

Skara Brae - Cloze Passage

Read the passage carefully. Use the words at the end of the passage to fill in the gaps.

Orkney and the Neoliths

Skara Brae is a Neolithic settlement site on the Island of Orkney. O_____ is the name given to a collection of islands, 10 miles off the coast of north-east Scotland. Orkney is made up of over 70 i_____.

Skara Brae is a UNESCO World Heritage Site: that means it is considered to be of great historic importance. S_____ B_____ itself is the name given to an ancient Neolithic village, on the largest, main island of Orkney.

The Neolithic period was known as the 'New S_____ Age' because it came along at the very end of the Stone Age. The Neolithic Era began in approximately 15,200 BC in some Middle Eastern c_____ and between 4500 and 2000 BC in other parts of the world.

It was a time where people lived very simple lives. The Neoliths were the first ever h_____ to use farming to support themselves: they grew crops and kept a_____. There were limited t_____ during the Neolithic period, as metal tools had not been invented yet!

Discovering Skara Brae

In 1850, Orkney was battered by an unusually fierce s_____. The strong winds and the high tides tore away the grass from a large mound, leaving the outline of some stone b_____ that had never been noticed before. William Watt, the local laird (landowner), was interested and organised an e_____ of the site. In 1868, work at Skara Brae stopped.

The settlement remained undisturbed until 1925, when another storm damaged some of the structures that had been found. A sea wall was built to p_____ these remains, but while it was being built, even more ancient buildings were uncovered.

Neolithic Houses

At Skara Brae, you can see the remains of eight Neolithic houses, linked together by p_____. For over 4000 years, the settlement was covered over with sand. The sand protected the houses from the weather so that the buildings and their c_____ have been preserved incredibly well.

The walls of the buildings are still standing, and passageways are still roofed with the stone slabs they were built with. There was a large square room with a f_____ in the middle. There was a b_____ on each side of the room and there was a shelved dresser on the wall opposite the doorway.

Many a_____ (old objects) were found at Skara Brae, such as mace heads,

axe heads and other weapon heads, figurines, jewellery and paintings. Skara Brae even had its own logo! They have been useful for a _____ to learn about the Neolith people.

What Can We See There?

The village is in an incredible, preserved condition so many people choose to visit it. You can walk around the houses and view the original features. You can even see primitive forms of the toilet! There is now a visitor centre where you can see some of the i _____ found during the excavations. You can visit a r _____ house so that you can get a better idea of what Neolithic life was like.

The Future of Skara Brae

The settlement remains threatened by c _____ erosion and the onslaught of the sand and sea. It is much closer to the sea now than it was originally, as the sea has washed the land away. Steps are being taken to preserve the site and hopefully it will last thousands more years.

replica	excavation	storm	artefacts
coastal	humans	islands	countries
archaeologists	Stone	firepit	bed
Skara Brae	animals	passages	tools
preserve	Orkney	contents	buildings
items			

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Discovering Skara Brae

In 1850, Orkney was battered by an unusually fierce s_____. The strong winds and the high tides tore away the grass from a large m_____, leaving the outline of some stone b_____ that had never been noticed before. William Watt, the local l_____ (landowner), was interested and organised an e_____ of the site. In spite of the remains of four a_____ houses being unearthed, in 1868, work at Skara Brae stopped.

The settlement remained u_____ until 1925, when another storm damaged some of the structures that had been found. A sea wall was built to p_____ these remains, but while it was being built, even more ancient buildings were uncovered.

Neolithic Houses

At Skara Brae, you can see the remains of eight Neolithic houses, linked together by low, covered p_____. For over 4000 years, the settlement was covered over with s_____. The sand protected the houses from the weather so that the buildings and their c_____ have been incredibly well preserved.

The walls of the buildings are still standing, and passageways are still roofed with the stone

slabs they were built with. There was a large square room, with a f_____ in the middle. There was a b_____ on each side of the room, and there was a shelved dresser on the wall opposite the doorway.

There was evidence that the Neoliths burned dried s_____ to provide warmth.

Many a_____ (old objects) were found at Skara Brae, such as mace heads, axe heads and other weapon heads, figurines, jewellery and paintings. Skara Brae even had its own logo! They have been useful for a_____ to learn about the Neolith people.

Fish bones and shells were found in Skara Brae's midden (a tip or dump for rubbish), which showed that the N_____ supplemented their diet with seafood.

What Can We See There?

The village is in an incredible, preserved condition, so many people choose to visit it. You can walk around the houses and view the original f_____ that people built thousands of years ago. You can even see primitive forms of the toilet! There is now a visitor centre where you can see some of the i_____ found during the excavations. You can visit a r_____ house so that you can get a better idea of what Neolithic life was like.

The Future of Skara Brae

The very thing that allowed people to discover Skara Brae is the same thing that poses the g_____ risk to it. The settlement remains threatened by c_____ erosion and the onslaught of sand and sea. It is much closer to the sea now than it was originally, as the sea has washed the land away. Steps are being taken to preserve the site and hopefully it will last t_____ more years.

ancient	features	storm	humans	passages	contents
replica	coastal	Era	Stone	bed	seaweed
greatest	items	period	village	artefacts	tools
archaeologists	preserve	animals	islands	thousands	mound
Skara Brae	undisturbed	settlement	Orkney	Neoliths	support
laird	buildings	inhabited	firepit	countries	
		excavation	sand		

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Orkney and the Neoliths

Skara Brae is a Neolithic _____ site on the Island of Orkney. _____ is the name given to a collection of islands, 10 miles off the coast of north-east Scotland.

Orkney is made up of over 70 _____. Only 20 of them are _____! The largest of these islands is known as Mainland.

Skara Brae is a UNESCO World Heritage Site: that means it is considered to be of great historic importance. _____ itself is the name given to an ancient Neolithic _____, on the largest, main island of Orkney.

The Neolithic _____ was known as the 'New _____ Age' because it came along at the very end of the Stone Age. The Neolithic ___ began in approximately 15,200 BC in some Middle Eastern countries and between 4500 and 2000 BC in other parts of the world.

It was a time where people lived very simple lives. The Neoliths were the first ever _____ to use farming to _____ themselves: they grew crops and kept _____. There were limited _____ during the Neolithic period, as metal tools had not been invented yet!

Discovering Skara Brae

In 1850, Orkney was battered by an unusually fierce _____. The strong winds and the high tides tore away the grass from a large _____, leaving the outline of some stone _____ that had never been noticed before. William Watt, the local _____ (landowner), was interested and organised an _____ of the site. In spite of the remains of four _____ houses being unearthed, in 1868, work at Skara Brae stopped.

The settlement remained _____ until 1925, when another storm damaged some of the structures that had been found. A sea-wall was built to _____ these remains, but while it was being built, even more ancient buildings were uncovered.

Neolithic Houses

At Skara Brae, you can see the remains of 8 Neolithic houses, linked together by low, covered _____. For over 4000 years, the settlement was covered over with _____. The sand protected the houses from the weather so that the buildings and their _____ have been incredibly well preserved.

The walls of the buildings are still standing, and passageways are still roofed with the stone

slabs they were built with. There was a large square room, with a _____ in the middle. There was a _____ on each side of the room and a shelved dresser on the wall opposite the doorway.

There was evidence that the Neoliths burned dried _____ to provide warmth.

Many _____ (old objects) were found at Skara Brae, such as mace-heads, axe-heads and other weapon-heads, figurines, jewellery and paintings. Skara Brae even had its own logo! They have been useful for _____ to learn about the Neolith people.

Fish bones and shells were found in Skara Brae's midden (a tip or dump for rubbish), which showed that the _____ supplemented their diet with seafood.

What Can We See There?

The village is in an incredible, preserved condition, so many people choose to visit it. You can walk around the houses and view the original _____. You can even see primitive forms of the toilet! There is now a visitor centre where you can see some of the _____ found during the excavations. You can visit a _____ house so that you can get a better idea of what Neolithic life was like.

The Future of Skara Brae

The very thing that allowed people to discover Skara Brae is the same thing that poses the _____ risk to it. The settlement remains threatened by _____ erosion and the onslaught of sand and sea. It is much closer to the sea now than it was originally, as the sea has washed the land away. Steps are being taken to preserve the site and hopefully it will last _____ more years.

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Skara Brae	undisturbed	settlement	Orkney	Neoliths	support
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Orkney and the Neoliths

Skara Brae is a Neolithic settlement site on the Island of Orkney. **Orkney** is the name given to a collection of islands, 10 miles off the coast of North East Scotland. Orkney is made up of over 70 **islands**.

Skara Brae is a UNESCO World Heritage Site: that means it is considered to be of great historic importance. **Skara Brae** itself is the name given to an ancient Neolithic village, on the largest, main island of Orkney.

The Neolithic period was known as the 'New **Stone** Age' because it came along at the very end of the Stone Age. The Neolithic Era began in approximately 15,200 BC in some Middle Eastern **countries** and between 4500 and 2000 BC in other parts of the world.

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Discovering Skara Brae

In 1850, Orkney was battered by an unusually fierce **storm**. The strong winds and the high tides tore away the grass from a large mound, leaving the outline of some stone **buildings** that had never been noticed before. William Watt, the local laird (landowner) was interested and organised an **excavation** of the site. In 1868, work at Skara Brae stopped.

The settlement remained undisturbed until 1925, when another storm damaged some of the structures that had been found. A sea wall was built to **preserve** these remains, but while it was being built, even more ancient buildings were uncovered.

Neolithic Houses

At Skara Brae, you can see the remains of 8 Neolithic houses, linked together by **passages**. For over 4000 years, the settlement was covered over with sand. The sand protected the houses from the weather so that the buildings and their **contents** have been preserved incredibly well.

The walls of the buildings are still standing, and passageways are still roofed with the stone slabs they were built with. There was a large square room, with a **firepit** in the middle. There was a **bed** on each side of the room and there was a shelved dresser on the wall opposite the doorway.

Many **artefacts** (old objects) were found at Skara Brae, such as mace heads, axe heads and other weapon heads, figurines, jewellery and paintings. Skara Brae even had its own logo! They have been useful for **archaeologists** to learn about the Neolith people.

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The settlement remains threatened by **coastal** erosion and the onslaught of the sand and sea. It is much closer to the sea now than it was originally, as the sea has washed the land away. Steps are being taken to preserve the site and hopefully it will last thousands more years.

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