

# History at Home

with Ely Museum

# Pre-History



## Stone Age Knapping

In the Stone Age, people used a material, a type of smooth stone called 'flint'. Flint could easily be made into stone tools, like axes, blades and knives. Flint can also be used to produce a spark when struck, which was used to start fires for people to cook on and keep warm with. Flint was one of the most important materials in the Stone Age because of how useful it was.

People could make flint into tools by striking it with other rocks. This would cause flakes of flint to fall off, and turn the big piece of flint into the shape you wanted it. This is a process called 'knapping'. Flint knappers were seen as highly skilled in the Stone Age and had a high status in society because of how important their job was.



A flint core from the collection at Ely Museum



A flint axe from the collection at Ely Museum



Flint knapping

# History at Home

with Ely Museum

# Pre-History



## Stone Age Knapping

Have a go at knapping yourself using a bar of soap. In the same way a Stone Age person would knap a flint core into an axe, a bar of soap can be knapped in the same way!

### You will need

- Bar of soap
- Something to 'knap' with . Clay modelling tools, a plastic knife or stiff glue spatula would work well

### Method

Use your knapping tool to slowly chip away flakes from the soap to make the shape of an axe



**Remember to ask an adult for help & to always 'knap' away from yourself!**

Keep the flakes of soap you knap from your main 'flint core' - these look like the flakes of flint that archaeologists still find today.

Just like these flakes are evidence of the knapping you have done, but not of what you have made, archaeologists sometimes find flakes but not the tools that were made.

