

People didn't start building houses until the middle period of the Stone Age. They were very different to houses of today, but there are some similarities. Try to think about what is different and what might be the same as you read on and learn about Stone Age houses.

A Single Room

Stone Age houses seem to have only had a single room. Everything happened in this space.

Beds

There were often a couple of beds in each house. These would have been made from wooden pallets topped with fur or fleece. They might also have been edged with stone.

Fire Pit

Fire pits were built in the centre of the house. This ensured that heat could rise to the roof. The whole house could be heated this way. The fire would also have been used to cook food and to ward off animals.



Roof

Some houses were topped with thatch roofs. Others had stone roofs like the one in the picture. The most critical thing was to make sure it was watertight and kept in as much heat as possible.

Stone Dressers

All of the houses found at Skara Brae had stone dressers at the back of the house. These were used to store things. Other houses have been found with similar things inside. This shows that Stone Age people had possessions that they wanted to protect.

Stone Walls

The walls of Stone Age houses were often made of stone. They were intricately slotted together to make them very strong and weather-proof. Some were coated with a layer of mud or clay. Shelves would have been built into the walls. Small windows would have been important for ventilation.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

Match the word with the definition:

similarities		One of something
single		Made certain that something happened
pallet		Things that are the same
ensured		Very important
intricately		A crude or makeshift bed
critical		Done with care and attention

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

What might they have used to make their beds more comfortable?

I

How do we know that Stone Age people cared about certain possessions?

S

What is one similarity between Stone Age walls and house walls built today?

R

What were the most important things a roof needed to be?

S

Why was the fire built in the centre of the room?

Answers:

similarities		One of something
single		Made certain that something happened
pallet		Things that are the same
ensured		Very important
intricately		A crude or makeshift bed
critical		Done with care and attention

R: Furs or fleeces

I: They had dressers and shelves to keep things safe

S: They are made of stone/they have windows

R: Waterproof and to keep heat in

S: To make sure the whole room heated up