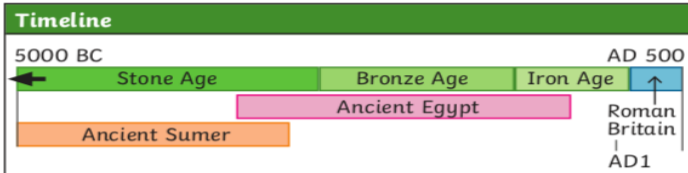


Was it better to live in the Stone Age or the Iron Age?

Stone Age to Iron Age covers around 10,000 years, between the last Ice Age and the coming of the Romans. The Stone Age was a broad prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make tools with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface. The period lasted for roughly 3.4 million years, and ended between 4,000 BCE and 2,000 BCE, with the advent of metalworking. The Iron Age was a period in human history that started between 1200 B.C. and 600 B.C., depending on the region, and followed the Stone Age and Bronze Age. During the Iron Age, people across much of Europe, Asia and parts of Africa began making tools and weapons from iron and steel.



How did our human ancestors use natural materials?

In the early Stone Age, people made simple hand-axes out of stones. They made hammers from bones or antlers and they sharpened sticks to use as hunting spears. The earliest known Britons were hunter-gatherers. They used flint tools to hunt animals, like deer and mammoths. Humans discovered farming and began to settle down in villages. This all happened during the Stone Age. Shortly after, people discovered how to use metals like bronze for the first time- this was the transition to the Bronze Age. Eventually, people created iron- this period was called the Iron Age. They began using this material because it was easier to find and knock into shape. The prehistoric period ended when the Romans arrived, who brought us roads and indoor plumbing.



Skara Brae was discovered after a storm in AD 1850 removed the earth that had been covering it. It is a village of eight houses, linked by covered passageways. Not all of the houses were built at the same time. The later ones are slightly bigger, but they have very similar features, such as a central firepit and stone shelves. The village tells us a lot about life in the late Stone Age, including what people ate and what sort of tools they used. People in the Stone Age moved around from place to place with the seasons, in order to keep safe and warm and to follow the animals they hunted.

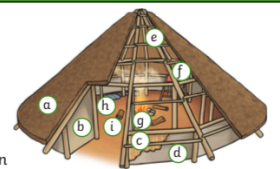
Historical Key skills

Historical Knowledge

The Stone Age is named after the stone tools that the earliest humans used to help them survive. They used them to kill animals, such as mammoths, for their meat, bone marrow and skins. The bones were also useful for making tools, such as needles to sew skins together. People in the Bronze Age and Iron Age lived in roundhouses. These could be very large and would have housed many people. One household might have had two houses, one for living and one for cooking and making things. In the Iron Age, these houses were sometimes rectangular and were often gathered in farming communities on hills. These were known as 'hillforts'. Between 500 and 100 BC, many parts of Britain were dominated by hillforts. These settlements provided a home for hundreds, and later thousands, of people.

Roundhouses

- a. thick thatch
- b. door
- c. wattle
- d. daud
- e. timber frame
- f. upright loom
- g. hearth (fire)
- h. beds
- i. logs for sitting on



Prior Knowledge

From KS1 the following units focused on how individual people in history helped England become the country it is today.

East Boldon Infants - Were Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake brave people? What was it like when King Charles II was on the throne?

Key Vocabulary

hunter gatherers,
settlement,
Neolithic,
nomadic,
natural material,
Skara Brae

