

Presents from the present

This is great for any period in History far removed from our own. It may prove trickier from the Victorians onwards. However, this doesn't mean it's not worth a go! In this plan, it'll be used for the Stone Age.



Recap on prior learning by asking what's different about the Stone Age/Iron Age to now? What do they know? Pupils will probably come up with ideas like: Houses / Food – hunting / Speaking / Writing / Tools

Imagine you could travel back in time and take something with you to make Stone Age people's life easier. What would you take? Talk to your partner.

Pupils can take it in turns to give their ideas to the class.

They might say things like: Electricity / Supermarket / Knives and forks / Time machine / Shoes



What about taking ideas back in time instead of objects? Perhaps give an example to start them off. Possible responses: How to cook / How to wash clothes & personal hygiene – brush teeth / How to write / How to fix things

You can draw similarities and combine ideas (i.e. if one person says cooking and another person says kitchens) and select 5 that are easy to understand. Write the ideas on whiteboards and place around the space in the middle of the circle.

Ask them which is the best idea. Which is most useful? Encourage them to use phrases like 'most/least important or useful' / 'I agree with / I disagree with', rather than 'worst idea' – to prevent others feeling their ideas have been dismissed.



Look for juicy questions that have arisen from this activity. A class experienced in P4C might be able to come up with some themselves if given some question stems like 'How / Why / Is / Should'. If less experienced, they might need to hear some modelled from you before you hand that responsibility to them. Examples from a Year 4 group I ran this with include:

- Do you have to be able to write to teach somebody something?
- Why did people invent money? Why do people want it?
- How does money become valuable?

NEXT STEPS

If they had the chance, would they introduce a concept to the Stone Age people? You could try this out with organised religion / money / consumerism