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| Age | Time Period | Settlements | Housing | Food | Tools | Clothes |
| ***Palaeolithic***  (Old Stone Age) | **Up to 10,000 - 7000 BC**  **‘Nomads’** | None: nomadic hunter-gatherers | None -  Cave dwellers. | Meat of large animals.  Did not know how to grow crops or farm. Hunted animals in groups | Stone tools, very rudimentary.  Sharpened stones. | Basic garments made from animal skins |
| ***Mesolithic***  (Middle Stone Age) | **7000 – 4000 BC**  **‘Hunter-gatherers’**  **‘Nomads’** | Lived near rivers, lakes and/ or coasts  Mount Sandel, Co. Derry | Made of saplings, interwoven with other branches and covered by skins, grass, bushes or leaves  **Hearth** (fireplace) in centre of the house | Deer, pigs, salmon.  Hazelnuts, apples  Cooked food on spits | Scrapers, arrowheads & hand axes made from ***microliths –*** flintstones and stone axes | Clothes made from animal skins |
| ***Neolithic***  (New Stone Age) | **4000 – 2300 BC**  **‘Farmers’** | First farmers.  Lough Gur, Co. Limerick.  Céide Fields, Co. Mayo.  PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS | Rectangular in shape. Timber poles driven in ground with stones holding them in place.  Wattle & Daub used to seal the walls. Thatched roof with a hole in centre acting as a chimney. | Grew crops, & domesticated animals e.g. cattle, pigs, sheep.  Grew wheat & barley: for bread & porridge.  Ploughed the land and made stone borders around fields. | **Mattocks** (for breaking up hard ground)  **Wooden ploughs**  **Polished Stone Axes, bows & arrows, spears.** | Animal skins.  Wool was spun to make woolen clothes. |

**Neolithic Burial Customs**

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| Type | Description | Photo |
| ***Court Cairns*** | Semi-circular court (open space), with an entrance leading to a passage and a burial chamber.  Large upright stones formed the entrance.  Passage & chamber covered with a ‘**cairn**’; a mound of smaller stones.  Bodies cremated and placed in pots inside the chamber. |  |
| ***Portal Dolmens*** | Three large upright stones supported a capstone (**Dolmen**).  Some capstones over 40 tonnes in weight. Two large upright stones acted as **portals** (doorways) with third upright stone at the back. Bodies cremated and placed in pots inside the chamber. |  |
| ***Passage Tombs*** | A Circular mound that covers a long passage leading to a burial chamber.  Large upright stones form the passageway with large capstones which hold up the roof.  **Corbelled roof.** Roof-box over the entrance doorway (sunlight on 21st December enters and lights up the entire chamber. |  |

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| **Microlith** | Microliths are small stones and pieces of flint used in tools |
| **Megalith** |  |
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