

How has life changed since the Stone Age? (The Stone Age to the Iron Age)

The Stone Age did not end because humans ran out of stones. It ended because it was time for a re-think about how we live.” ~ William McDonough

Overview

- How did humans survive in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age?
- How was life in prehistoric Britain different from Britain now?
- What animals were alive in prehistoric Britain?
- What food did people eat in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age?
- How did humans defend themselves?
- What were houses like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age?

Fun Facts

- Prehistoric Britain began when the first humans arrived in Britain. It ended when the Romans conquered the ancient Britons and Britain became part of the Roman Empire.
- The earliest humans were hunter-gatherers. They survived by hunting animals and finding food to eat
- The earliest humans lived in caves! Eventually they learnt to build their own huts
- Originally, humans used animal skins to keep themselves warm
- Modern humans began around 200,000 years ago!
- Evidence suggests that the wheel was invented in the Bronze age!
- May day (still celebrated today) is thought to originate from the Iron age!

Language of a Historian

Archaeologist	A person who digs up artefacts to study human history
Artefact	Something made or given shape by man, usually discovered by an archaeologist
Homo sapiens	Early modern humans
Extinct	A large natural stream of water flowing in a channel to the sea.
Prehistoric	The time before recorded history
BC	'before Christ' Years in BC count backwards to show how many year it was before Jesus' birth.
AD	'Anno Domini' Year in AD count forwards to show how many year it is after Jesus' birth
Stonehenge	A prehistoric monument in Salisbury consisting of a ring of vertical standing stones about 4 metres high
Skara Brae	A stone-built Neolithic settlement in Orkney, Scotland discovered in 1850
Palaeolithic	(900,000 – 10,500 BC) The earliest part of the Stone Age when they used tools made of chipped stone.
Mesolithic	(10,500 – 5,500 BC) The middle of Stone age where Britain became an island
Neolithic	(5,500 – 2400 BC) The last period of the Stone age when humans began to develop agriculture and used more tools.

Language of a Prehistoric human

Bronze	An alloy consisting of copper and other metals.
Iron	A strong hard magnetic, silver/grey metal
Flint	A hard grey rock often used by prehistoric humans to make tools and weapons
Hand axe	A prehistoric stone tool with two faces that is the longest-used tool in human history.
Hunter-gatherer	A human living in a way where they must forage and hunt for all the food they want to eat.
Crop	A plant that has been grown and cared for with the purpose of being eaten or used to make things.
Nomads	People who travel from place to place to find fresh pastures for their animals. They have no permanent home.
Settlement	A locality or populated place which has a community of people living together.
Tribe	A group of humans who live together and share resources such as food, tools and weapons.

Key Prehistoric Things

Weapons

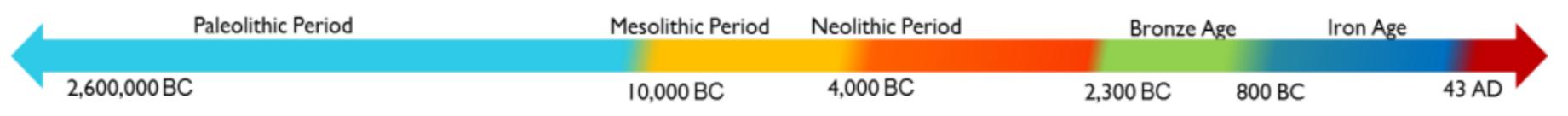
spears
throwing stones

Stonehenge

Skara Brae

Tools

handaxe
borer
antler
hammerstone



Key questions to ask yourself

Prehistoric people left no written records, so how do we know about their lives?
 Why is it important to know how people lived in the past?
 How has life changed since Stone, Bronze and Iron age?
 What do you think Stone Henge was built for?
 What skills would you need to survive in the Stone, Bronze or Iron age?

Activities to try at home

- Research a prehistoric animal such as a Woolly Mammoth
- Dress up as a Stone, Bronze or Iron age person
- Have a look at Stone Henge and Skara Brae on google maps
- Make a list of all the jobs that existed in stone age and compare this to modern day jobs
- Use natural materials to create stone age paint
- Draw a picture of you living in the Stone, Bronze or Iron age.