



NDOLA TRUST SCHOOL

(Ndola Trust School Limited)

"Success through Hard Work"

www.ndolatrustschool.edu.zm



GRADE 8

SOCIAL STUDIES (HISTORY)

Copy the following notes into your exercise books and answer the questions that follow at the end.

THE MIDDLE STONE AGE PERIOD

THE Middle Stone Age period existed between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago. The men of this period were more intelligent than the Early Stone Age man and all the other earlier creatures. An example of a man who lived during this period was **Broken Hill Man** who lived in Central Africa and **Neanderthal Man** who lived in North Africa and Europe.

Broken Hill Man was discovered by in 1921 by miners who were digging into kopjes or small hills in Kabwe, formerly known as Broken Hill. The miners found a big skull which was radio-carbon dated and estimated to have been alive about 25,000 years ago. The skull was sent to the London Museum where scientists declared that it was a human head.

Appearance.

Broken Hill Man looked like a modern man although he had a smaller brain. However, the brain of Broken Hill Man was bigger compared to those of the other earlier creatures. Broken Hill Man was about six feet tall and had a big strong body and a big forehead.

Because Broken Hill Man had a bigger brain than Homo-Habilis, he was much more intelligent. He used his intelligence to scare away fierce animals using fire and was therefore able to live in caves where he was protected from sun, rain and wind. The fire kept him warm and he was able to use it to cook his food, too.

The Middle Stone Age men lived in open grasslands and in the forest. They moved up and down in search of food.

The Middle Stone Age men who lived in the forest developed heavy, clumsy tools for digging and chopping down trees and branches. They developed **traps** which they laid down in the paths of animals that they wanted to hunt down. The traps were made by digging big holes and

covering them with grass and branches. The men would chase the animals in the direction of the traps and once the animals had fallen in, it would be easy for the men to kill them.

On the other hand, the Middle Stone Age men who lived in the open grasslands could not use the trap snares as successfully as the men of the forest. Instead they learnt to sharpen stone into **missile stones (throwing stones)** which they threw at the animals. So the men of the grasslands made lighter and better tools than those of the men of the forest.

To carry out such an exercise, Broken Hill Man must have used language as he needed to co-operate with others to carry out such advanced hunting tasks for his time.

Broken Hill Man depended on roots, fruit, fish and wild animals for his food. He made better and more improved tools than Homo-Habilis. He learnt to make **stone spear heads** which he put on wooden handles or shaft. The round stone balls were perhaps used for throwing at animals and crushing nuts. By using spears and missiles or throwing stones they were able to kill even large animals like elephants at a distance. Broken Hill Man is the earliest creature whose remains have been found in Zambia.

FOLLOW-UP EXERCISE

COPY THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS INTO YOUR EXERCISE BOOKS AND DRAW A CIRCLE AROUND THE LETTER THAT REPRESENTS THE BEST ANSWER.

- About how many years ago did the latest of the Middle Stone Age creatures live?*
 - 40,000 years ago*
 - 55,000 years ago*
 - 25,000 years ago*
 - 10,000 years ago*
- Name the earliest creature whose bones have been found in Zambia.*
 - Proconsul Africanus*
 - Homo-Habilis*
 - Broken-Hill Man*
 - Zinjanthropus.*
- In which Stone Age period was fire effectively used to scare away fierce animals?*
 - Early Stone Age Period.*
 - Middle Stone Age*
 - Late Stone Age*
 - Iron Age.*
- When the bones of Broken Hill Man were discovered and carbon dated, he was found to have lived?*

- a) *25,000 years ago*
 - b) *40,000 years ago*
 - c) *10,000 years ago*
 - d) *55,000 years ago*
5. *Broken Hill Man was able to live in caves because*
- a) *He had a large body*
 - b) *He was about six feet tall*
 - c) *He used his intelligence to use fire to scare away fierce animals*
 - d) *Fierce animals were scared of him.*
6. *Broken Hill Man was discovered in*
- a) *East Africa*
 - b) *Central Africa*
 - c) *North Africa*
 - d) *South Africa*
7. *Pre-historians assume that Broken Hill Man might have used a language because*
- a) *He looked like modern man.*
 - b) *He could walk on his two legs.*
 - c) *He worked in groups to kill animals.*
 - d) *He was more intelligent than Homo-Habilis*
8. *The typical man of the Middle Stone Age man was*
- a) *Broken Hill Man*
 - b) *Neanderthal man*
 - c) *Homo- Habilis*
 - d) *Zinjanthropus.*