



# STONE AGE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## The Stone Age

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began utilising metal to make tools and objects. The Stone Age is often divided into three periods:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)
- Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age)
- Neolithic (New Stone Age)



## STONE AGE

Palaeolithic to 10,000 BC

Mesolithic to 4000 BC

Neolithic to 2300 BC

## BRONZE AGE

2300 BC to 800 BC

## IRON AGE

800 BC to AD 43

## Cave Paintings

Help to understand the past.

**Cave** art, generally, the numerous **paintings** and engravings found in European caves and shelters dating back to the Ice **Age** (Upper **Palaeolithic**), roughly between 40,000 and 14,000 years ago. See also rock art. The first **Painted cave** acknowledged as being **Palaeolithic**, meaning from the **Stone Age**, was Altamira in Spain



## Key Questions

When was the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age?

Why is each age named the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age?

How long did each period last?

What is meant by hunter-gathers?

## The Stone Age

The period of prehistory in Britain generally refers to the time before written records began. It begins when the earliest hunter-gatherers came to Britain from Europe around 450,000 BC and ends with the invasion of the Romans in AD 43. The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age covers 98% of human history in Britain. The evolution of humans from the earliest hominins to Homo sapiens occurred in this period. Some of the major advances in technology were achieved during this period, including the control of fire, agriculture, metalworking and the wheel.

## Important Places

**Skara Brae** — Skara Brae is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland.

**Stonehenge** — A prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 13 feet high, 7 feet wide and weighing around 25 tons.



# STICKY LEARNING

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- place key events from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age into a simple timeline, and understand that the three ages span a period of approximately 10,000 years.
- understand and use the abbreviation BC/BCE and AD
- know how Britain changed between the beginning of the stone Age and the Iron Age
- know what is meant by hunter-gathers
- explain why each age is named the Stone, the Bronze and the Iron Age
- generate historically valid questions about the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and carry out research to answer some of these questions
- compare people's clothing and settlements across all 3 ages, identifying similarities and differences between these and giving some simple explanations e.g. Stone Age people did not have metal pins because they did not know how to work metal, but Bronze and Iron Age people did
- know that, in approx. 4000 BCE, farming was introduced into Bronze Age society and explain some ways in which this changed society and some ways it stayed the same.

## KEY VOCABULARY

**Chronology** - The arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.

**BC** - Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.

**AD** Anno Domini - "in the year of our Lord". AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus. This year is AD 2018.

**Archaeology** - The study of the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society.

**Historical evidence** - Anything left over from the past is a source of evidence.

**Hunter-gatherers** - People who found food from their local environment and then moved from site to site depending on the season. They moved wherever they needed to get food from.

**Farmers** - The Neolithic or new Stone Age saw the beginnings of agriculture. Animals such as the cow and sheep were domesticated and provided a ready supply of meat, milk, wool, leather and bone. Grain was the first food that could be stored for long periods of time.

**Stone Age** - The stone age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture when stone tools were first used.

**Bronze Age** - The bronze age is the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred materials for making tools and weapons.

**Iron Age** - The iron age is the time period when iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools.

**Neolithic** - The Neolithic is the youngest part of the Stone Age. The word "Neolithic" comes from two words in Greek: "neo", meaning "new" and "lithic", meaning "stone". The Neolithic period is the time when farming was invented and when people started caring for animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs.

**Forage** - To look widely for nourishment or other provisions. Thatched A thatched house or a house with a thatched roof has a roof made of straw or reeds.

**Prehistoric** - Prehistoric means the time before recorded history.  
**Monument** A group of huge stones, often set up in a line or circle.

**Tribe** - Iron age people who lived in the same area and did similar things.