



Cave paintings



Stone-age tools

Year 3 – Stone Age to Iron Age



Stonehenge



Timeline

13,000 BC	4,500-3,500 BC	4,000-3,000 BC	2,500 BC	1,800 BC	1,200-800 BC	1,200-800 BC	800-700BC	700-500BC	AD43
Early humans make cave paintings	Farming starts to spread and pottery is made	People start to ride and use horses	Metals start to be used	The first copper mines are dug	Tribal kingdoms and Celtic culture	Metal tools are made and used	First hill forts are made	Iron is used a lot more than before	The final Roman invasion of Britain

Key Vocabulary

prehistory	A time in history before people wrote things down
hunter-gatherers	People who mainly live by hunting, fishing and gathering wild fruit.
cave paintings	Art work found in caves and shelters dating back to the Ice Age.
nomad/ic	Early Stone Age people who travelled and followed food sources.
archaeology/ist	People who excavate (dig up) and study objects from the past like bones, pottery and buildings.
domesticate	Neolithic humans were the first to domesticate dogs as pets, then sheep and goats for farming.
tools	Objects made from stone or metal for different purposes like chopping wood or as weapons.
settlement	A place where there were several shelters, like a small village.
artefact	An object made by humans, usually of historical interest, that has been excavated.
weapon	Axes, arrowheads and spears made from different materials, were used as weapons.
tribe	A group of people who live together, usually with one leader.
hill forts	Small towns built on a hill top surrounded by banks of soil and wooden walls to keep enemies out.

Did you know?

Stonehenge is a Neolithic monument in Wiltshire, England. It was built around 3,000BC.

Stone Age

The Stone Age is named after the material that the humans used for tools and is divided into three parts: the Paleolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic. The **Paleolithic** period was the longest period of human prehistory. During this time, humans were nomadic as they moved around from place to place hunting for food and living in caves for shelter. They used a stone called flint, which could be shaped into a sharp weapon or used as a tool for chopping wood. These artefacts have been excavated by archaeologists, to help us learn how early humans lived. In the **Mesolithic** period, humans became hunter-gatherers as they began foraging for wild fruits and nuts, while still hunting wild animals. The tools they made became smaller, more sophisticated and some humans lived in settlements. During the **Neolithic** period, settlements grew and humans lived together in larger groups. This led to domesticating and raising animals, growing crops and increased food production. Tool making improved and pottery making also became more common place in this period.

Bronze Age & Iron Age

The **Bronze Age** and **Iron Age** are when humans started to use metals for tools. Bronze metal was made from copper ore and tin, which was used to make tools in many different shapes than stone. Settlements grew larger and roundhouses were built in the Bronze Age.



Homes in the **Iron Age** became more advanced, with multiple rooms and stables. Iron was now used for making stronger tools. It was more readily available and easier to work with than bronze. Life in Iron Age Britain was often more violent so people lived in clans that were part of tribes led by warrior kings. Settlements called hill forts were built with strong defences, which provided safety for the people from their enemies.