

Late Neolithic Craftsman Britain 2,250B.C.

Why not colour the Neolithic man in?

He is wearing linen, a type of material made from flax plants. This may be very pale in colour. But people first started to dye ('colour') material in the Neolithic period. They used berries, bark, earth (clay) colours. So, use lots of dark reds, browns, yellows and greens. His hat would probably be made from knitted wool, or even animal fur.

Name _____

Class _____

This man is working on a sacred statue or *idol*. It looks like the *Dagenham Idol* (This was a wooden statue of a human figure, made from Yew wood and found in Dagenham, Essex in 1922). The statue was recently dated to about 2,250 B.C. This is the Late Neolithic period (Late 'New Stone Age') just before the Bronze Age. This makes it one of the oldest human statues found in the UK or Europe.

It is 18 inches (46 cm) high. Oddly enough it has two legs but no arms; a rounded looking head and there are straight markings cut across both legs. It was covered in cuts and appears to be damaged in its left eye. Perhaps this damage was all deliberate. It was found 3 meters (9.8 feet) below ground and buried with a deer skeleton. Perhaps it was some sort of sacrifice. What do you think?

Stone Age men and women made statues and objects, sometimes in stone, clay, wood, bone or even mammoth ivory (tusk material). But they are rare, as most materials used don't survive for long. But they did not have modern tools to do this. Sometimes just flint knives and scrapers, and bow drills (hand-worked wooden drills to bore holes). To get wood and other things smooth, they may have used shark skin, or even leather (animal skin) and sand mixed with water. (Acting like modern sandpaper).

Can you label the craftsman?

Use these words to help:

Cap (on his head)

Bow drill (On the floor, can you see it?)

Tunic (worn on his body, looks like he's had to repair it, can you see the patch?)

Trousers

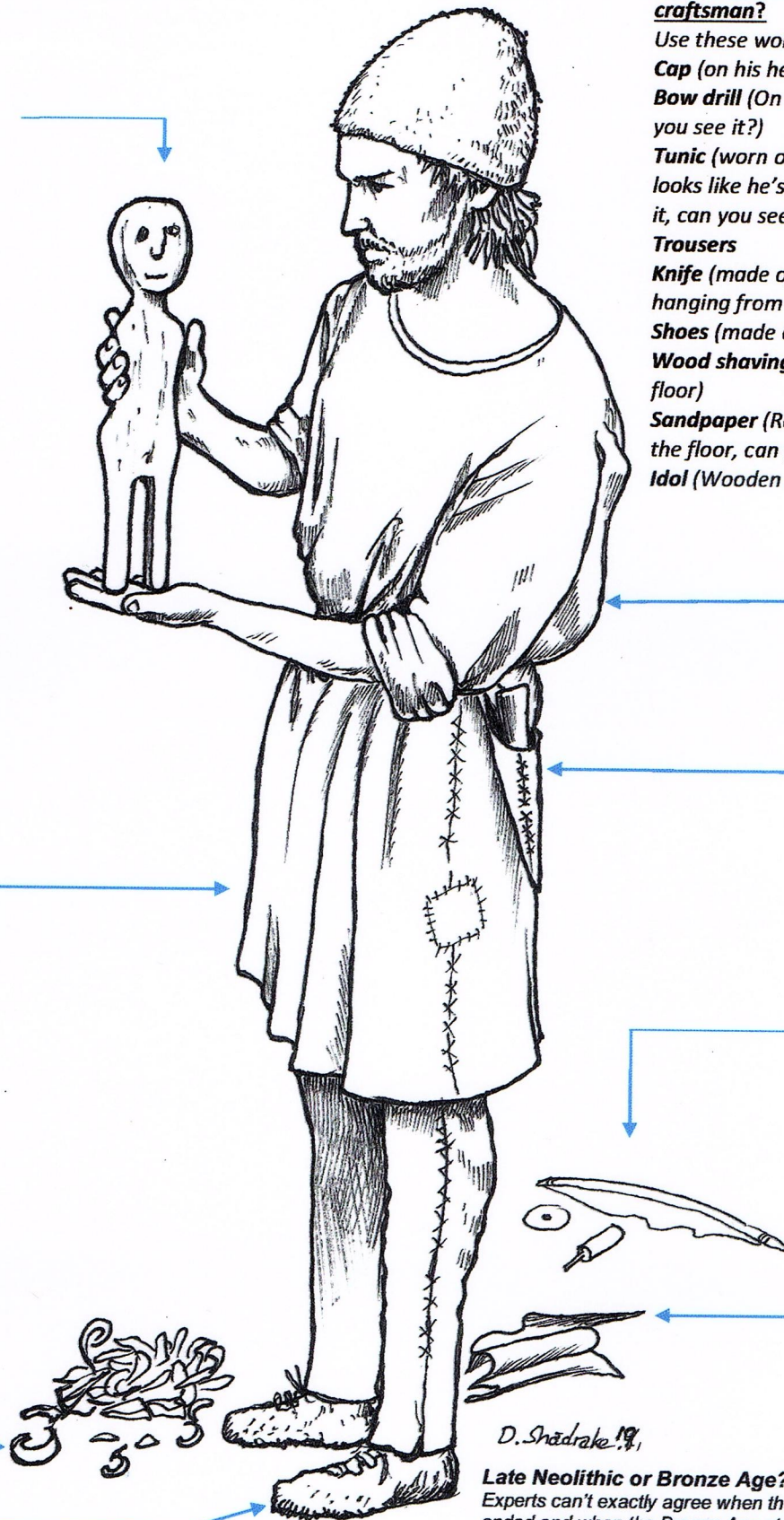
Knife (made of flint and hanging from his belt)

Shoes (made of deer skin)

Wood shavings (On the floor)

Sandpaper (Rolled up on the floor, can you see it?)

Idol (Wooden statue)



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Late Neolithic or Bronze Age?

Experts can't exactly agree when the Stone Age ended and when the Bronze Age started in Britain. Some say it was around 2,200B.C. and some say it was later in 2,000B.C. In other places like Southern Europe and the Middle East, there was a Copper age (Chalcolithic period). But because copper tools were used such a small scale in Britain, it isn't always recognized.