

Stone Age

Glossary

1	AD	AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus. This year is AD 2019.
2	Agriculture	The process of cultivating land to grow crops and rearing animals for food
3	BC	BC is a way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
4	Chronology/ Chronological	In time order starting with the earliest time.
5	Evolution	A gradual process of change over time
6	Hillfort	A fort built on a hill with outer walls or ditches for defensive purposes (for example Maiden Castle)
7	Hunter-gatherer	A member of a nomadic group who hunt or harvest food that grows in the wild
8	Nomadic people	A group of people that move from place to place in search of food and shelter
9	Roundhouse	A circular house with a conical thatched roof built from the Bronze Age to Iron Age
10	Settlement	A place where people establish a community
11	Smelting	A process to separate metal from rocks by heating and melting the metal
12	Tribe	A group of families or communities that share a common culture and language, usually with one leader

Key Dates

800,000 BC	Earliest footprints in Britain date back to this time.
40,000—8000 BC	People started creating cave paintings
25,000 BC	Ice Age in Northern Europe and Britain
12,000 BC	Modern humans start living in Britain
8,500 BC	Climate gets warmer in Britain
6,000 BC	Britain becomes an island
4,000 BC	Farming introduced in Britain
3,000 BC	Stone Henge started to be built
3,000 BC	Skara Brae first inhabited
2,300 BC	Bronze working introduced
1,200 BC	First hillforts built
800 BC	Ironworking introduced
120 BC	First coins introduced from Europe.
43 AD	Romans invade Britain— start of Roman Britain and the end of the Iron Age

Links to Other Units	You should already know:
YR Traditional Tales YR Storytastic Y1 Maps Y2 Art History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronological means time order • That people have not always lived in towns and cities as most of us now do. • That maps show us where things are and how they are laid out



Cave paintings - Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival. Paintings of animals on cave walls are common. The famous cave paintings at Lascaux in southwest France are about 18,000 years old.



Stone Henge - a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 4 metres high. Its purpose and how it was built remains uncertain.

Palaeolithic Period

- People were nomadic hunters and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons.

Neolithic Period

- People began to settle into farming villages instead of moving from place to place.
- People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.



Skara Brae - a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located in the Orkney region in Scotland. It is a cluster of eight houses, which was occupied between 3000 and 2500 BC.

Mesolithic Period

- Sea levels rose and Britain became an island (before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe).
- Tools were developed to become smaller and finer.
- The invention of canoes meant that people were better able to hunt for fish as well as animals.

Bronze Age

- People discovered how to get metals out of rocks
- Bronze replaced stone as the best material for making tools.
- People were able to build better farming equipment and they also began to make bronze weap-



Maiden Castle - one of the largest and most complex Iron Age hillforts in Europe. It is located in Dorset, England. It was built around 100 BC and once protected hundreds of residents.

Iron Age

- Iron replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons.
- People lived in tribes and they were often at war with each other.
- Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts. Sometimes people from the Iron Age are called 'Celts'.