NEEDS and WANTS

NEEDS refer to those things which are essential to maintain life (necessities), such as food, water, clothing and shelter. They are based on an instinctive or biological basis; if we do not have it we will die. The term WANTS has a wider meaning. It includes not only our needs but also all the materials we desire in our lives that are not essential for our survival (luxuries). Wants are based on habit, culture, age, maturity, taste, fashion and so on. So, for example, while we NEED food, we might WANT a pizza or spaghetti. While we NEED clothes to protect us against the elements (wind, rain, cold etc.), we might WANT a pair of jeans or thongs. An object such as a car or mobile phone, however, is a WANT since humans can and do survive without it. Needs and wants can be satisfied by using natural resources.

Early human societies spent much of their day simply trying to satisfy their NEEDS and as such, had very little time to satisfy their WANTS. The most basic needs which had to be satisfied were food and water. Early humans had a wide variety of plant and animal foods available to them. What they ate and how much food was available to them depended on the weather, their location and the seasons. Early human societies are often called Hunter-Gatherer peoples because of the two main ways which people satisfied their need for food. Successful hunting and gathering depended on knowledge of the area, what plants and parts of animals could be eaten, athletic ability and coordination. Groups often planned their movements to follow the movement of the herds and the growth of plants. Although food was available at most times, there were occasions where they may not have had a successful hunt, or insects had made berries and fruits inedible. On these occasions people shared so that no-one would go without food. To satisfy their need for water, groups of people often followed rivers and stayed near lakes where water (and food) was plentiful. Unlike today, hunter-gatherer societies made the most out of everything they consumed. Have a look at SOURCE 1 for details on how to make the most of a mammoth.

Because their nomadic lifestyle meant they only stayed in a place for a few days or a week at a time, constructing permanent shelters seemed pointless and more time was devoted to hunting and gathering. Hunter-gatherer groups would most likely find natural shelters such as caves, trees and clumps of bushes to protect them from the sun, wind and rain. Otherwise, they would use whatever natural resources were around them to construct a shelter. Branches could be placed against a tall rock and covered with bark and leaves to create a lean-to shelter. The ground could be made more comfortable by putting down grass, leaves or animal fur. Warmth could be obtained by building fires or huddling close together. Clothing was often made from a mixture of animal furs, human hair and woven plant fibers such as long grass and reeds. Clothing in hotter areas was kept to a minimum and generally consisted of a simple lion-cloth tied around the waist. However, in colder areas it was vital to make heavier, layered clothing to keep in the warmth. Undergarments, trousers, shirts, coats and cloaks all stuffed with dry grass or leaves would keep people in these areas warm. Coating the clothing with animal fats would also make them waterproof.

WANTS for hunter-gatherer societies consisted of things which made getting their NEEDS met easier. Nets, baskets, water-skins, tools, back-packs, weapons and needles made hunter-gatherer lives easier by helping them catch or carry their food and water. The creation of these items gave these societies a very precious thing – time. Time was important because it allowed people to make other WANTS and make their life even easier. Objects such as rafts, traps and sledges would have taken a fair amount of time to make, but would have also made the collection of fish, meat and carrying things much easier. Time also allowed people to become better at doing things like crafting spears, tanning leather or making clothes, which in turn would make more time available to do other things.
MAKE THE MOST OF A MAMMOTH

MAMMOTS ARE EASY to spot, but as everyone knows, they're very difficult to catch. That's all the more reason to make the best use of freshly killed mammoth when you've got one. The Stone Age News offers some handy hints on how to make the most of your mammoth.

1. MEAT
   - Eat it raw or roasted.
   - Leave a large piece of meat to simmer over a low heat.
   - Cook it slowly, stirring occasionally.
   - Make a sauce of your choice to accompany the meat.
   - Use the meat for soups, stews, or as a filling for pies.

2. BONES
   - Use the bones to make a strong frame for a house.
   - Use the bones to make weapons and tools.
   - Use the bones to make a seat or a table.

3. HIDE
   - Make a hide to cover your body.
   - Use the hide to make a sail or a bag.
   - Use the hide to make a tent or a shelter.

4. TONGUE
   - Use the tongue to make a rubber band.
   - Use the tongue to make a rope.
   - Use the tongue to make a string.

5. BRAINS
   - Use the brains to make a glue for when you're repairing something.
   - Use the brains to make a paste for when you're making food.
   - Use the brains to make a paint for when you're making art.

6. TUSKS
   - Use the tusks to make a spear.
   - Use the tusks to make a club.
   - Use the tusks to make a tool.

7. SNEWS
   - Use the snot to make a glue for when you're repairing something.
   - Use the snot to make a paste for when you're making food.
   - Use the snot to make a paint for when you're making art.

Source 1: The Stone Age News by Fiona MacDonald
Imagine you are living as a member of a hunter-gatherer group back in the Stone Age. What natural resources would you use to help satisfy your needs and how would you use them?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Natural Resource used</th>
<th>How would I use the resource to satisfy the need?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The picture below shows an area where your group has moved to. Indicate on the picture where the most likely places to find your natural resources would be.

You have time to make one of your WANTS. What would you make, what natural resources would you use and how would you make it?

____________________________________________________________________________________________

My _______________________________