

## Dressing up day ideas

# Stone Age

So you're having an Stone Age dressing up day? Don't panic! Even if you've forgotten about it until 8pm the night before, you can still manage to whip up a costume with some simple items in your house. There's no need for any buying or sewing!

### Stone Age Person

Evidence for Stone Age clothing is very limited as it was so long ago that little survives! Our best evidence comes from a very late Stone Age (neolithic) man found frozen in the ice in the Alps. Known as Ötzi the Ice Man, he dates from around 3300BC. Because he died on a mountain and his body was frozen, his clothing was very well preserved. This dressing up sheet uses some of his clothes as a template.

For more inspiration you could also look at native cultures around the world, e.g. tribes in Africa, the Americas, and Aboriginal Australians, as their traditional clothing is similar in many ways to what tribal cultures would have used even back in the Stone Age!

- Weaving and textiles were only just being invented in some places, but you might have some clothes made from linen or wool. Unless you happen to have have leather leggings and tunics in the house, you could use plain natural coloured leggings/trousers and a long sleeved T-shirt as a base.
- Clothes were generally made from furs and skins, so you could use anything made from leather, sheepskin, or fur fabric. A fake-fur gilet and hat is great if you have them. For footwear, Ugg-style boots are ideal.
- A cloak might be worn, made of fur, leather, or even woven reeds or grasses.
- Jewellery and accessories would be made from wood, stone and animal products. You could use a string of natural coloured beads for a necklace. Stone Age people would also have used bone, antler, leather, horn, seashells and feathers to decorate their clothes.
- Dyeing fabrics had not yet been invented so stick to natural colours e.g. beige, brown, cream, if you can.
- Ötzi the Ice Man had lots of tattoos! While we don't suggest tattooing your child, you could use eyeliner pencil to draw some "tattoos" if desired. Some cultures would also probably have used face paints made of earth, chalk and charcoal to paint their faces with patterns like dots and stripes.
- Remember - this is the STONE age! No obviously metal items should be used!

