

All about  
**Palaeolithic  
Brighton**




# Palaeolithic

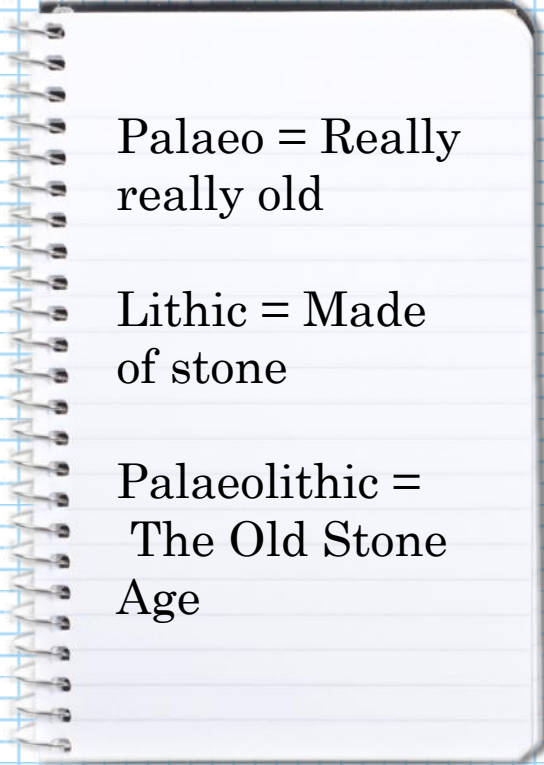
How many new words  
can you make from  
the word  
'Palaeolithic'? You  
have two minutes



# Palaeolithic?



Long word!  
What does  
it mean?



Palaeo = Really  
really old

Lithic = Made  
of stone

Palaeolithic =  
The Old Stone  
Age

So just how old is 'really really old?'

1,000 years  
BP?

5,000 years  
BP?

2.6 million to  
10,000 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



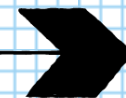
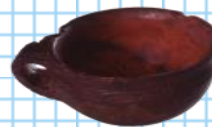
## Mesolithic

Falmer  
10,000 years BP



## Bronze Age

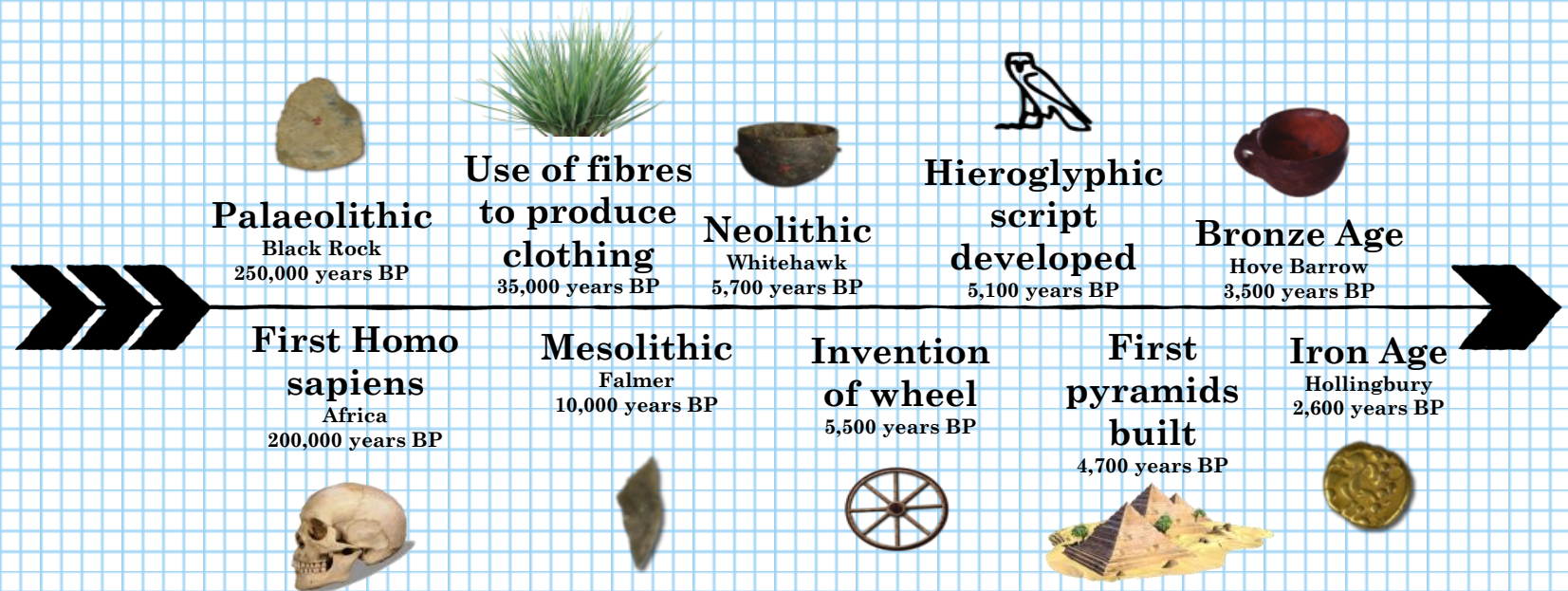
Hove Barrow  
3,500 years BP




Here's how the Palaeolithic fits into our local timeline – it's the oldest period we will look at.



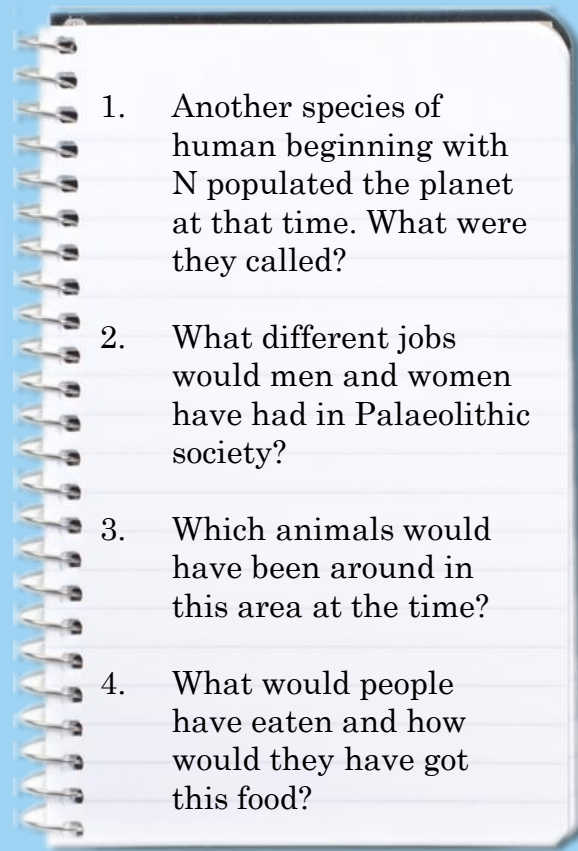
# How does this period fit into worldwide prehistory?



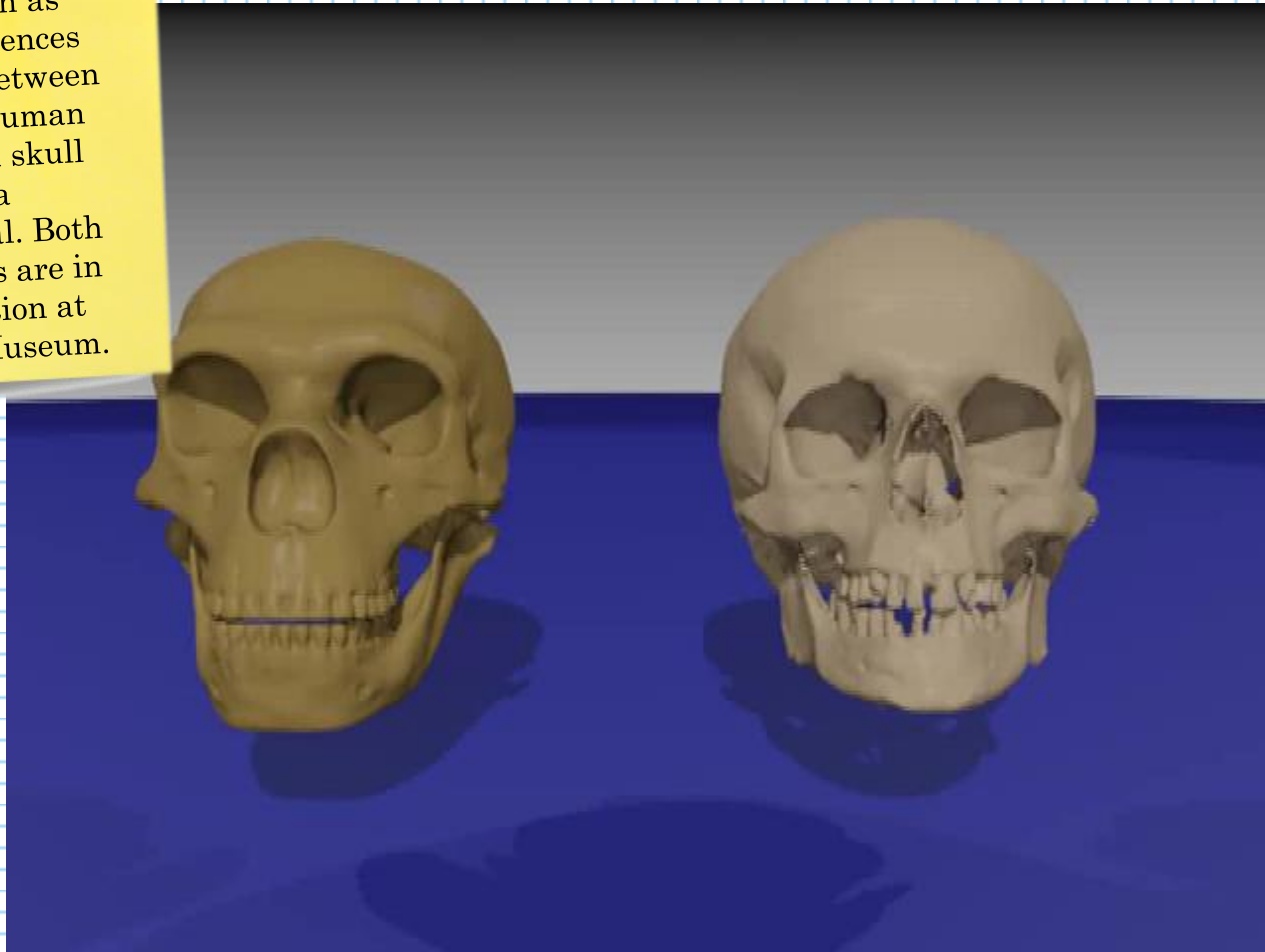
# Find out about the Palaeolithic



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

- 
1. Another species of human beginning with N populated the planet at that time. What were they called?
  2. What different jobs would men and women have had in Palaeolithic society?
  3. Which animals would have been around in this area at the time?
  4. What would people have eaten and how would they have got this food?

Write down as many differences as you can between a modern human skull and a skull from a Neanderthal. Both these skulls are in the collection at Brighton Museum.



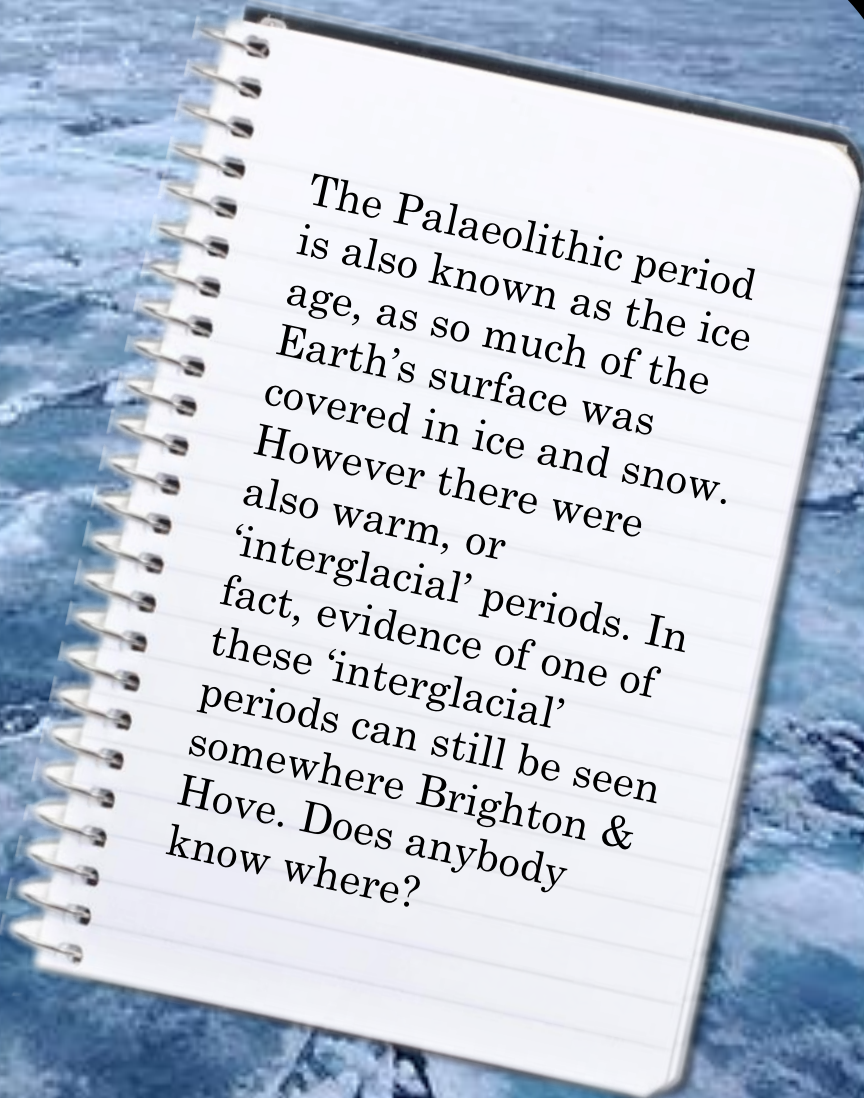


Did you know we  
still share up to  
4% of our DNA  
with Neanderthal  
man?



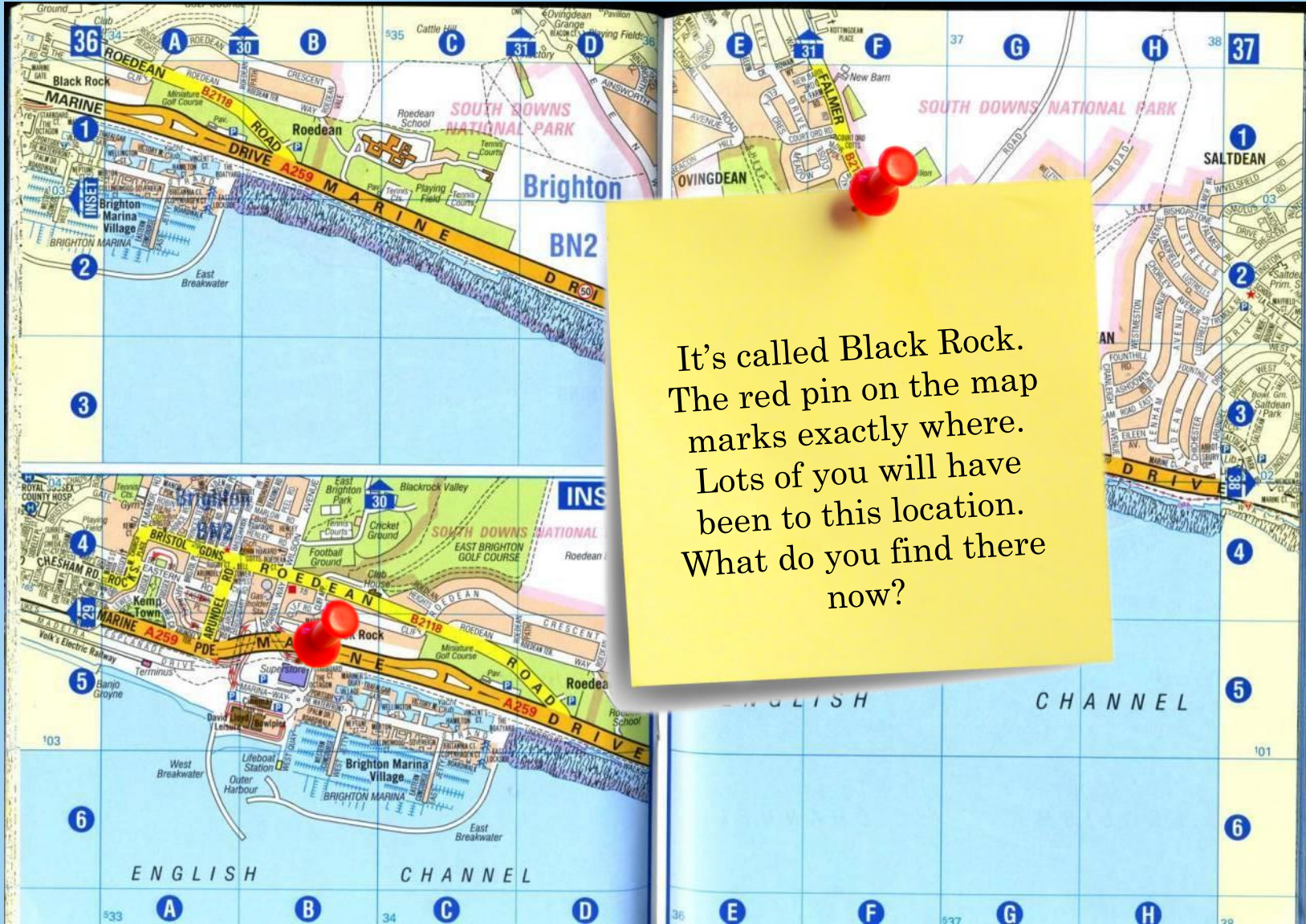


Brrrrr!



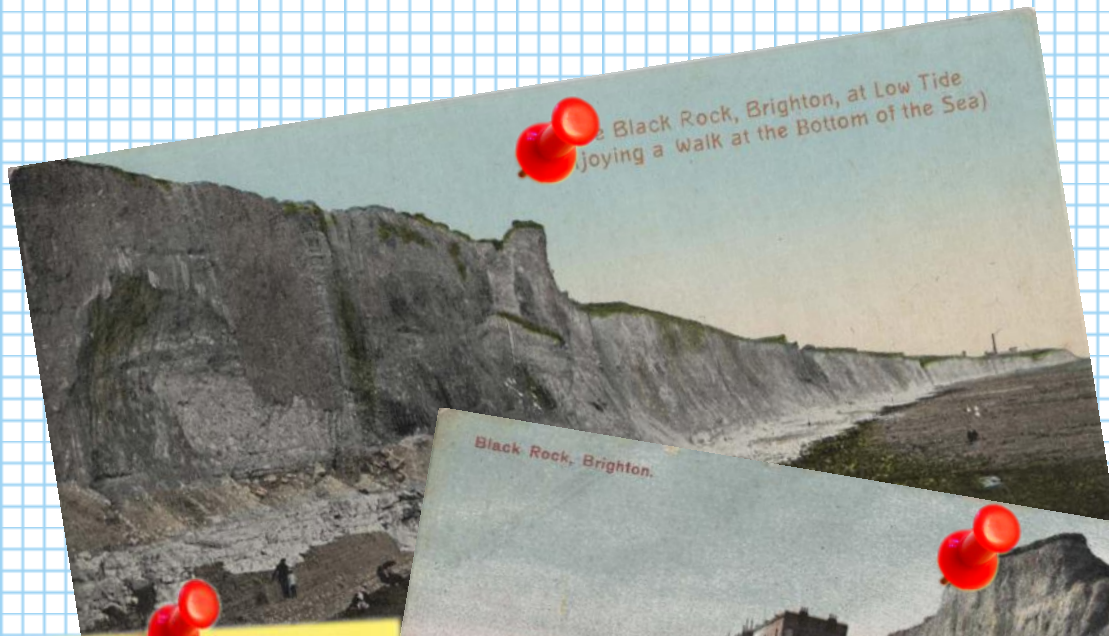
The Palaeolithic period is also known as the ice age, as so much of the Earth's surface was covered in ice and snow. However there were also warm, or 'interglacial' periods. In fact, evidence of one of these 'interglacial' periods can still be seen somewhere Brighton & Hove. Does anybody know where?





It's called Black Rock.  
The red pin on the map  
marks exactly where.  
Lots of you will have  
been to this location.  
What do you find there  
now?






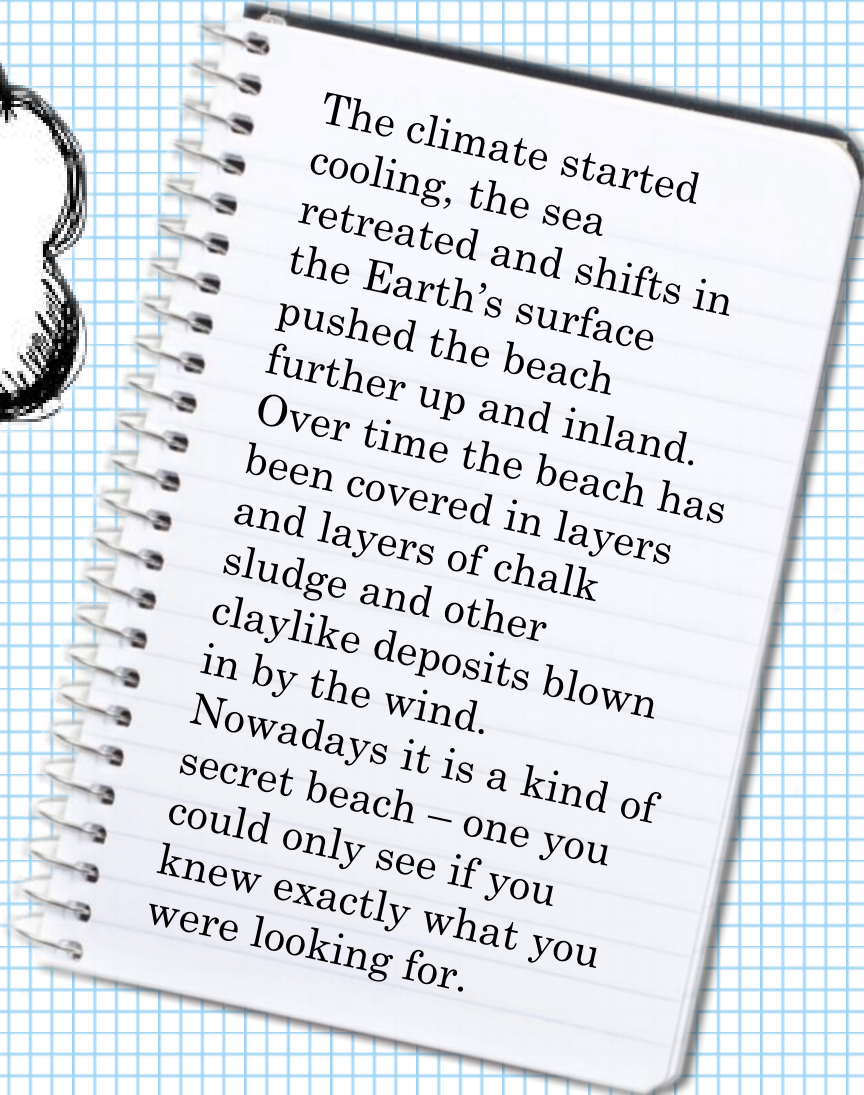
In these old postcards of the area, showing the cliff before the Marina was built, you can see a stripy formation in the rock. 250,000 years ago the Marina as we know it today would have been under water. The darker coloured line you can see in these pictures (which you can still see today!) would have been a shingle beach.

At the time the shingle beach was formed, Brighton was in a warm (interglacial) stage, and we think Neanderthal man was hunting big game in the area. Game hunted included horse, red deer and even mammoth.





If it's a beach, why is it so high up in the rock?



The climate started cooling, the sea retreated and shifts in the Earth's surface pushed the beach further up and inland. Over time the beach has been covered in layers and layers of chalk sludge and other claylike deposits blown in by the wind. Nowadays it is a kind of secret beach – one you could only see if you knew exactly what you were looking for.




21 February 250000 BP

OUT  
NOW!

# PALAEOLITHIC CHRONICAL

**BRIGHTON ICE AGE SPECIAL FEATURE!**

**Mammoth meltdown launches raised beach awareness**



It must have  
been quite  
strange at the  
time!

Melting ice is making hunting dangerous at Brighton's Black Rock beach. Slowly, over many thousands of years, it emerges that the beach will be pushed up out of the sea by tectonic shift, revealing lots of layers and fossils in the cliffs.

Local resident Mr Woolly Mammoth is very unhappy about global warming and fears for the future of his family.

'I prefer the cold' he states.




Aw, no! My Ice Age is melting!



At Brighton  
Museum  
we're lucky  
enough to  
have a  
handaxe that  
was in use  
250,000 when  
Black Rock  
was still a  
beach.







Why is it called a handaxe?

How can you tell a handaxe from another, similar rock?

How do you think it was made?

List all the different uses it might have had for people living in Palaeolithic times.

What might it feel like to hold?

What does this tool tell us about the lives of people in Palaeolithic Brighton?

Can you think of any modern tools you use every day? Which would you find it hardest to live without?



People have even discovered some Prehistoric art from later on in the Palaeolithic period! No paintings have been discovered in Brighton & Hove yet, but we're always looking...

What do you think these artists were trying to say? And how did they see to paint so clearly in the dark caves?



Can you tell  
a story  
without  
words?



Get into a group of four.  
Choose one of the group to  
be the 'messenger'. The  
messenger's aim is to  
communicate an ancient  
message to the rest of the  
group using pictures alone.  
Your message must be one  
that somebody living in  
Brighton in Palaeolithic  
times would be likely to  
want to share. If you're  
stuck you could try:

- Has anybody seen my  
handaxe?
- I killed a huge deer today
- I have found a new cave we  
can shelter in



Create  
some cave  
art!



- You will need:
- Paint (only in the colours ancient man would have had available – black, red, yellow, white and brown)
  - Sandpaper
  - An assortment of natural 'brushes' (twigs, leaves, feathers)

Getting creative:

- Scrumple and unscrumple your piece of sandpaper (this will make your painting surface more cave-like)
- Use your assortment of natural 'brushes' (as well as your fingers) to apply your ancient design (look to the examples on the previous slide for some inspiration)

Congratulations  
– you're  
officially an  
ancient artist!



Now that you know a bit more about the Palaeolithic, next time you're at the Marina doing your shopping look up at the cliff behind Asda. You can just about make out the line of shingle beach from 250,000 years BP suspended in the cliff line. And, if you look REALLY carefully, you might even see a woolly mammoth tusk poking out!



Thanks for  
downloading.  
See you soon!



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Thank you to A-Z for the kind permission to reproduce map on slide 9. Wolves and illustration on slide 15 by Fiona Redford.