



Stone Age to Iron Age

In this unit children will learn about how the Stone Age to Bronze Age period impacted on life in Britain. They will learn about how early man survived in a harsh environment, why Skara Brae was important for understanding life in the Stone Age, how copper mining was crucial to the Bronze Age and why Stonehenge was built. Children will also learn about why Iron Age people developed hillforts.

Timeline of key events

2,000,000 BC	First humans (Homo habilis) appear. They used simple stone tools & built shelters
1,600,000 BC	'Homo erectus' appears - They were skilful hunters and killed animals to eat using spears
800,000 BC	Earliest footprints found in Britain
650,000 BC	Early humans start to use hand axes
500,000 BC	First members of the Homo genus live in Britain
200,000 BC	Great sheets of ice cover Britain & food becomes scarce- Early humans forced to leave
100,000 BC	Neanderthals make it to Britain, coping with the cold weather by living in caves and making warm clothes from animal skins
35,000 BC	Homo sapiens arrive in Europe and Neanderthals die out
12,000 BC	The earliest humans, that are direct descendants of some of the current population, arrive in Britain and woolly mammoths die out in Britain
10,000 BC	'The Ice Age' comes to an end in Britain - This marks the beginning of the Mesolithic period
6,000 BC	Britain is cut off from the continent by rising sea levels
4,000 BC	Farming begins and crops such as barley and wheat are grown
3,000 BC	The first part of Stonehenge is built



STONE AGE

The term 'Stone Age' refers to a very long period of time that we can break up into three sections.

Palaeolithic (early) to 10,000 BC
Mesolithic (middle) to 4000 BC
Neolithic (late) to 2300 BC

BRONZE AGE

When people discovered how to get metals out of rocks, a metal called bronze replaced stone

2300 BC to 800 BC

IRON AGE

A metal called iron replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons.

800 BC to AD 43

Key Vocabulary

AD (Anno Domini) - 'In the year of our Lord.' AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus. This year is AD 2020.

BC - Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus.

Agriculture - The raising of crops and animals for human use

Artefact - A historical object

Flaking - A process of shaping stone by chipping pieces off the edges

Glacier - A large sheet of ice

Hunter-Gatherer - A person who meets their needs by hunting animals and gathering plants

Pre-history/Prehistoric - A time before written records of historical events.

Tools - flint, spear, axe, bow and arrow



Key Places

Skara Brae



Stonehenge

