

Y3 History: How did life in Britain change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

Stone Age			Bronze Age	Iron Age
Palaeolithic c750,000–c10,000 BC Duration: 740,000 years	Mesolithic c10,000–c4000 BC Duration: 6000 years	Neolithic c4000–c2500 BC Duration: 1500 years	c2500–c800 BC Duration: 1700 years	c800 BC–AD 43 Duration: 843 years

Prior learning that will help me

- I understand that history is a study of the past, and what is meant by a timeline.
- I know that historians use evidence (such as artefacts, writing and photographs) to find out about life in the past.
- I can name key events and people from the periods I have already studied.
- I know that there are similarities and differences between the periods I have already studied.
- I understand that concepts such as invasion and settlement, or progress of technology, run throughout history.

Key Vocabulary

General: *timeline, chronology, change, continuity, BC / BCE, AD / CE, circa, period, artefacts, archaeologist*

Specific: *prehistory, nomadic, migration, hunter-gatherer, tribe, flint, bronze, iron, settlement, hillfort, conflict, agriculture, domesticated, roundhouse, rampart, wattle and daub, monument*

Stone Age

Tools and weapons – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

Everyday life – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

Settlements – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



Bronze Age

Tools and weapons – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

Everyday life – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

Settlements – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



End of the Bronze Age – People stopped using metal during a time called the Bronze Age collapse.

Iron Age

Tools and weapons – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

Everyday life – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

Settlements – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



End of the Iron Age – The Romans invaded and conquered Britain in AD 43. They created written records, so this event ended prehistory in Britain.

End of the Stone Age – The Beaker folk arrived from Europe and brought their knowledge of metalworking to Britain.

Key Events

Stone Age – Mesolithic and Neolithic life

13,000 BC



The first cave paintings were drawn

10,000-3,500 BC



People learn to 'farm' different foods



The first pottery is made and used

2500 BC



Metal starts to be used to make weapons and tools

Bronze Age

1800 BC



The first copper mines are dug

1200-800 BC



Tribal kingdoms and Celtic culture

Iron Age

800-700 BC



The first hill forts are made

600BC



Coins are made and used for the first time

AD 43



The Romans invade Britain. Iron Age ends.

Skara Brae is a Neolithic settlement in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. It has well preserved, interconnected houses made of stone.



Stonehenge is a stone circle in Wiltshire, England. It is made of stones from the local area and Wales. The stones line up with the Sun during midsummer and midwinter.



Key Knowledge

Chronology

- The Stone Age is the oldest period studied, and started around 2.5 million years ago, when humans first walked the Earth.

Stone Age

- The Stone Age Period is broken up into the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, when humans used stone tools.
- Early humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers, but during the Neolithic period, people began to farm and settle in one area.

Bronze Age

- The Bronze Age saw the beginning of trade with other people, and the introduction of metal for tools and jewellery.

Iron Age

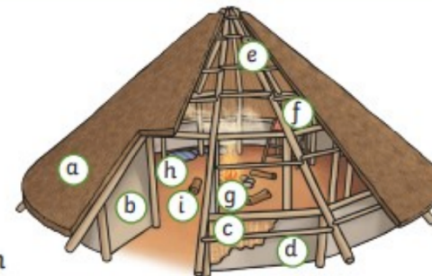
- The Iron Age brought metal to wider parts of society, used for tools, weapons (iron) and decoration (bronze).
- During the Iron Age, hill forts were built to defend settlements; most lived and farmed outside the fort.
- Hill forts included roundhouses, used as homes, meeting places, markets and for protection for all if under attack.

Historical Enquiry

- I can talk about what life was like and how it changed during the period studied, with reference to important sites (Stonehenge, Skara Brae and Maiden Castle).

Roundhouses

- thick thatch
- door
- wattle
- daub
- timber frame
- upright loom
- hearth (fire)
- beds
- logs for sitting on



An Iron Age hillfort