



Fire and the Caveman

Set 8 (185 words)

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Special words

wild, have, survived, was, become, used, also,
would, this, night, warm

Fire has been an important element in the life of men from the caveman times. The caveman made use of fire to keep the entry of his cave safe from wild animals.

The caveman rubbed sticks together on stone or a block of wood until it was very hot and it started to spark. The caveman then kept rubbing the sticks, adding fine leaf matter, bark and wood chips until the fibres ignited with a flame and the fire was struck.

It was important for the caveman to find wood that didn't smoke too much.

A torch lit with fire could help a caveman establish if an approaching person was a tribe member or an enemy.

The caveman collected meat and vegetables to eat. He used the embers of the fire, to cook them.

Fire safety is important. The caveman dug a hole for the fire and used stones to stop the wind. This also confined the embers in the fireplace so a wildfire would not start.

In winter and at night the fire helped stop the caveman feeling cold.

Would men have survived without fire?

Questions

After reading the text ask students one or more of the following questions. If students are working in pairs, alternate Partner 1, then Partner 2.

- Have you ever had a campfire? Where was it? How did you build it? Who lit the fire? Did you cook on it? What precautions do you need to take when you light a campfire?
- Have you ever rubbed sticks together to build a fire? Did it work? What do your parents use to light a fire?
- Fire safety is important. What do you do at home to protect yourself from fire? Have you got a fire blanket? Where is it kept? Does your house have a smoke alarm?
- What number do you ring if there is a fire? What else should you do? Does your house have a fire plan? Have you ever had to use it?
- Would humans have survived without fire? Could you survive without fire?