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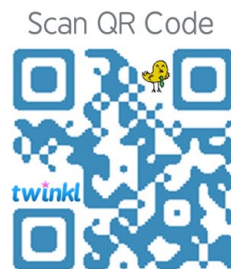


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SKARA BRAE

Skara Brae is a Stone Age Village in Scotland built in 3000 BC.

It was discovered in 1850 after a heavy storm stripped away the earth that had previously been covering what we can see today.



The Houses

We can still see the remains of eight houses. They were not all built at the same time. People lived there over a period of 600 years.

The houses were all very similar and you could walk between them along covered passageways. The first houses were round. There was one main room with a hearth (for the fire) in the middle, and beds at the sides. Each house had a set of stone shelves, called a dresser. The later houses were bigger and more like a rectangle with rounded corners. The doors were stone slabs, and could be bolted shut. House 7 could only be opened from the outside. Perhaps it was some kind of prison. House 8 was further apart than the other houses. This might have been a workshop or meeting place.

Light and Warmth

There were no windows, but there may have been a hole in the roof to let out smoke. The fire was used for light, for keeping warm, and for cooking. They used straw and heather to make mattresses and used animal fur for blankets to keep them warm. The roofs might have been made of straw or animal skins. They have rotted away so we can only see the stone walls today.

What else was found there?

- Animal bones including cattle and sheep.
- Lots of fish and shellfish.
- No weapons.
- Beautifully carved, stone objects.
- Tools made of bone, like needles to sew with.
- Jewellery, including pendants, pins, necklaces and beads.



Date _____

Name _____



Skara Brae Questions

1. Draw an arrow and label the location of Skara Brae on the map.

2. When was it discovered?

3. How long were there people living there?

4. What shape were the first houses?



5. Can you describe a difference between the first houses and those built later?

6. What could you find in the middle of each house?

7. Would you like to live in a house like this? Why?

8. Draw a diagram of the inside of a Skara Brae house and label the different items of furniture you would find.