

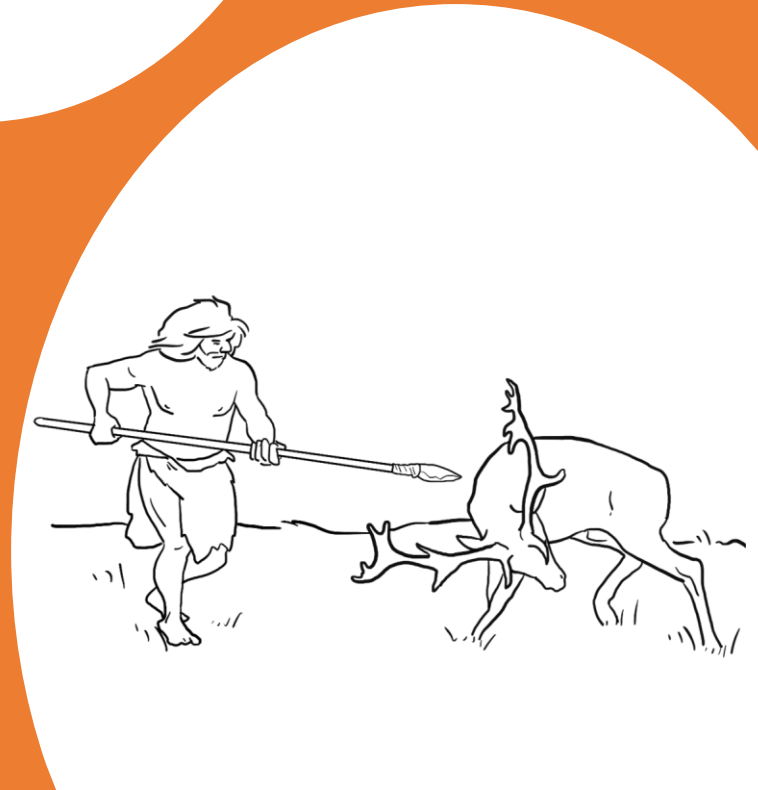
Insights into
Neanderthal hunting

An activity pack for
3-6 year olds



Authors: Dr Karen Ruebens
& Dr Geoff M Smith

Illustrations: Dr Anna Goldfield



This activity pack is aimed at children between 3 and 6 years old (preliteracy, Early Years Foundation Stage up to Early Years 3). It can be used in the classroom as well as at home.

It aims to introduce kids to the lifeways and hunting strategies of Neanderthals based on the most recent scientific discoveries through a series of hands-on activities (colouring, cutting, connect the dots, memory game).

About the authors:



Dr. Karen Ruebens reconstructs Neanderthal behaviour by studying the different types of stone tools they made across Europe.



Dr. Geoff M Smith identifies the animal bones found at Neanderthal sites and looks for traces of hunting and butchery activities.

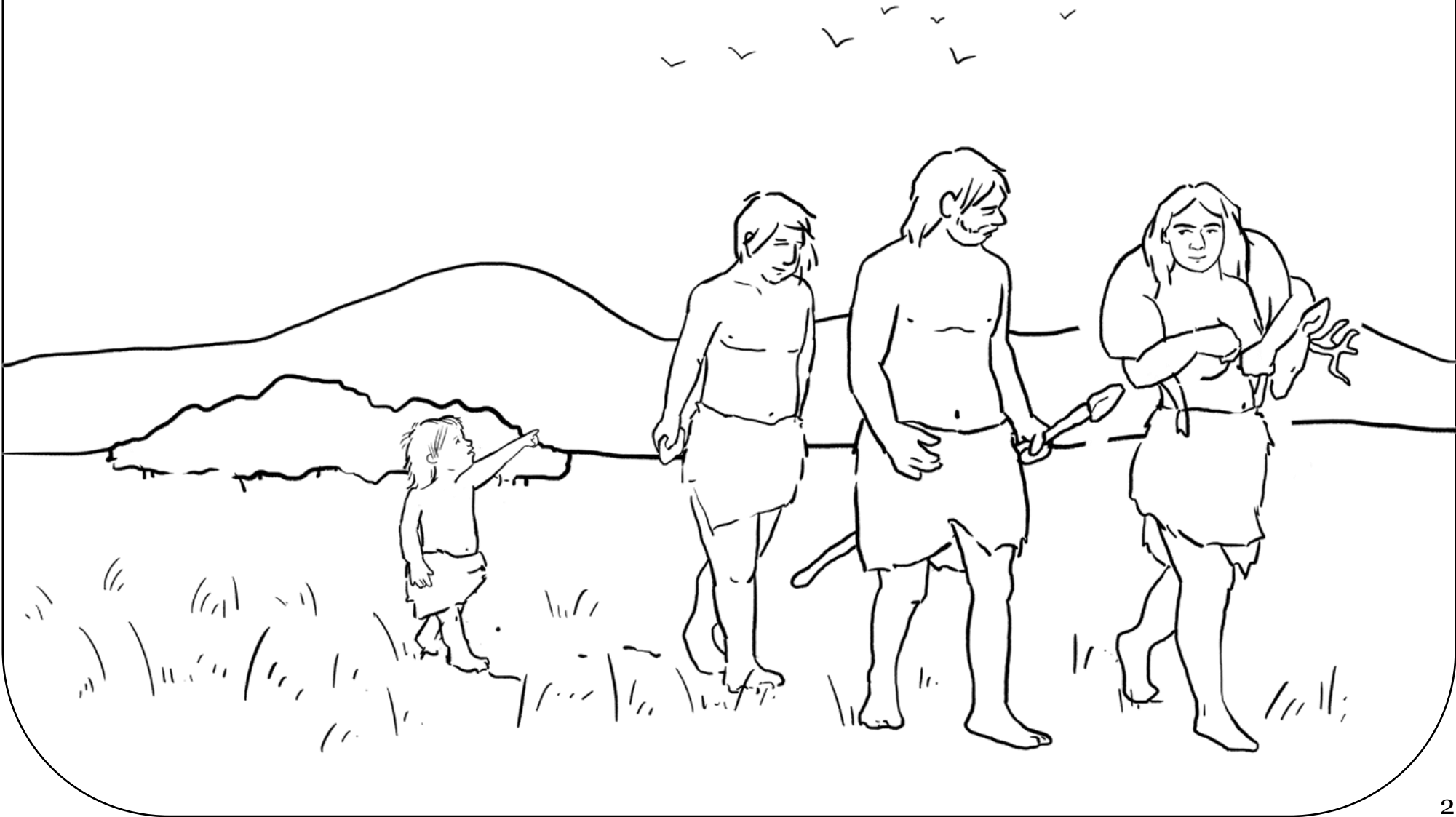
About the illustrator:



Dr. Anna Goldfield is an archaeologist, illustrator, and science communicator who loves thinking about life in the past. She writes about archaeology and the human story for [Sapiens.org](https://www.sapiens.org) and hosts [The Dirt, a podcast](https://www.thedirtpodcast.com) bringing stories from anthropology and archaeology to listeners of all ages and backgrounds.

Watch Karen and Geoff talk about Neanderthal hunting:
<https://neanderthalseminars.wixsite.com/home/videos>

Today we are the only type of humans alive. In the past there were many different types of humans living at the same time. One of these, the Neanderthals, lived a long, long time ago (300,000 to 40,000 years ago to be exact), long before there were even houses, shops and cars.
Colour this group of Neanderthals. Can you describe what you see?



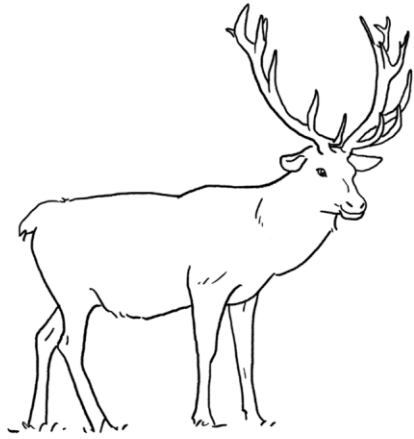
We still find the bones and teeth of Neanderthals under the ground, along with the stone tools they made and the bones of the animals they ate. Archaeologists dig up these remains and study them to reconstruct how Neanderthals lived. *What do you think this archaeologist has found? Colour in the picture.*



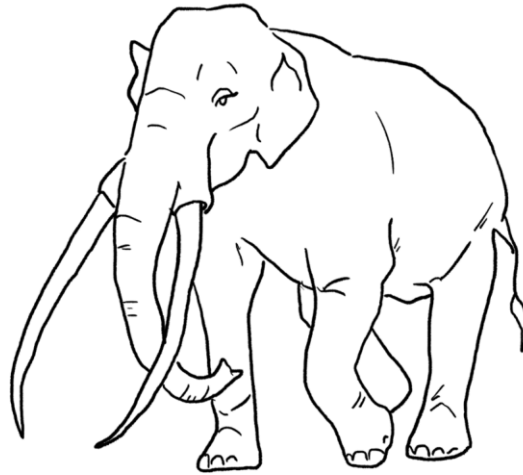
Neanderthals lived together with other animal species that have now died out.
Can you connect the dots to see the largest of these extinct animals?



Neanderthals lived at times when it was warmer than now and at times it was colder, the so-called ice ages.
Can you colour the animals below, cut them out and put them in the correct warm (forested) or cold (open) landscape on the next page. Remember, animals grow more fur to keep warm in cold climates.



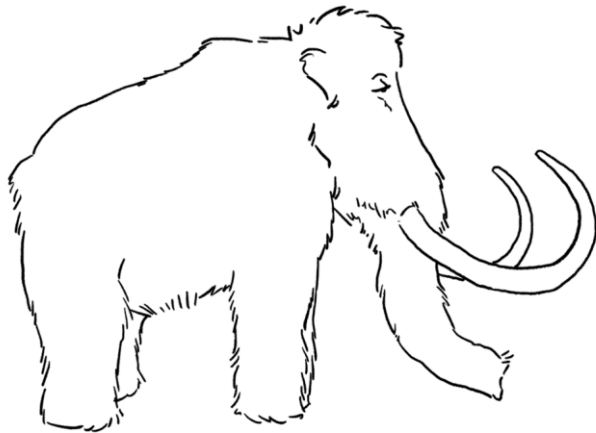
Red deer



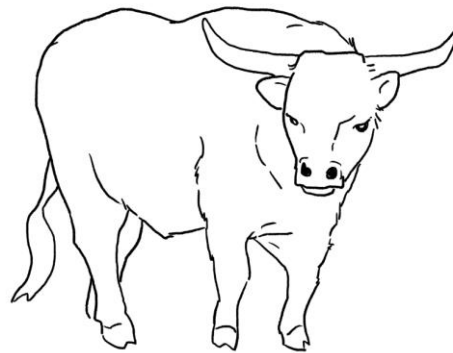
Straight tusked elephant



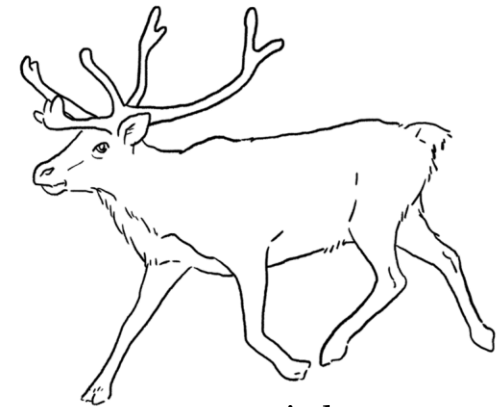
Woolly rhino



Woolly mammoth



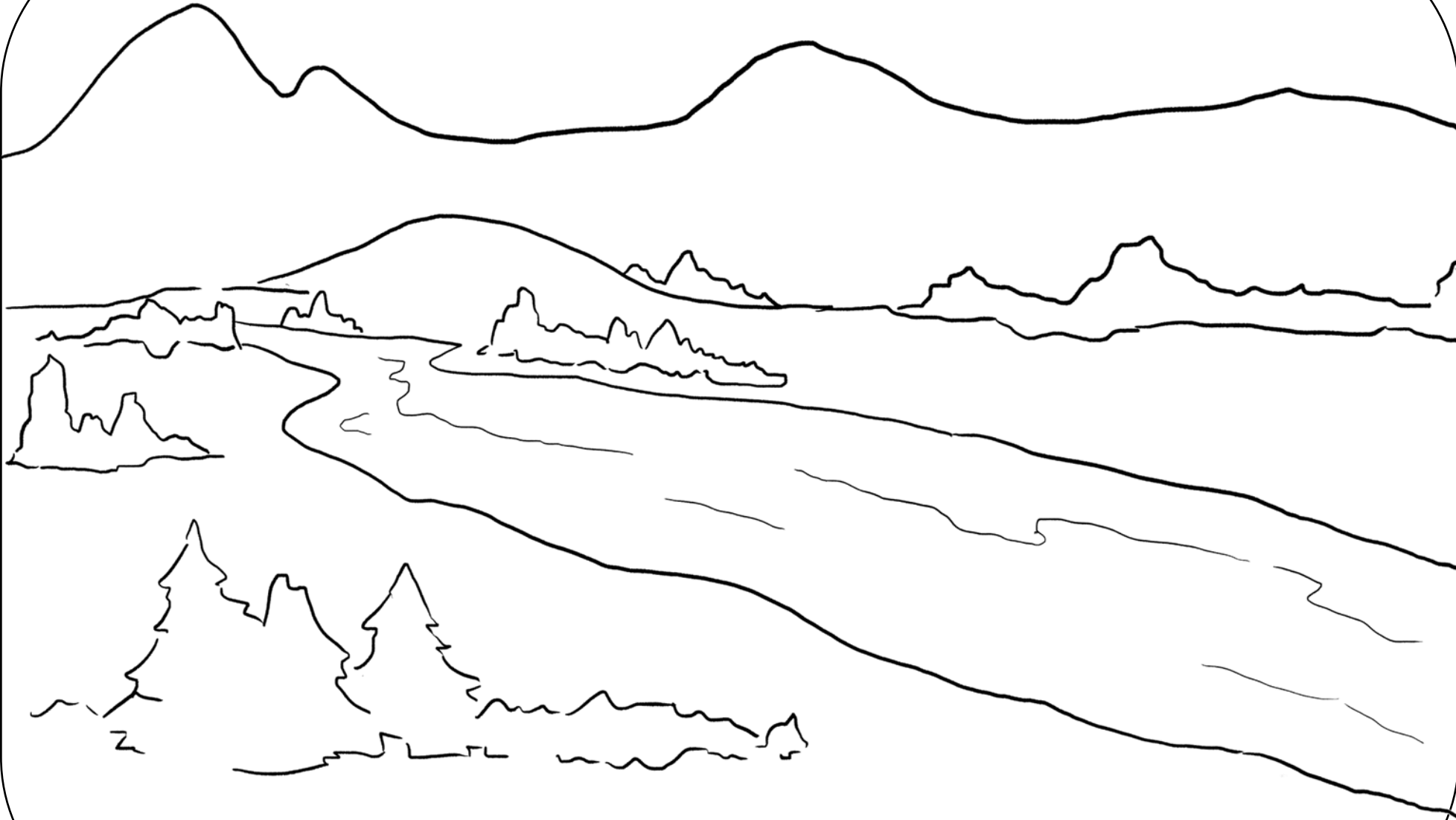
Aurochs



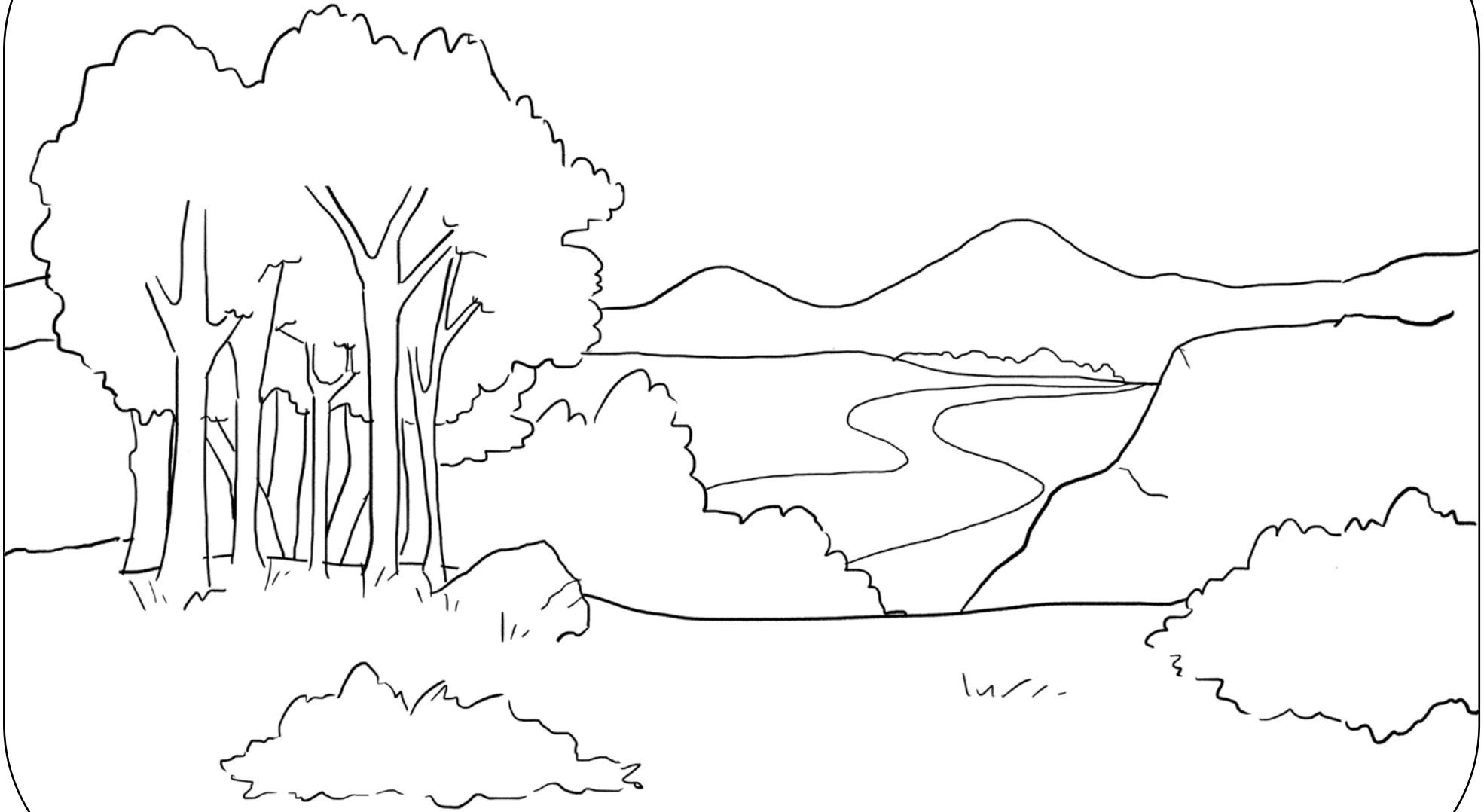
Reindeer



Cold, open landscape

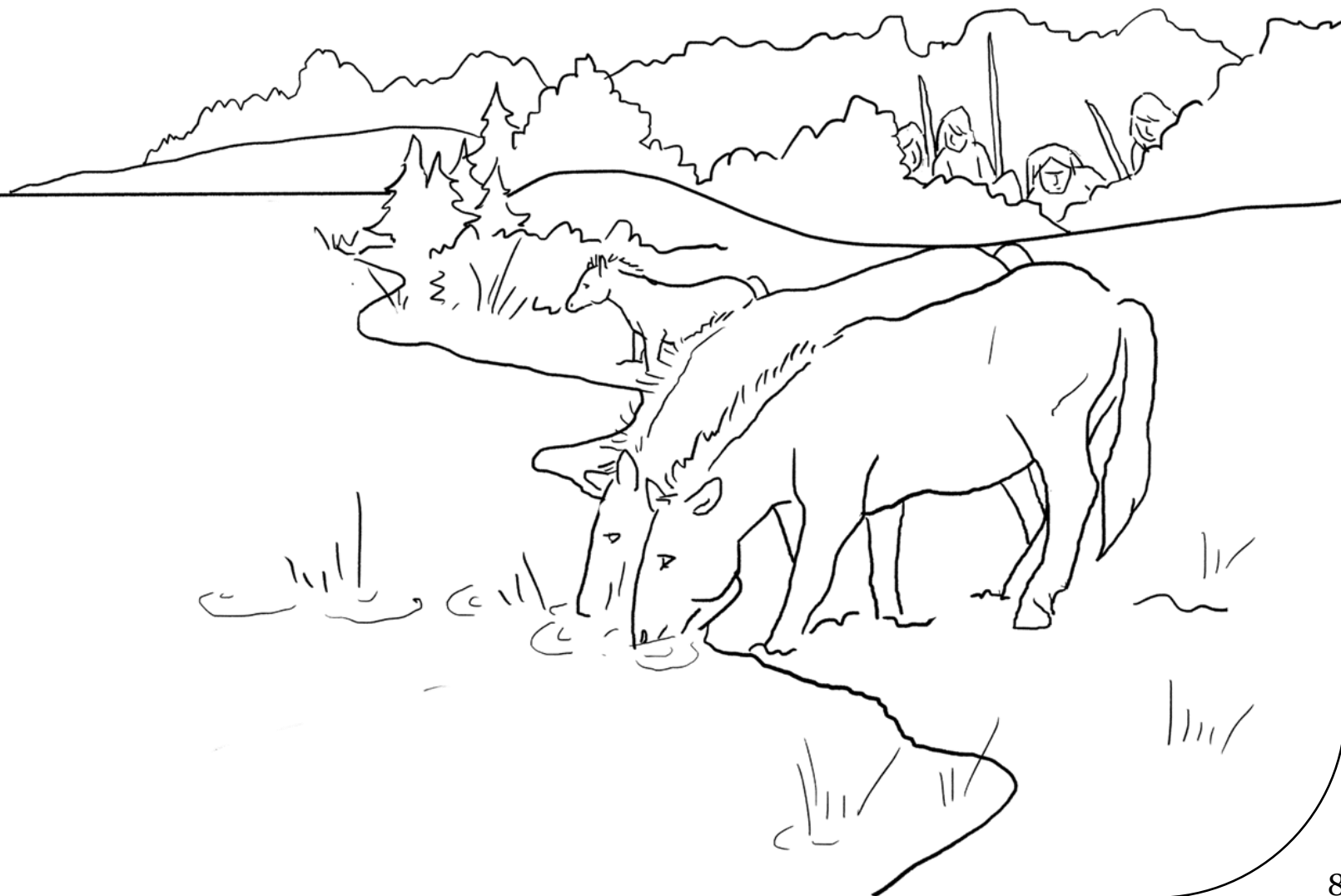


Warm, forested landscape



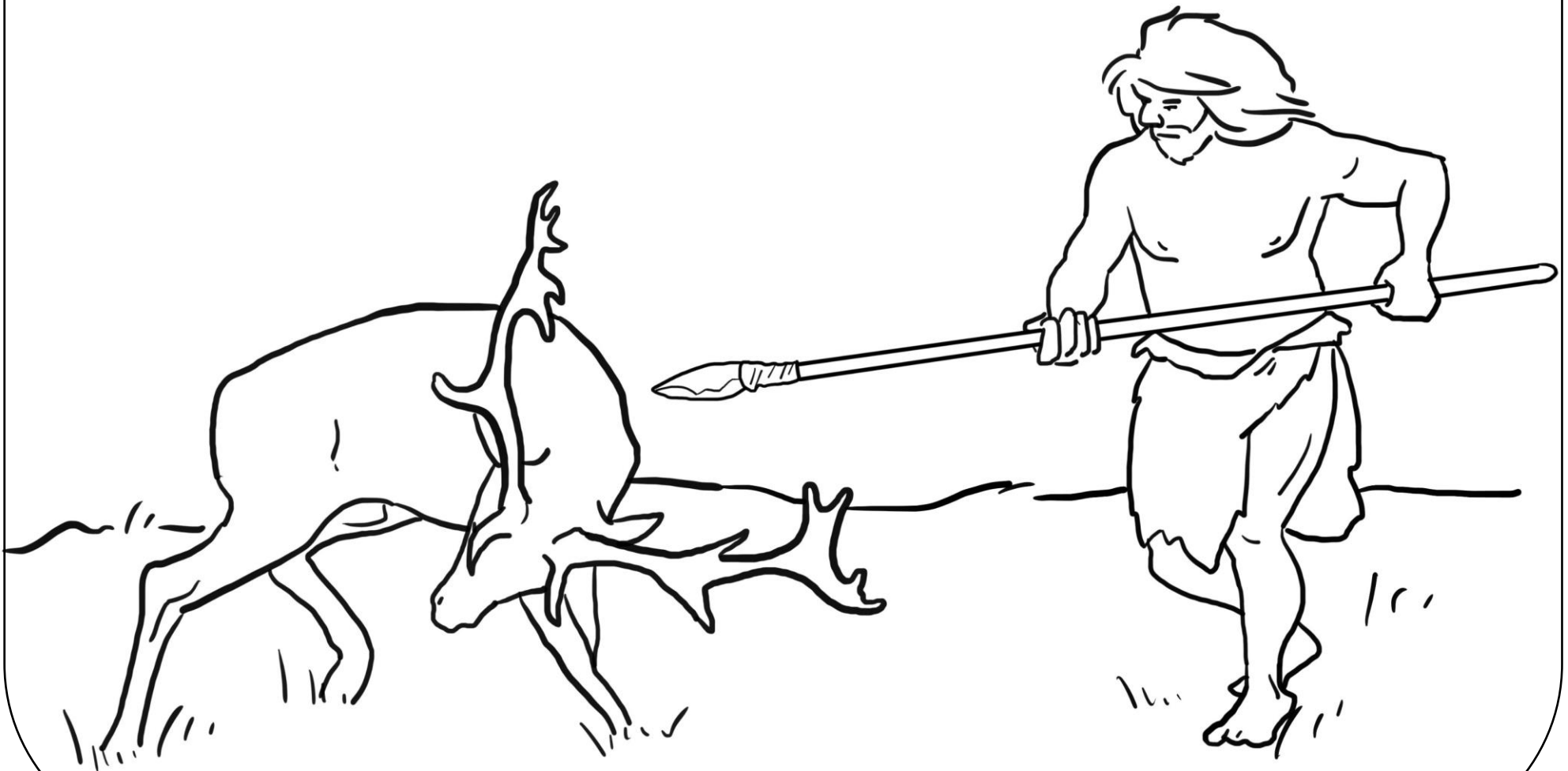
To be able to survive Neanderthals had to hunt and eat animals. They mainly ate horses, bison and deer. One of the ways they would catch these animals is to wait for them at lakes, where the animals would come together to drink water.

Colour the scene below and can you count the number of horses and the number of Neanderthals?



Neanderthals would hunt using wooden spears, sometimes with a stone point attached to the tip to make a bigger, deadlier wound.

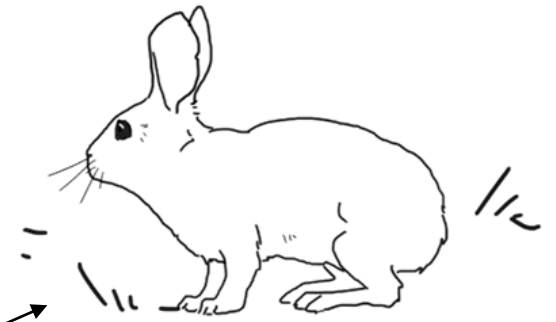
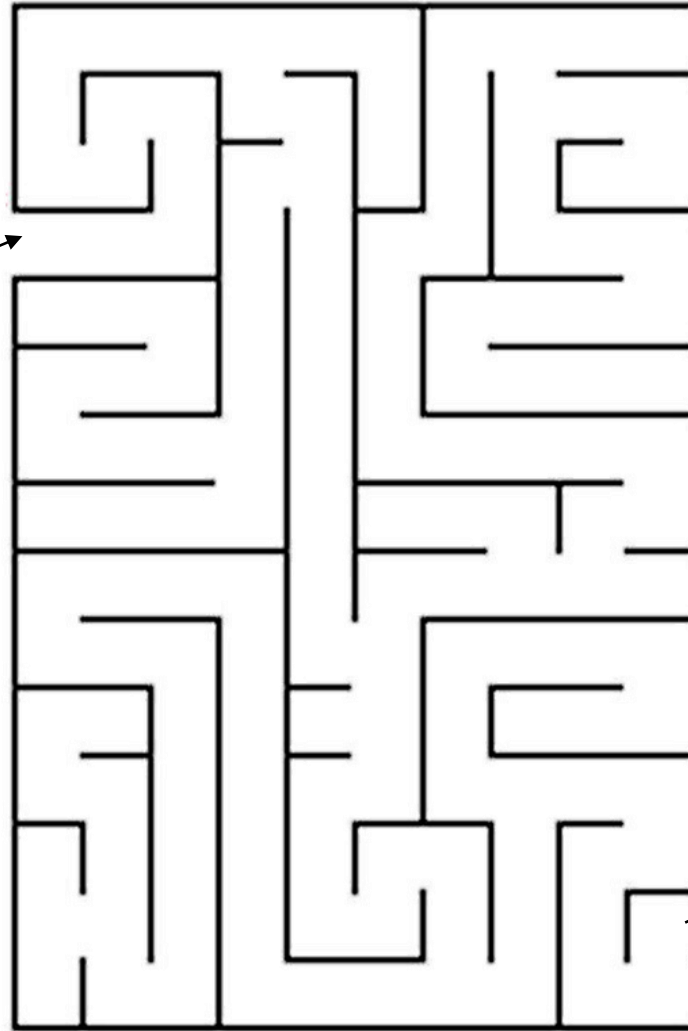
Colour this scene of a Neanderthal thrusting a stone-tipped spear into a deer.



Besides hunting deer, bison and horses, Neanderthals would sometimes also catch other animals.
Can you colour this plate following the numbered colour code and see what dangerous animal this Neanderthal is about to surprise?



Archaeologists have also found bones of smaller animals at Neanderthal sites, like rabbits, birds and fish.
Some of these bones have cut marks left by stone tools, showing that Neanderthals ate these animals.
Help this Neanderthal find her way through the maze to catch the rabbit.



Back at camp, Neanderthals would make stone tools for cutting meat, repair their spears, and eat plants and fruits that they collected as well as the meat and marrow from the animals they had hunted.

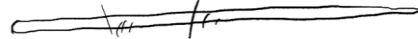
Can you find the following hidden objects on this page:



Stone tool



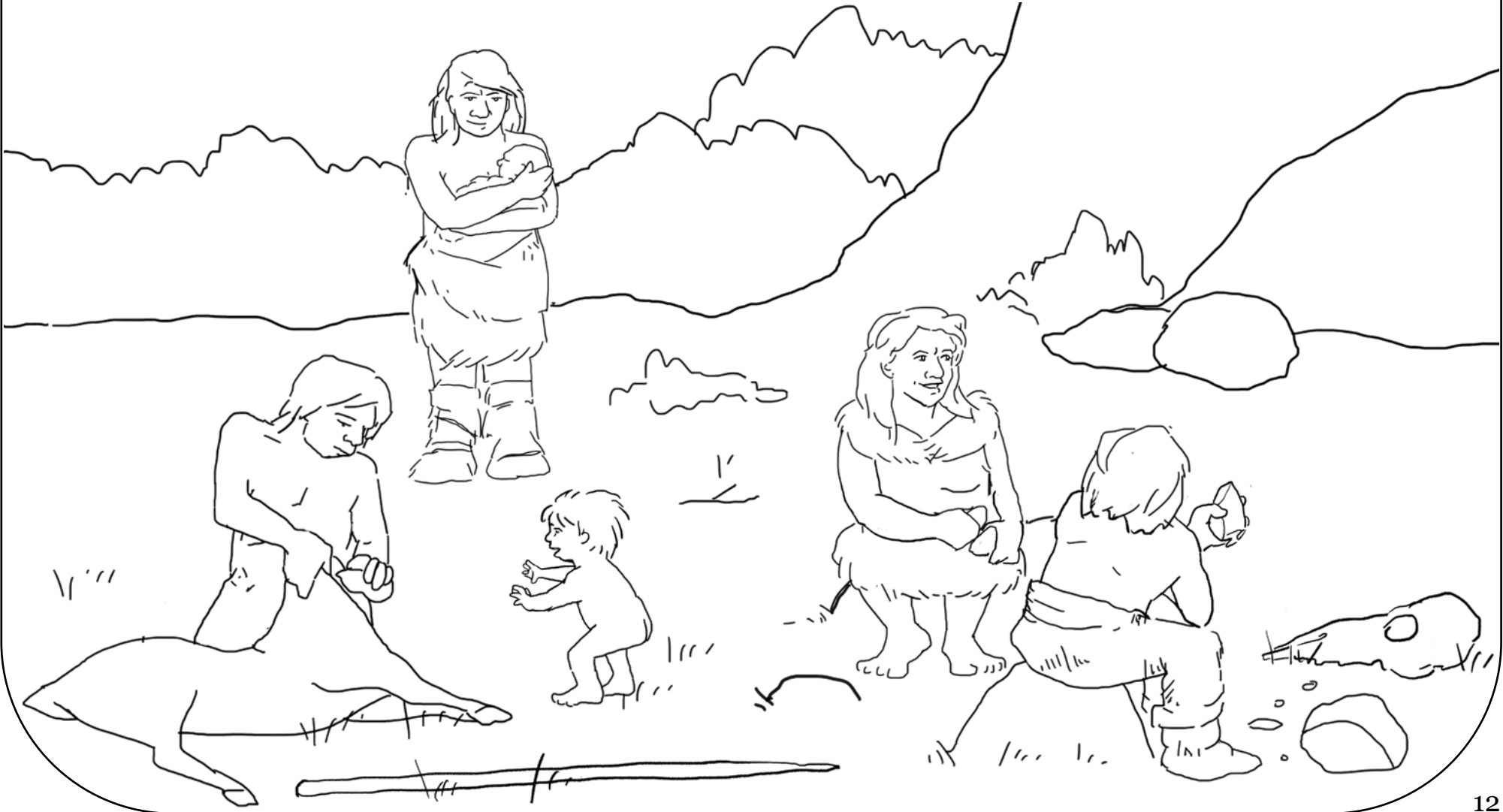
Animal skull



Wooden spear

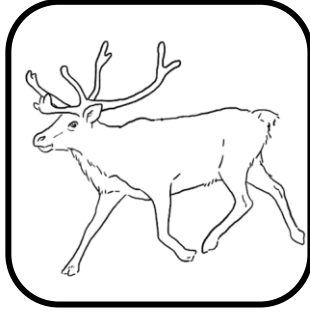
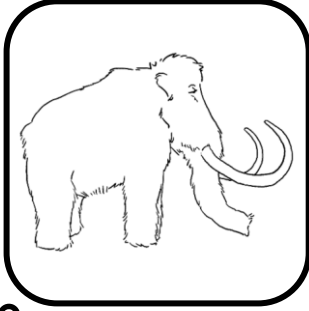
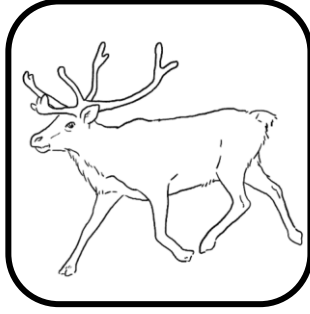
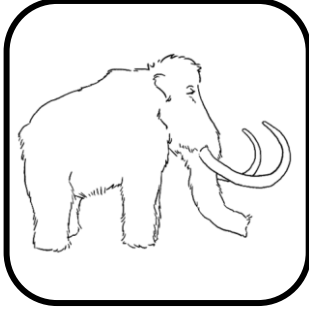
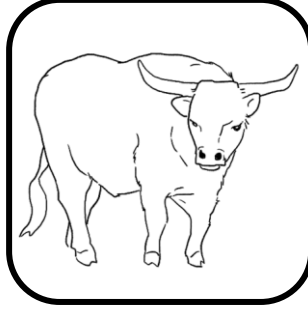
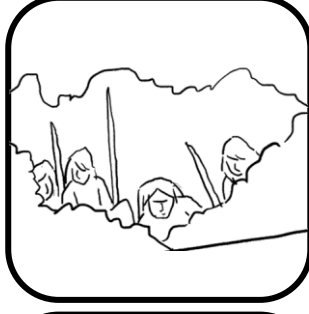
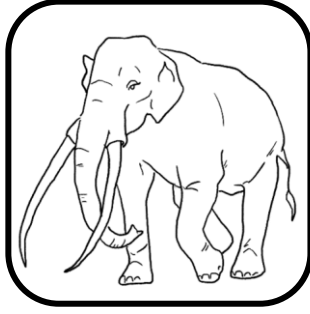
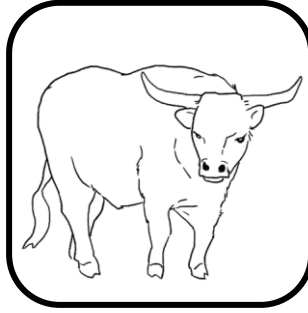
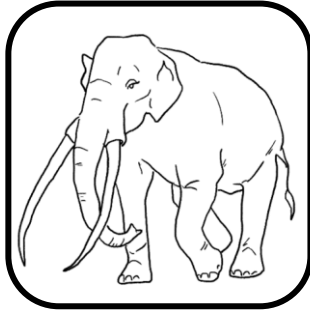


Baby Neanderthal



Memory game

Cut out the tiles below, turn them round and try to find two of the same!



Solutions

- Page 3: the archaeologist is excavating a horse skull next to a wooden spear (as has been found at the site of Schöningen in Germany)
- Page 4: it is a woolly mammoth!
- Page 6: reindeer, woolly mammoths and woolly rhinoceros belong in the cold open landscape.
- Page 7: red deer, aurochs and elephants lived in warmer, forested environments.
- Page 8: there are three horses and four Neanderthals.
- Page 10: the Neanderthal is about to surprise a hibernating cave bear.

Tip for the memory game: stick the page with the tiles on another sheet of (coloured) paper or card before cutting them out so the tiles become less transparent.

We hope this activity pack has sparked your child's interest in Neanderthals and archaeology.

To follow up, we would highly recommend a visit to your local Natural History Museum to learn more about extinct animals and human evolution. The closest one to Leipzig is the fabulous *Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte* in Halle (<https://www.landmuseum-vorgeschichte.de/>).

Online resources:

<https://www.neanderthal.de/de/neanderthaler.html> (information about Neanderthals for kids including stories to listen to, colouring pages, arts and craft activities (in German)).

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/who-were-the-neanderthals.html> (introduction to the world of Neanderthals).

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Book recommendations:

Caveman Sticker Book - Usborne Activities

Stone Age Bone Age! a book about prehistoric people by Mick Manning and Brita Granström

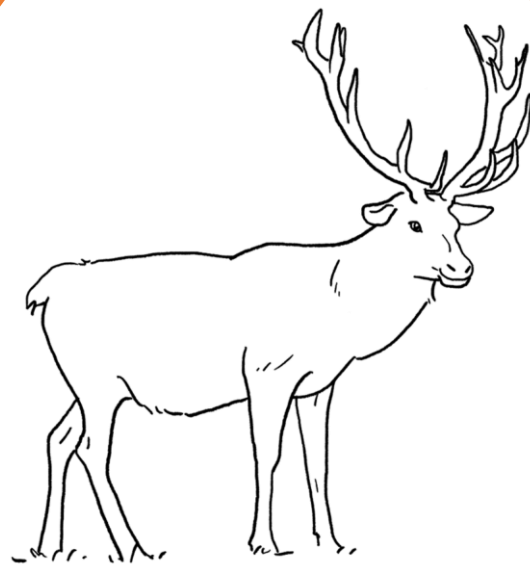
Cave Baby by Julia Donaldson and Emily Gravett

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal by Jeffrey Brown

Comments or feedback?

You can contact us by filling in the form on our Neanderthal hunting website:

<https://neanderthalseminars.wixsite.com/home/contact>



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