

The Stone Age Artist



A cold wind blew into the cave but Red Fingers didn't shiver. She was a cavegirl and cavegirls didn't feel the cold. She bent down to look at her painting. It was getting dark but the sun lit it up with an orange glow.

Fire Man walked up to Red Fingers. He had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like deer antlers. He was telling her about the deer he was cooking for dinner but Red Fingers wasn't hungry. She shook her head and tapped her finger into some paint. She rubbed it into her painting.

Fire Man made a noise and patted his belly. "Eat," he seemed to say.



Red Fingers shook her head again. She dipped another finger into the paint.

"Eat," Fire Man repeated. He rubbed his hands together and blew on them. Then, he flicked his arms into the air. He was trying to show Red Fingers that he was making a fire to cook their meal.

Even though she was hungry, Red Fingers didn't want to eat. She wanted to finish her painting and wished Fire Man would leave her alone.

All day, Fire Man had been hunting for food. He had returned carrying a deer with beautiful antlers.

She could hear Fire Man grumbling to the others but she didn't care. She held a red rock over her paint and scraped at it with a stone. Tiny bits of dust fell off like rain and she watched as they spread into her mixture. Red Fingers then spat into the paint, mixing it all together with a stick.

The smell of food cooking made Red Fingers stop for a moment. The Old Woman walked up to her, holding something. She held out her hand and gave Red Fingers a piece of warm meat.

Red Fingers sniffed it, then took a bite. She was hungrier than she thought. The meat tasted so good



and she felt bad for ignoring Fire Man.

It was getting dark and the Old Woman hobbled off. Wolves howled outside as Red Fingers looked at her painting. It was a picture of a deer with beautiful antlers.

That night, Red Fingers thought about all her other cave paintings. She wondered if her children might one day get to see them.

A cold wind blew and Red Fingers pulled her fur skin tight. She was soon asleep, dreaming of wolves, mammoths and the deer with beautiful antlers.



Questions

1. Why didn't Red Fingers shiver? Tick **one**.

- because it was getting dark
- because she liked the sun
- because she was a cavegirl and cavegirls don't shiver
- because the wind was warm

2. What animal did Fire Man try to act like?

3. What did Fire Man do when he made a noise? Tick **one**.

- grumble
- pat his belly
- dip his finger in the paint
- hunt

4. Why do you think Red Fingers spat? Give evidence to help explain your answer.

5. Draw a line to match the sentence with the correct ending.

Wolves howled outside

She held a red rock over
her paint

She was hungrier

and scraped at it with a
stone.

than she thought.

as Red Fingers looked at
her painting.

6. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	"Eat," Fire Man repeated.
	Tiny bits of dust fell down like rain.
	Fire Man walked up to Red Fingers.
1	A cold wind blew into the cave.
	Wolves howled outside.

7. **It was getting dark and the Old Woman hobbled off.**

What word could you use instead of **hobbled**?

Answers

1. Why didn't Red Fingers shiver? Tick **one**.

- because it was getting dark
- because she liked the sun
- because she was a cavegirl and cavegirls don't shiver**
- because the wind was warm

2. What animal did Fire Man try to act like?

Fire Man tried to act like a deer.

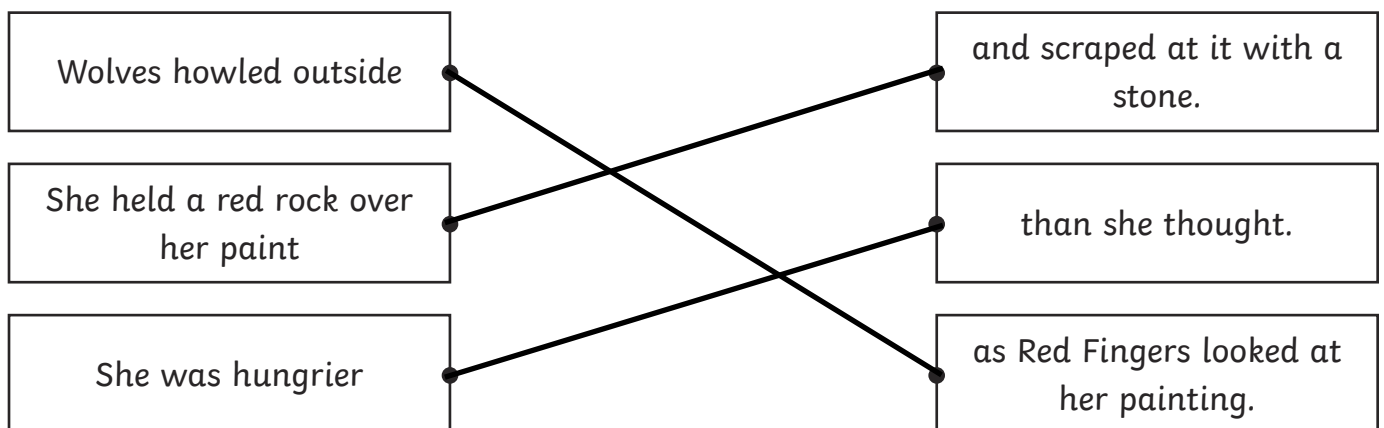
3. What did Fire Man do when he made a noise? Tick **one**.

- grumble
- pat his belly**
- dip his finger in the paint
- hunt

4. Why do you think Red Fingers spat? Give evidence to help explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It says that Red Fingers mixed it all together with a stick so I think Red Fingers spat because she wanted her paint to be more runny.

5. Draw a line to match the sentence with the correct ending.



6. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

3	"Eat," Fire Man repeated.
4	Tiny bits of dust fell down like rain.
2	Fire Man walked up to Red Fingers.
1	A cold wind blew into the cave.
5	Wolves howled outside.

7. **It was getting dark and the Old Woman hobbled off.**

What word could you use instead of **hobbled**?

Pupil's own responses, such as: You could use walked/hopped/limped.

The Stone Age Artist



A cold wind blew but Red Fingers didn't shiver. She pulled her fur skin tight around her shoulders and bent down to look at her painting. The sun was low in the sky, lighting the cave with a bright, orange glow.

A voice called out. Red Fingers turned to see Fire Man walking towards her. He had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like antlers.

Red Fingers grunted and shook her head. She tapped her finger into some brown-red paint and rubbed it along the outline of her artwork.

Fire Man mumbled something and patted his belly. "Eat," he seemed to say.



Red Fingers shook her head again and dipped another finger into the paint.

"Eat," Fire Man repeated. He rubbed his hands together and blew on them. Then he flicked his arms into the air. He was trying to tell her about the fire he was making to cook their meal.

Red Fingers felt annoyed and her lip curled up. She waited for Fire Man to leave before carrying on with her painting.

All day Fire Man had been hunting in the icy wastelands searching for food. He had returned with the others, carrying a beast with magnificent antlers on his back. She was hungry but Red Fingers didn't want to eat. Her painting was far more important.

She could hear Fire Man grunting and grumbling to the others but she didn't care. She held a red-looking rock over her paint and scraped at it with a stone. Tiny fragments of dust sprinkled down like rain and she watched as they spread into her mixture. Red Fingers then spat into the paint, mixing it all together with a stick.

Red Fingers could smell the food and her stomach



rumbled. The Old One came hobbling towards her and she greeted Red Fingers with a whistle-like grunt. In her hand was a slice of meat. She offered it to Red Fingers. Red Fingers waited, then accepted the gift. She bit in and nodded thankfully. She was hungrier than she thought. The Old One gave her a toothless smile before hobbling away again. Even though Red Fingers was busy, the Old One was right to make her eat.



As darkness came, Red Fingers turned back to her picture, brushing the rock with her painted fingertips.

Pack hunters howled outside as she sat back to view her work. Red Fingers could just about see her painting in the gloom. It was a beast with magnificent antlers running free across the icy wastelands.

That night, as she stared at the stars, Red Fingers thought about all her other cave paintings. She wondered how long they would last for and whether her children – or even her children's children – might one day get to see them.

A cold wind blew and Red Fingers pulled her fur skin tight. Soon, she was asleep, dreaming of pack hunters, night creatures and the beast with magnificent antlers.

Questions

1. What time of day do you think it is at the start of the story? Explain why you think this.

2. Fire Man had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like antlers. What animal was Fire Man trying to act like? Tick **one**.

- woolly mammoth
- sabre-toothed tiger
- cow
- deer

3. **Red Fingers shook her head again.**

Why did Red Fingers shake her head?

4. Why had Fire Man been in the icy wastelands?

5. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	Red Fingers tapped her finger into some brown-red paint.
	Red Fingers spat into her paint.
	Fire Man said, "Eat."
	Red Fingers stared at the stars.
1	The sun was low in the sky, lighting the cave with a bright, orange glow.

6. Link the characters to the word that describes them best.

Red Fingers ●

Fire Man ●

Old One ●

● hunter

● carer

● artist

7. Why do you think Red Fingers is called Red Fingers? Give reasons in your answer.

8. Why do you think Red Fingers dreamt of the beast with magnificent antlers? Tick **two**.

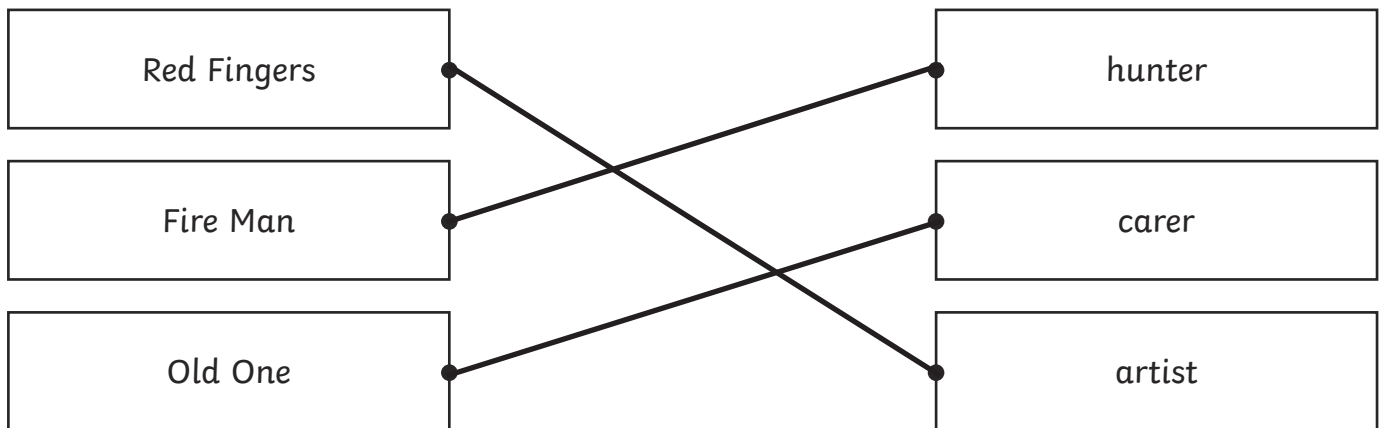
- It inspired her.
- She was scared of it.
- Fire Man liked it.
- She was full of respect for it.

Answers

- What time of day do you think it is at the start of the story? Explain why you think this.
Pupils' own responses, such as: It was late afternoon/evening. I know this because it says the sun was low in the sky. This happens at the beginning and end of the day. Later on, it says 'as darkness came', which shows me that at the start of the story it was just before it went dark.
- Fire Man had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like antlers. What animal was Fire Man trying to act like? Tick **one**.
 - woolly mammoth
 - sabre-toothed tiger
 - cow
 - deer
- Red Fingers shook her head again.**
Why did Red Fingers shake her head?
Red Fingers shook her head because she didn't want to eat anything and wanted Fire Man to go away.
- Why had Fire Man been in the icy wastelands?
Fire Man was searching for food and hunting in the icy wastelands.
- Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

2	Red Fingers tapped her finger into some brown-red paint.
4	Red Fingers spat into her paint.
3	Fire Man said, "Eat."
5	Red Fingers stared at the stars.
1	The sun was low in the sky, lighting the cave with a bright, orange glow.

6. Link the characters to the word that describes them best.



7. Why do you think Red Fingers is called Red Fingers? Give reasons in your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think Red Fingers is called Red Fingers because she paints a lot and uses her fingers. It says that she uses brown-red paint and I think her hands must always be painted that colour so that's why it's her name.

8. Why do you think Red Fingers dreamt of the beast with magnificent antlers? Tick **two**.

- It inspired her.**
- She was scared of it.
- Fire Man liked it.
- She was full of respect for it.**

The Stone Age Artist



A cold wind blew but Red Fingers didn't shiver. Instead, she pulled her fur skin tight around her shoulders and crouched to view her painting. The sun was low in the sky, lighting the cave up with a bright, orange glow.

A voice called out. Red Fingers turned to see Fire Man lumbering towards her. He had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like antlers.

Red Fingers grunted with a shake of her head. She dabbed a finger into a small pool of brownish-red paint and gently rubbed it along the outline of her artwork.



Fire Man mumbled something and patted his belly. "Eat," he seemed to say.

Red Fingers shook her head again and dipped a second finger into the paint.

"Eat," Fire Man repeated. He rubbed his hands together and blew on them. Then, he flicked his arms into the air. He was trying to tell her about the fire he was making to cook their meal.

Red Fingers didn't look up. Her mouth curled, irritably. She waited for Fire Man to leave before continuing with her work.

All day, Fire Man had been wandering across the icy wastelands searching for food. He had returned carrying a beast with magnificent antlers on his back. Although she was hungry, Red Fingers didn't want to eat. Her painting was far too important.

She could hear Fire Man grunting and grumbling to the others but she didn't care. She held an earthy-looking rock over her paint and scraped at it with a stone. Tiny fragments of dust sprinkled down like red rain and she watched as they spread into her mixture. Red Fingers then spat into the paint, blending it together with a stick.



The smell of sizzling food wafted through the cave and Red Fingers' stomach rumbled. The Old One came hobbling towards her. She greeted Red Fingers with a whistle-like grunt and bent over her younger cave dweller. In her hand was a slice of the food Fire Man had been cooking. She offered it to Red Fingers. Red Fingers hesitated, then accepted the gift. She bit into the meat and nodded thankfully. It tasted so good. The Old One gave her a toothless smile before hobbling away. She had been right to insist that Red Fingers ate.



As darkness spilled into the cave, Red Fingers turned back to her painting, brushing the cold rock with her fingertips.

Pack hunters howled across the mountains as she sat back to view her work. Lit with a dull, orange glow, her picture showed a beast with magnificent antlers. It was running free across the icy wastelands.

That night, as she stared at the stars, Red Fingers thought about all her other cave paintings. She wondered how many winters they would last for and whether her children – or even her children's children – might one day get to see them.

A cold wind blew and Red Fingers pulled her fur skin tightly around her shoulder. Soon she was asleep, dreaming of pack hunters, night creatures and the beast with magnificent antlers.

Questions

1. **Red Fingers turned to see Fire Man lumbering towards her.** What words or phrases with similar meanings could replace **lumbering**? Tick **two**.

- walking awkwardly
- running
- walking slowly
- walking angrily

2. **“Eat,” he seemed to say.**

Why do you think it says ‘**seemed** to say’ instead of just ‘said’ to describe the way Fire Man spoke?

3. **Red Fingers didn’t look up. Her mouth curled irritably.**

What does this say about the way Red Fingers is feeling at this point? Explain your answer.

4. Why do you think Red Fingers is called Red Fingers and Fire Man is called Fire Man?

5. Why did Red Fingers spit into the paint?

6. What type of animal do you think the **beast with magnificent antlers** is?

7. Join the boxes to correctly describe the characters' feelings about things.

Red Fingers was full of respect for this

Fire Man was good at this

Old One was happy about this

eating

beast

hunting

8. Why do you think Red Fingers dreamt of the beast with magnificent antlers?

Answers

1. **Red Fingers turned to see Fire Man lumbering towards her.** What words or phrases with similar meanings could replace **lumbering**? Tick **two**.

- walking awkwardly**
 running
 walking slowly
 walking angrily

2. **“Eat,” he seemed to say.**

Why do you think it says ‘**seemed** to say’ instead of just ‘said’ to describe the way Fire Man spoke?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think it says ‘seemed’ to say as Fire Man probably can’t talk very well so it just sounded like ‘eat’.

3. **Red Fingers didn’t look up. Her mouth curled irritably.**

What does this say about the way Red Fingers is feeling at this point? Explain your answer.

Pupils’ own responses, such as: Red Fingers is feeling annoyed at this point. Her lip curls which is something people sometimes do when they get angry, plus she didn’t look up which shows she didn’t want Fire Man there.

4. Why do you think Red Fingers is called Red Fingers and Fire Man is called Fire Man?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think they are named after the things they do. Red Fingers paints with her fingers so they are probably always covered in red paint and Fire Man makes lots of fires.

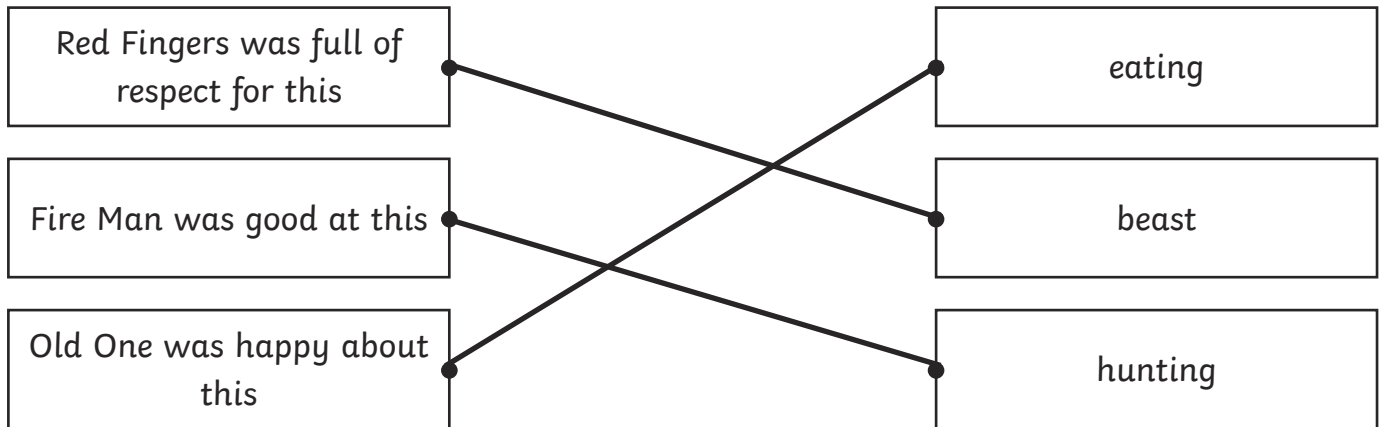
5. Why did Red Fingers spit into the paint?

Red Fingers spat into the paint to make it runnier.

6. What type of animal do you think the **beast with magnificent antlers** is?

Pupils’ own responses, such as: I think the beast with magnificent antlers is a deer as they have antlers.

7. Join the boxes to correctly describe the characters' feelings about things.



8. Why do you think Red Fingers dreamt of the beast with magnificent antlers?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Fire Man hunted the beast with magnificent antlers and Red Fingers spent a lot of time painting it so it was on her mind a lot. That may be one reason why she dreamt of it. She was also inspired by the beast. That's why she drew it.