Welcome to the Stone Age!

Look around you at all the objects, tools, and technology. What material are they made of? Are they made plastic, wood, metal, or something else? Now imagine if most of those objects were made of rock. I bet the world would be a very different looking place.

Now if we go far, far back in time, we visit an age where **stone** was the number-one material for making tools. That's why we call it the Stone Age, but there are two different periods of time in the Stone Age? The first period is the **Paleolithic**, meaning "Early Stone Age." The second part of the word, "lithic", means rock or stone. The second period was the **Neolithic**, which means "New Stone Age."

The Birth of Farming

The Neolithic age's beginning is defined by one of the greatest developments in human history, farming! Farming, or **agriculture**, allowed people to control their food supplies by planting crops instead of searching out food in the wild. They could store surpluses for all the year or protect against famine. They also developed new **tools** for planting.

They also cultivated the same variety of **vegetables**, fruits, and grains we eat today. Just imagine how it would feel to go from not knowing where your food was coming from to growing it yourself.

They also grew **cotton**, weaving fabrics for clothing instead of wearing **animal skins**.

Domesticated Animals

Another development during the Neolithic Age is the **domestication** of animals. Instead of following wild animals and **hunting**, humans began to trap animals, tame them, and raise them for food and other resources like **wool** and milk. The first animal to be domesticated was the **dog**, bred from tamed wolves. However, the first food animal domesticated was a sheep or a **goat**. Neolithic people finally expanded to also raise pigs, cows and camels. If you lived in the Neolithic Age, would you prefer raise animals or crops?