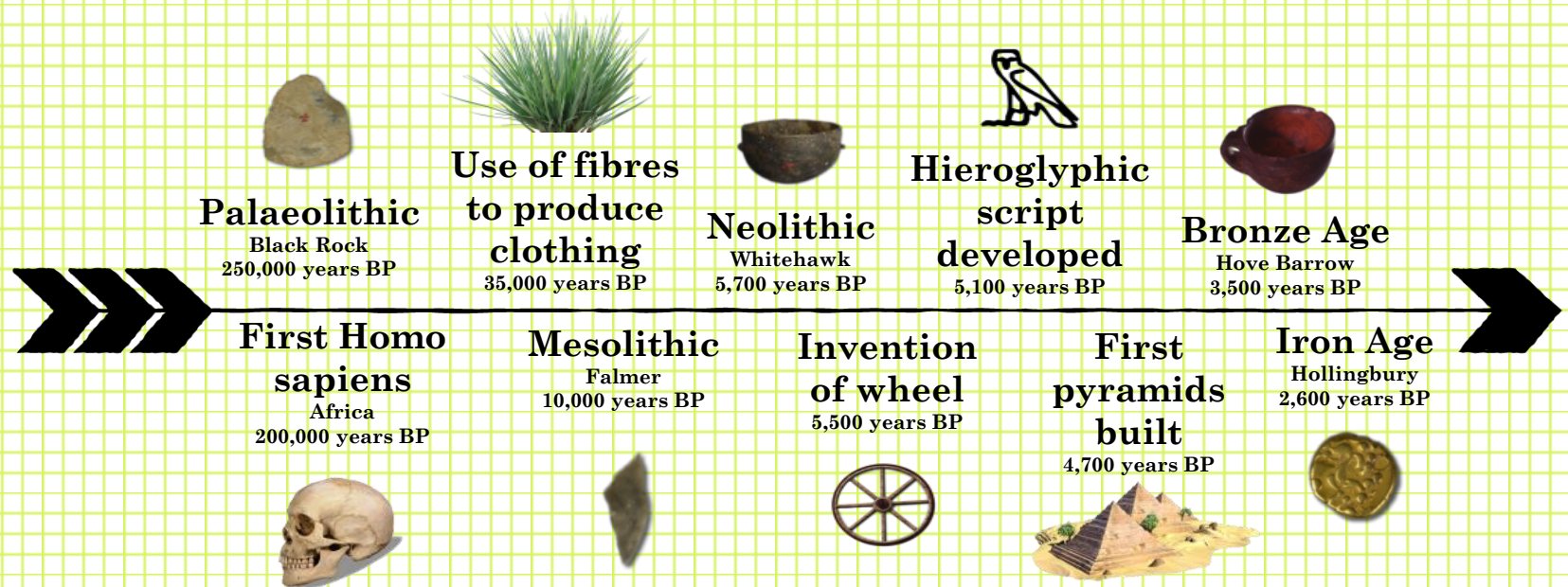
Hove Barrow  
3,500 years BP




Here's how the Neolithic fits into our local timeline – it's an exciting time because it marks the transition between the Older Stone Age and a brand new age – the Bronze Age



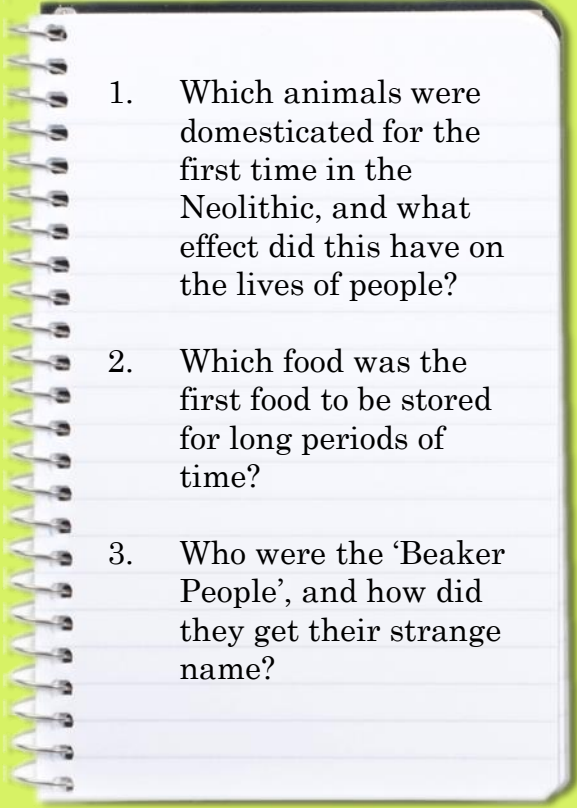
# How does this period fit into worldwide prehistory?




# Find out about the Neolithic



It's time to use  
your  
investigation and  
IT skills to go on  
a fact-finding  
mission about  
life in Neolithic  
times...

- 
1. Which animals were domesticated for the first time in the Neolithic, and what effect did this have on the lives of people?
  2. Which food was the first food to be stored for long periods of time?
  3. Who were the 'Beaker People', and how did they get their strange name?



The Neolithic  
was an  
exciting time  
of discovery  
and invention

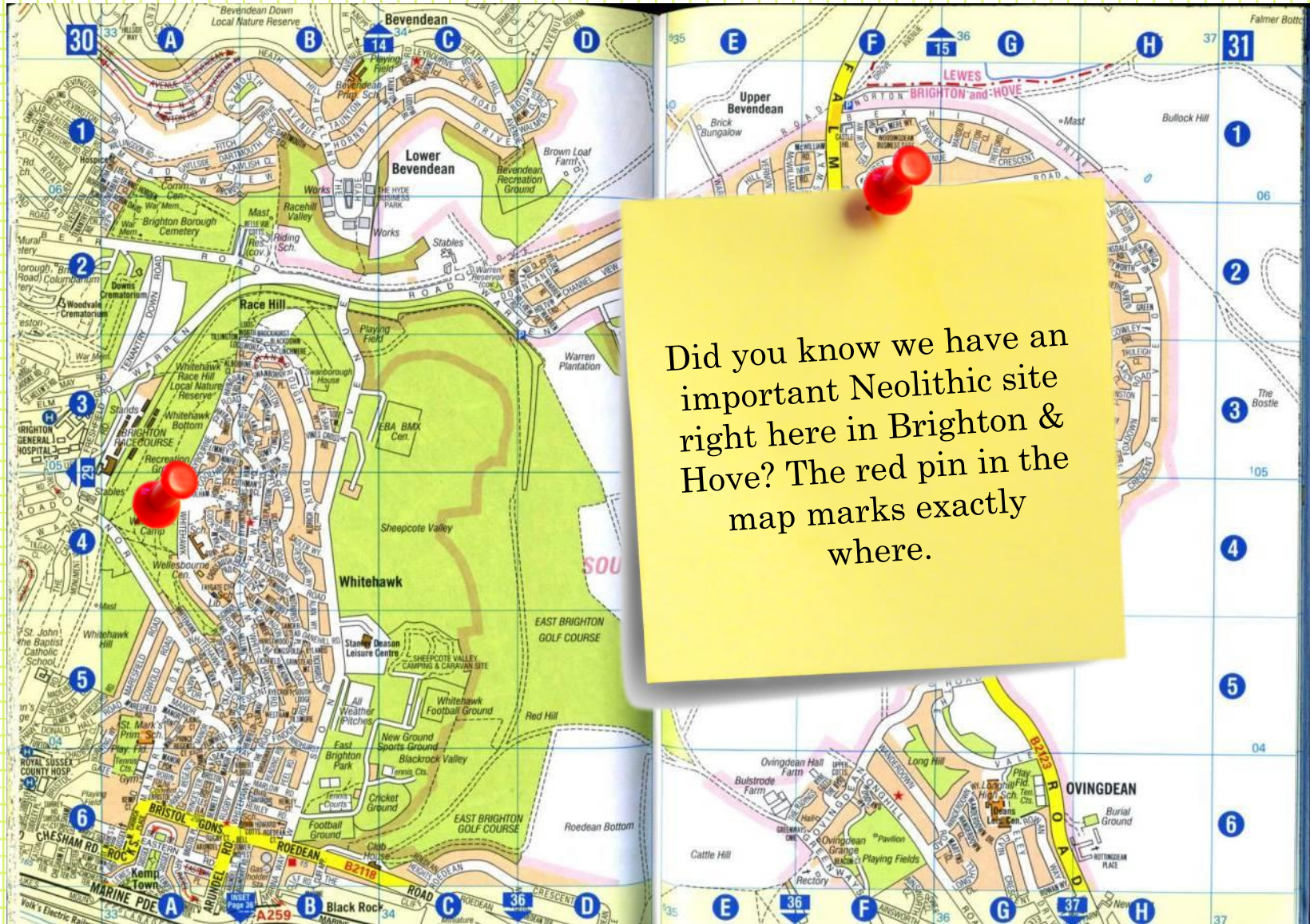
**New in the Neolithic:**

Agriculture (or growing  
crops and breeding  
animals for food)

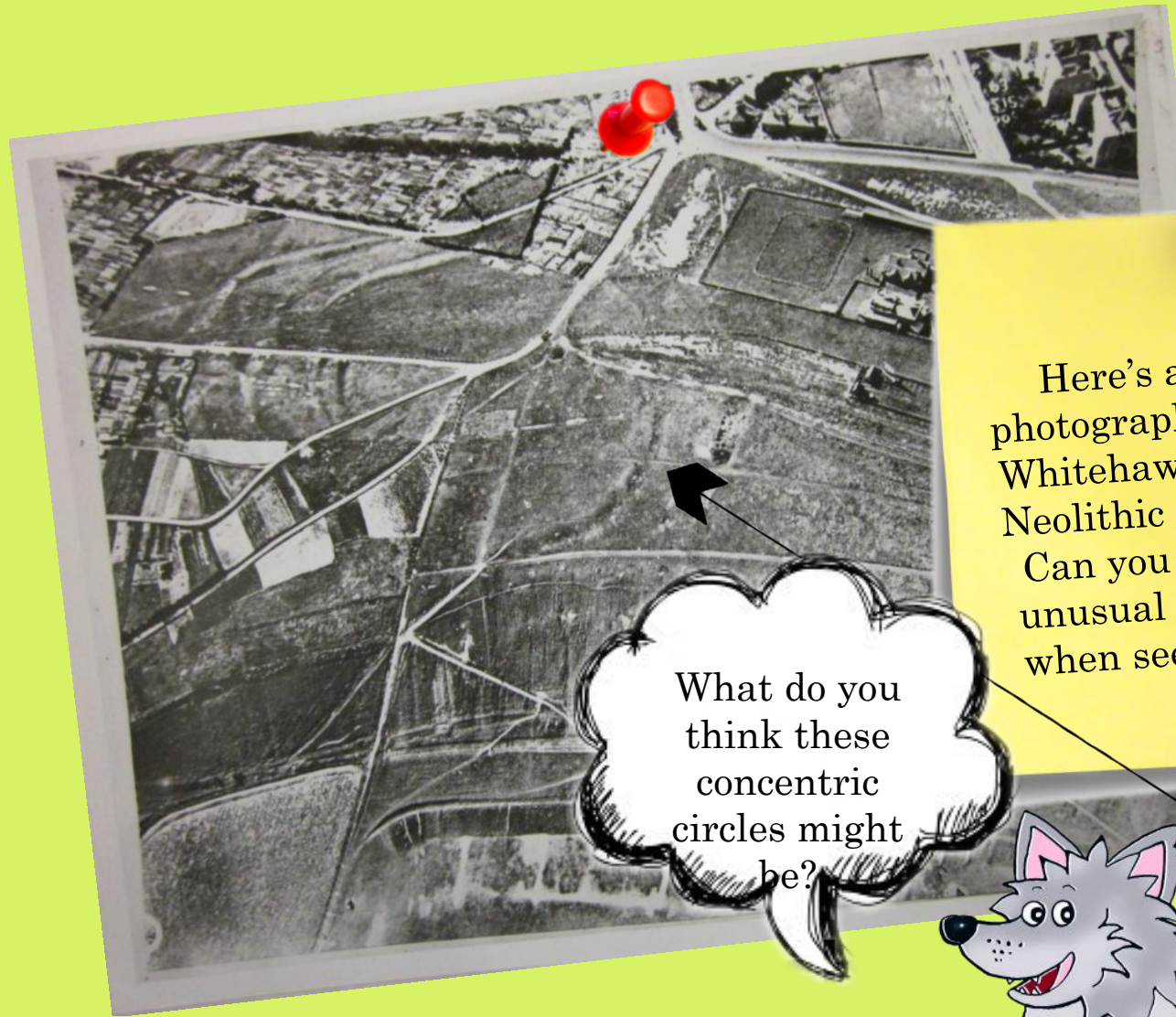
The development of crafts  
such as spinning, weaving  
and pottery making

Settled lifestyles (if you've  
learnt to control and  
breed animals you don't  
need to move around  
hunting for them  
anymore!)





Did you know we have an important Neolithic site right here in Brighton & Hove? The red pin in the map marks exactly where.



Here's an old aerial photograph of the area of Whitehawk in which the Neolithic site was found. Can you spot anything unusual about the land when seen from above?

What do you think these concentric circles might be?





The circles you can still see in the land are evidence of a causewayed enclosure, built over 5,000 years ago. It is one of only 70 similar sites in the UK – so they are quite rare. Our causewayed enclosure is one of the biggest in the country – about the size of eight football pitches! It consists of at least four concentric ditches and banks, dug deep into the earth. Here's an artist's impression of what it might have looked like.



We don't know for sure what something like this would have been used for. What do you think?

To get together for a feast with friends, family and the wider community?


To worship an early form of god or religion?

To get together to celebrate an early form of wedding?

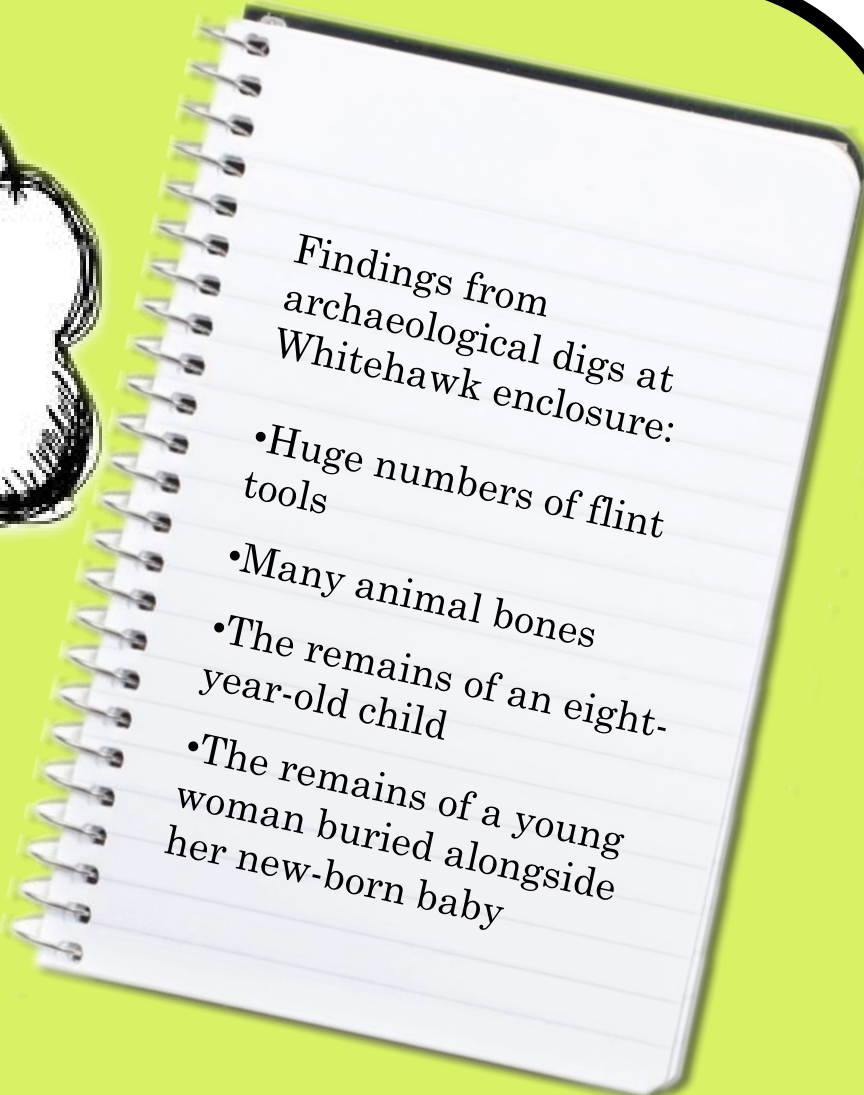
A place to keep cattle?

A place for trade?





Do these extra  
clues back up  
your theory?  
Or make you  
change your  
mind?



Findings from  
archaeological digs at  
Whitehawk enclosure:

- Huge numbers of flint  
tools
- Many animal bones
- The remains of an eight-  
year-old child
- The remains of a young  
woman buried alongside  
her new-born baby

Monday 21 June 5700 BP

HOT OFF THE COW-HIDE EDITION!

# NEOLITHIC NEWS

## PRIZE COW ESCAPES!

from Whitehawk causewayed enclosure

**New ditches and banks** are being built to keep the ceremonial livestock in and unwanted guests out.

### Other less important news:

A farmer called Wilbur Wheeler has invented a round thing. He doesn't know what to do with it yet but it looks very hi-tech and may go far.



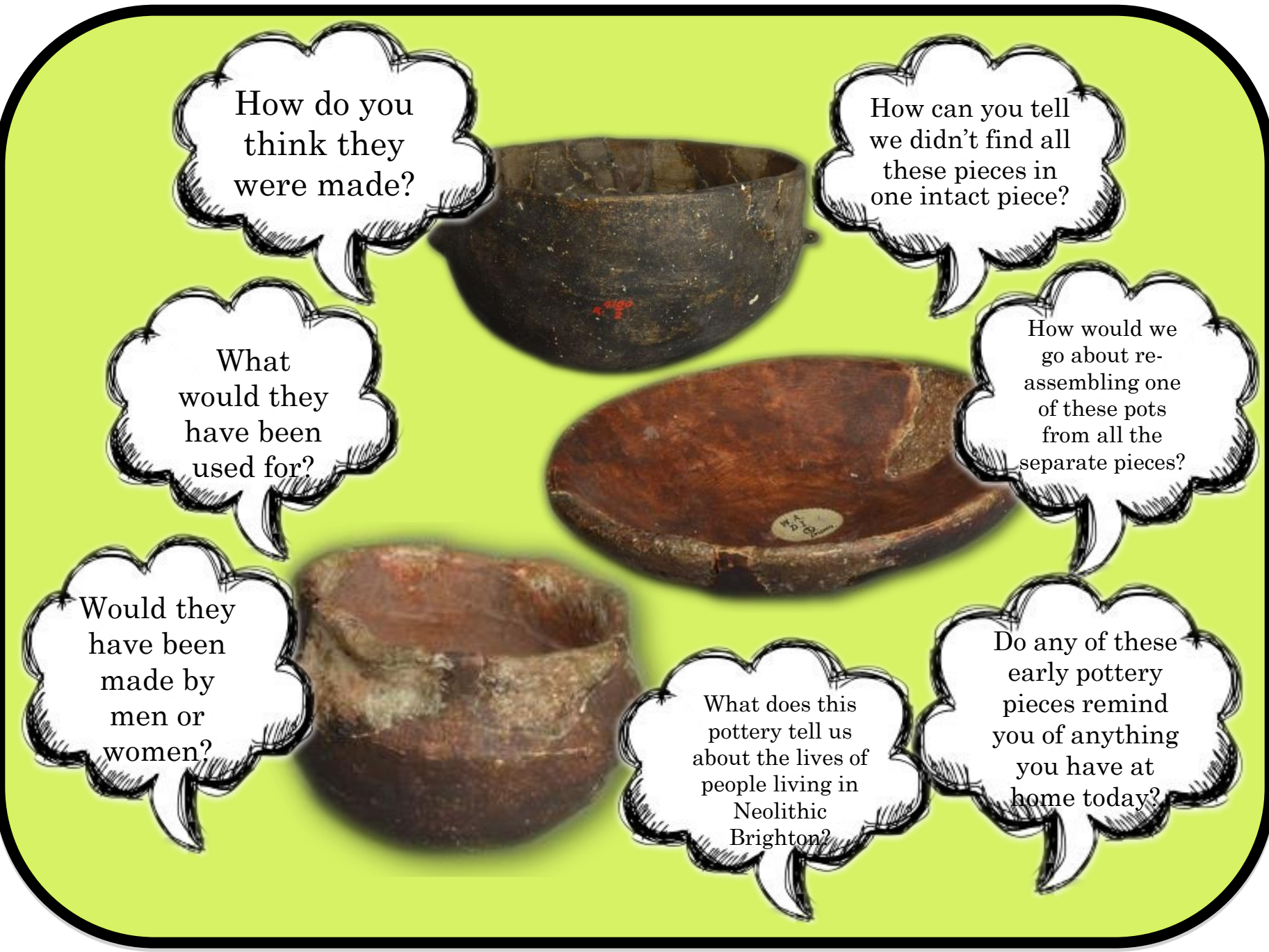
Map of Whitehawk enclosure showing possible escape route of the sacrificial cow





At Brighton Museum we have an impressive collection of pottery from around this time, including these pieces





How do you think they were made?

How can you tell we didn't find all these pieces in one intact piece?

What would they have been used for?

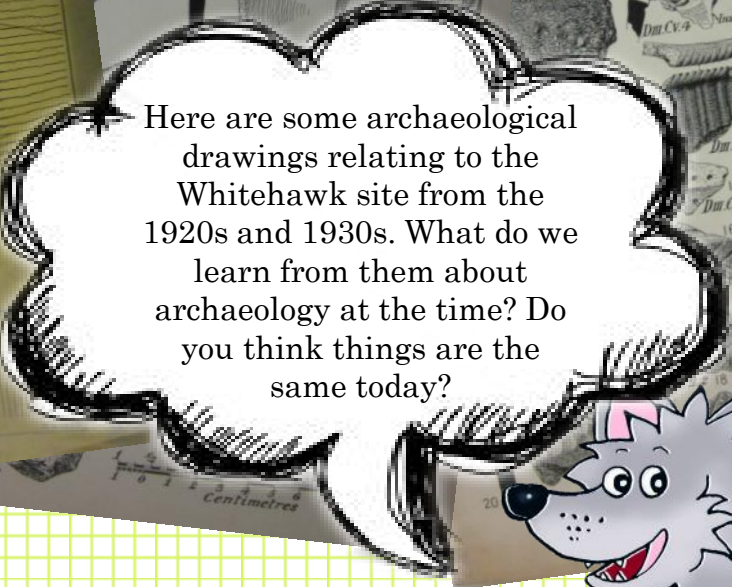
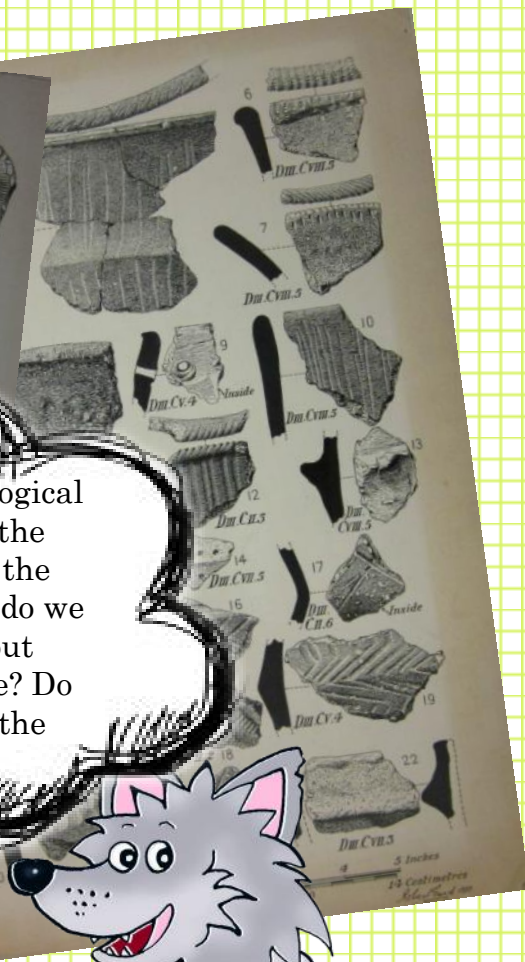
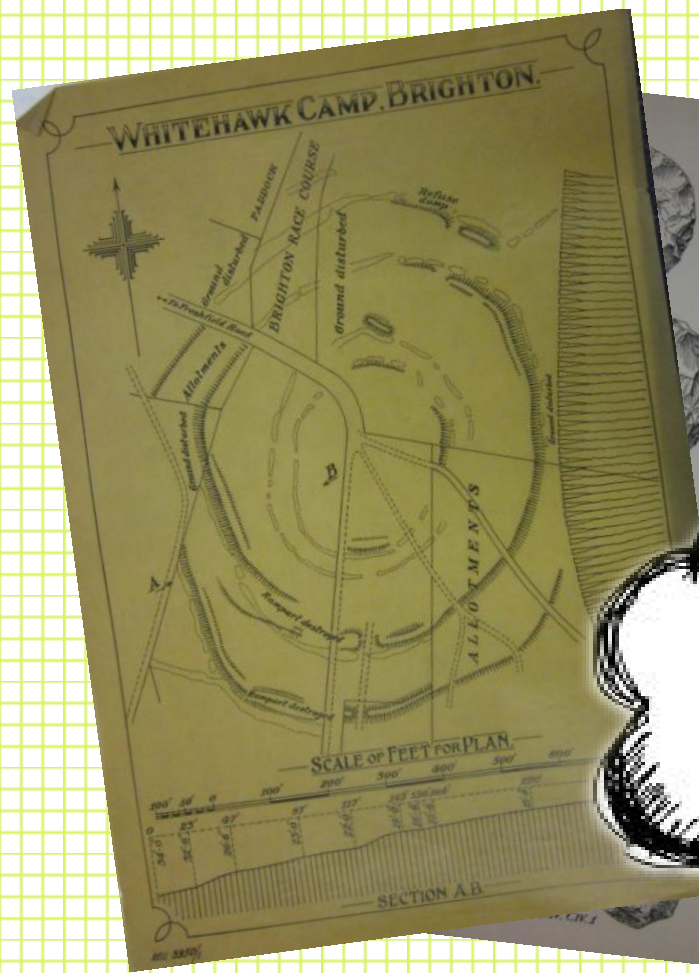
How would we go about re-assembling one of these pots from all the separate pieces?

Would they have been made by men or women?

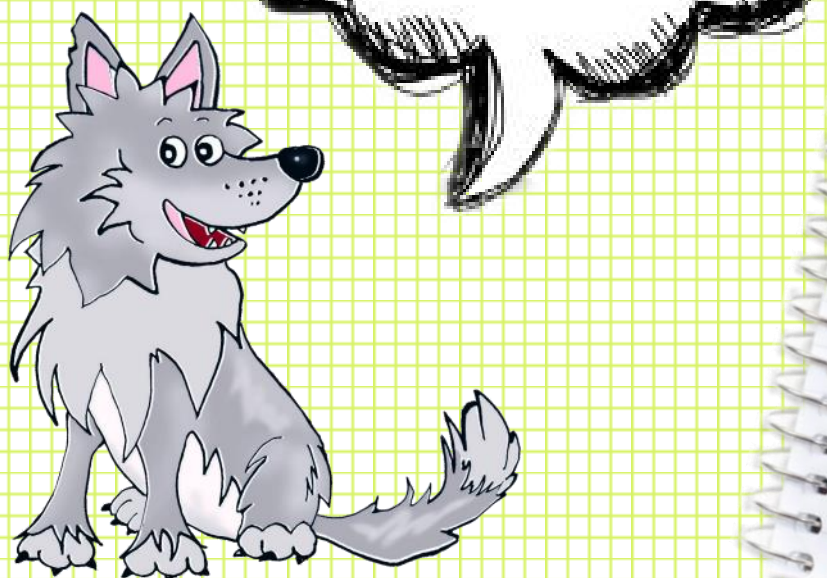
What does this pottery tell us about the lives of people living in Neolithic Brighton?

Do any of these early pottery pieces remind you of anything you have at home today?

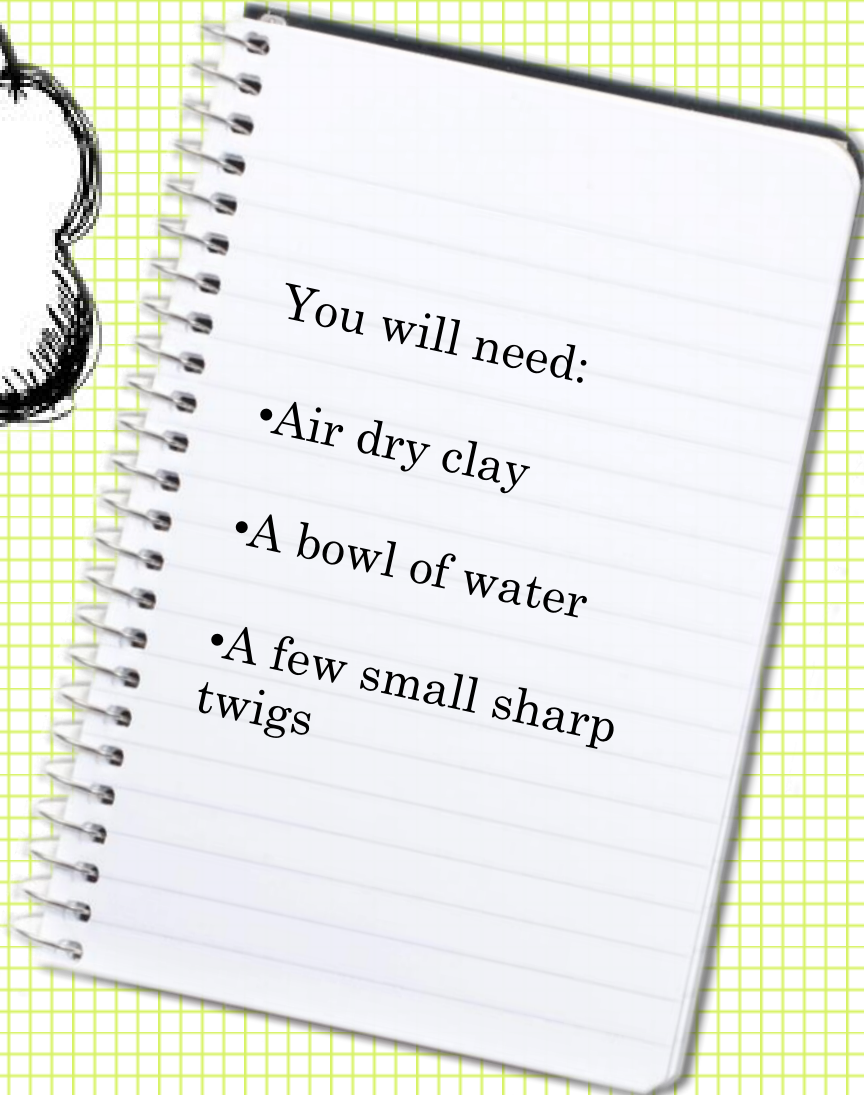




Here are some archaeological drawings relating to the Whitehawk site from the 1920s and 1930s. What do we learn from them about archaeology at the time? Do you think things are the same today?



Make a  
Stone Age  
pot!

- 
- You will need:
- Air dry clay
  - A bowl of water
  - A few small sharp twigs



Getting  
crafty...

Roll out a disc of clay about the  
size of your fist, 0.5cm thick

Take some more clay and shape  
it into a long skinny sausage  
shape

Start to wind the sausage shape  
around and up the sides of your  
clay disc to make the sides to  
your pot, smoothing with water  
to stick the layers together as  
you go

Once you are happy with the  
shape of your pot use more  
water on your fingers to smooth  
out any rough edges

Now use your twig to cover your  
pot in some stone age patterns –  
try zigzags, lines or dots

Thanks for  
downloading.  
See you soon!



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Thank you to A-Z for the kind permission to reproduce the map on slide 9 and to Ian Dennis and Cardiff University for the kind permission to reproduce the illustration on slides 11 & 12. Wolves and illustration on slide 14 by Fiona Redford.