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## Prehistoric Dice

A Timed Exercise by Sue Haffenden

A bored caveman carved the first die out of a bone, groping about in the dark of the cave listening to his children whining about being hungry and not been allowed out. He started by juggling the bones but this did not amuse the children for long as it was too dark to see more than a faint glimpse.

Running the bones through his hands he broke off a small chunk and began to shape it into a cube using a flint axe. After he had made a couple he decided to put markings on each of the faces. On one side he carved a bow and on another an axe. On the next cube he carved a variety of animals.

The next morning he took his two cubes outside the cave and tossed them on the ground. The first one landed with a bow face up, the second one showed a small chicken. His first son grabbed a bow and went hunting for a chicken, returning several hours later with the fowl slung over his shoulder and a grin from ear to ear. There was much laughter and back slapping and the cubes were used for the next few days with similar success.

On the eighth day there was some debate about what to call the small cubes. They all looked down as the cubes landed on the ground showing a stone as the weapon and a woolly mammoth as the prey.

Picking up a small stone the first caveman stumbled off into the trees. The others looked after him sadly.

It was then decided that the names of the small cubes should be called die.

