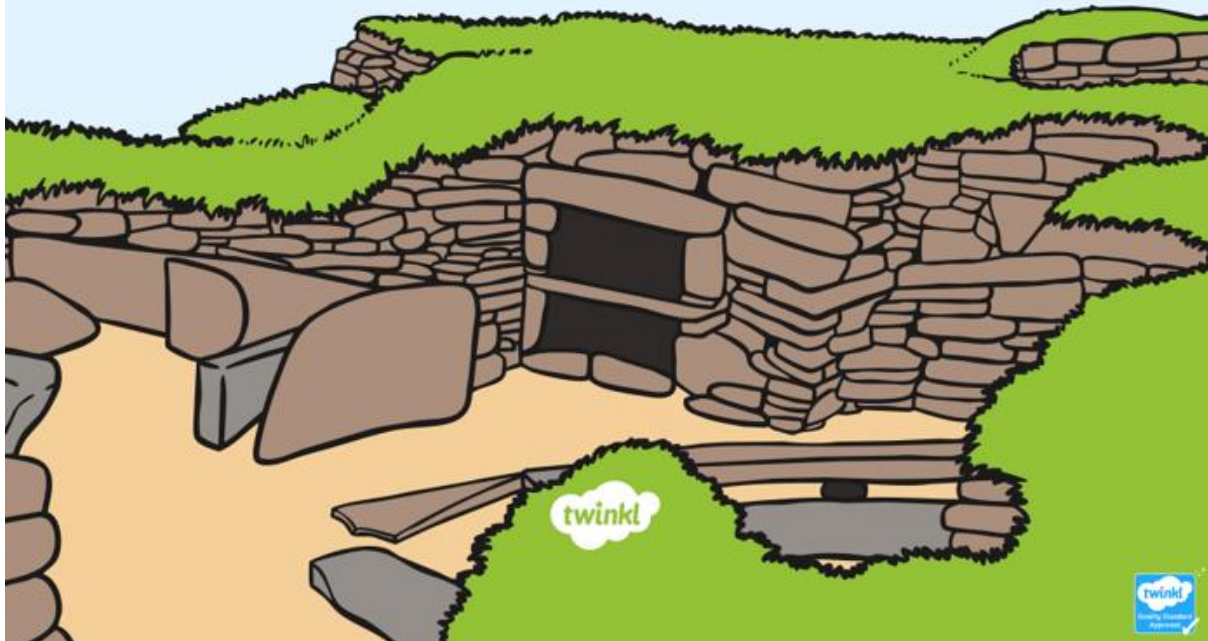


Skara Brae

A Stone Age village on the island of Orkney



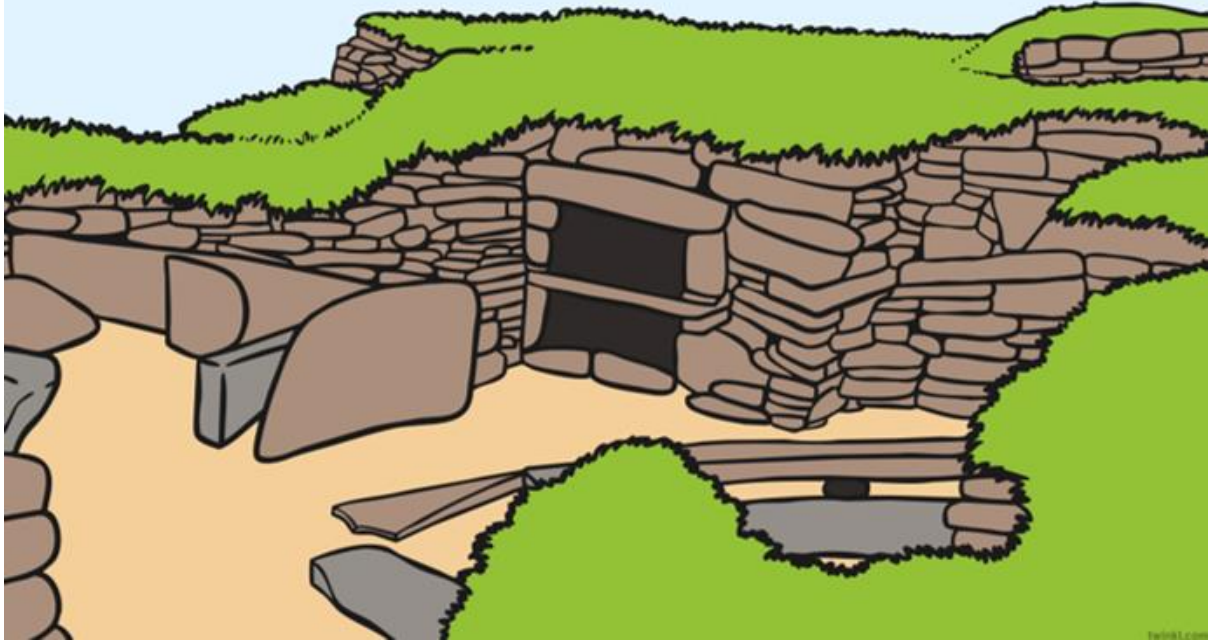
Orkney: Where Is That?

Orkney is a group of islands, 10 miles from the north coast of Scotland.

Orkney is made up of over 70 islands but people only live on 20 of them.



Skara Brae is a very old village on the largest island of Orkney.
The site is a special place that is very important to historians.



The New Stone Age

Skara Brae was built thousands of years ago at the very end of the Stone Age.

Thousands of years ago, people lived very differently to how we do now and they didn't have many of the things that we have today.

They didn't use metal tools to build things because metal tools hadn't been made yet!



Skara Brae's Story

Skara Brae was hidden underground for many years.

People didn't know that the village was even buried there. They just thought there was a large hill!

During a strong storm, the sea and wind washed away the grass and sand. This revealed the remains of four stone age houses.

Years later, four more houses were found.



What Happened Next?

Excavation work was done and more of the buildings were uncovered.

'Excavation' means that people called archaeologists carefully dig, brush and search through every part of a site to see what remains there are.



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What Is at Skara Brae Today?

At Skara Brae now, we can see the remains of 8 ancient houses, joined together by low, covered passages.

For over 4000 years, the houses were covered over with sand. This sand protected the houses from the weather so today they look almost like they did over 4000 years ago!

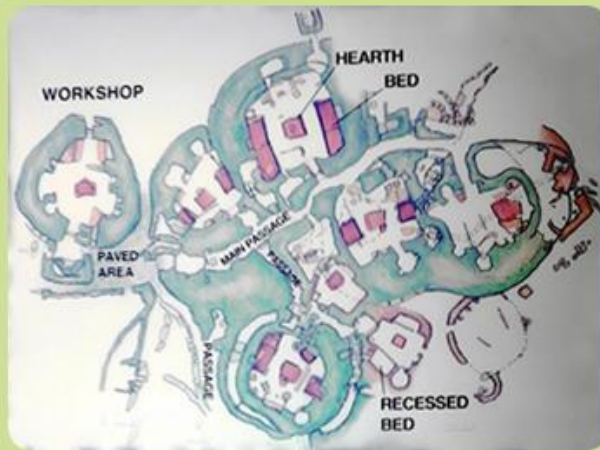


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The Houses Today



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The Houses

Each house had:

- one large, square room with a fire pit in the middle;
- a bed on each side of the room;
- a dresser with shelves.



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The Passages



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What Else Was Found?

Lots of ancient objects were found at Skara Brae.

Some weapons and axe-heads were found.

Statues, jewellery and paintings were also discovered.



The objects have been useful for archaeologists to learn about the people who lived there.

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Skara Brae Today

Today, lots of people visit Skara Brae to look at the amazing Stone Age houses.

Many tourists go to the Visitor's Centre to learn fantastic facts about the past.



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