



DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE A HERO?

BRITAIN FROM STONE AGE TO IRON AGE



Important Archaeological sites



Stonehenge

Stonehenge is one of the world's most famous monuments. It stands on Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire, and its giant stones can be seen from miles around. Stonehenge was built over many hundreds of years, with work beginning in the Neolithic era of the Stone Age, around 3000 BC. Over the next thousand years, people made many changes to the



Skara Brae

Skara Brae is archaeological site built in Orkney, Scotland. Archeologists believe that it was built and occupied between 300 BC and 2500 BC, during the Neolithic era of the Stone Age. The artefacts discovered give us an insight into what life was like in Britain during that time. They can teach us how the Neolithic people built their homes, what work they did, the tools they used, the food they ate, and much more!

Fun Fact: The Stone Age covers the longest proportion of humanity's timeline. Roughly 99% of it!

Sticky Knowledge

The Stone Age

2.5 million years ago to 2300 BC

- The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age were three periods of history identified by the way people made tools and weapons.
- The Stone Age was the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilization 2.5 million years ago to around 5000 years ago.
- The Stone Age is often divided into three periods: Paleolithic (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age) and Neolithic (New Stone Age).
- During the Palaeolithic Age man gathered food by hunting wild animals and birds, fishing, and collecting fruits and nuts.
- During the Neolithic Age (towards end of the Stone Age), the humans formed settled communities, and domesticated plants and animals for the first time in history
- People in the Stone Age drew and carved paintings into the walls, these are known as cave paintings. They can give us an indication of what life was like back then.

The Bronze Age

From 2300 BC to 800 BC

- The Bronze Age is the name given to the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for tools and weapons.
- The Bronze Age followed the Stone Age.
- People had begun to settle, farm and keep domesticated animals.
- Humans lived in roundhouses that were built to a circular plan and had walls built of wood or stone and the filled with wattle and daub.
- Bronze was made by heating the metals, tin and copper and then mixing them together.

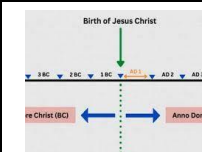
Iron Age

From 800 BC to 43

- The Bronze Age was followed by the Iron Age when tools and weapons were made of iron and became more advanced.
- During the Iron Age, people in organised tribal groups in hill forts. These were large settlements built on a hill.
- People that lived in Europe during the Iron Age were called 'Celts'.
- People lived off the land; they grew crops and reared animals for milk, meat and wool.
- The Iron Age marks the end of prehistory.

Subject Specific Vocabulary

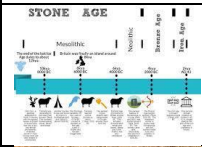
BC and AD



BC means Before Christ. A date such as 3000 BC means 3000 years before the year 1 AD (there was no year zero).

AD means Anno Domini in Latin which stands for 'in the year of our lord'. A date such as 2018 AD means 2018 years after Jesus was believed to have been born.

Chronology



Chronology means 'the study of time'. Putting things in chronological order means putting them in the order in which they happened.

Archaeologists



Archaeologists are people who learn about the past by digging up artefacts and studying them. As people in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age left no written records, we rely on archaeology to find out about the ways people lived during these periods of time. We refer to this time before the existence of written records as prehistory.

Culture



Cave paintings and carvings were prominent throughout the Stone Age. Art, dance and social traditions appear to have been formed by the Mesolithic era. By the Neolithic era, cave paintings moved beyond what was literally seen in the world to include moral/spiritual ideas.

Agriculture



Agriculture is the science of farming. It includes growing and harvesting crops and rearing livestock. Bronze age ploughs were more efficient than the earlier wooden ploughs, meaning that turning larger areas of soil was possible. During the Iron Age new crops started to be grown, like peas and flax. Livestock such as pigs, cattle and sheep were reared for meat.

Tools and Weapons



People during the Stone Age used tools such as stone axes, rocks and wooden spears which had tips hardened with fire to kill their food. Bronze was made by heating the metals tin and copper, and then mixing them together. They combined to form liquid bronze, which could be poured and moulded into different shapes. Bronze allowed for a greater range of tools and weapons. From 1200 BC, ironworking by blacksmiths became increasingly popular to make tools and weapons. Iron was made in rocks called iron ore and extremely high temperatures were required to make this into iron in charcoal-fired shaft furnaces.

Shelter/Housing



In the early **Stone Age** humans sheltered in caves. During the Neolithic era, houses were rectangular and constructed from timber. Some houses used wattle (woven wood) and daub (mud and straw) for the walls and had thatched roofs. During the **Bronze age**, humans lived in roundhouses that were built of wood or stone and the filled with wattle and daub. During the **Iron Age**, Britain was a violent place so many people lived on hill forts to keep themselves safe. Houses were typically one-roomed, with pointed thatched roofs and walls made from wattle and daub.

Hunter-gatherers



People who live in a society where food is collected by hunting wild animals or by searching for wild, edible plants.

Prehistoric



A time before historical records began.

Spirituality



Spirituality is the feeling, sense or belief that there is something greater than ourselves, something more to being human. This can involve both religious and non-religious beliefs.

Timeline

Choice

2.5 million years ago – Stone Age begins.

Power

13000 BC – People make cave paintings.

4500 BC to 3500 BC – Farming starts and begins to spread.

4000 BC to 3000 BC – People start to ride and use horses.

3000 BC to 2500 BC – Stonehenge is built.

2300 BC – Bronze Age begins.

1800 BC – The first copper mines are dug.

Spirituality

1200 BC to 800 BC – Metal tools are made and used.

800 BC – Iron Age begins.

100 BC – Coins are made and used for the first time.

43 AD – The Romans invade Britain, ending the Iron Age.