

British History: Orange Class – Stone Age to Iron Age

What were the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

| Key Vocabulary | |
|-----------------|---|
| BC | The time and date in years before Christ was born. |
| Archaeology | Scientific study of human life using artefacts from the past. |
| Bronze Age | A period of time when people used bronze to make tools and weapons. |
| Stone Age | A period of time when people used stone to make tools and weapons. |
| Megalith | Stone Age monuments built by people. |
| Settlement | A place where a group of people live together. |
| Hunter Gatherer | A person who hunts and forages for food. |
| Artefact | An object left as evidence of life in an earlier time. |
| Palaeolithic | A period of history from early humans until about 9,500 BC. |
| Mesolithic | A period of history from 9,500 BC until about 4,000 BC. |
| Neolithic | A period of history from about 4,000 BC until about 2,100 BC. |



Key Places

- Stonehenge:** stone age megalithic monument in Wiltshire, England.
- Skara Brae:** Neolithic village in Orkney, Scotland.
- Star Carr:** a Mesolithic archaeological site in N Yorks, England.
- Callanish:** megalithic monument in Harris, Scotland.
- Avebury:** site of large-scale megalithic monuments.

| Key Dates | |
|--------------|--|
| 2,000,000 BC | The Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age) The first humans arrive. They live in caves or shelters. They survive by hunting and fishing. |
| 9,500 BC | The Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age) Britain is connected to the rest of Europe by a land bridge called Doggerland that disappears beneath the sea in 6000 BC making Britain an island. People live in camps along the coasts and rivers and hunt in teams with spears, bows and arrows. |
| 4000 BC | The Neolithic Age (New Stone Age) People start to live in larger groups. Farming begins and crops such as barley and wheat are grown. People use flint, antler and bone to make tools. People make clay pots. |
| 3180 BC | Skara Brae is built in Orkney. |
| 2800 BC | The first part of Stonehenge is built. |
| 2100 BC | The Bronze Age People start to use metal instead of stone for weapons and tools. They mix copper and tin to make bronze. |
| 750 BC | The Iron Age People start to use iron instead of bronze. It is harder and can stay sharp for longer. |



British History: Year 3 – Stone Age to Iron Age

What were the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

Key Knowledge

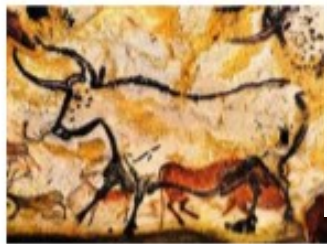
The stone-age period is said to have started just over 3000 year ago when humans started to live in Europe.

The stone-age was followed by the bronze –age period. This is when humans started to use metal.

The bronze-age was followed by the iron-age when tools and weapons became more advanced and were used for farming.

During the Palaeolithic Age (old stone age), man gathered food by hunting wild animals and birds, fishing, and collecting fruits and nuts.

During the Neolithic Age (towards end of the stone-age), the humans formed settled communities, and domesticated plants and animals for the first time in history.



A stone age painting found in a cave. Paint was made from dirt or charcoal mixed with spit or animal fat. They painted what they saw around them – this is one reason we know so much about this time.

Key Knowledge

As trading became more common, so did people travelling. The Beaker People travelled from Europe to England and brought important skills with metal and pottery. People began to mix copper with tin that made a soft metal harder and stronger – weapons and tools were now more effective. Bronze metal was very valuable – people swapped this for other items. Those that could create bronze became very rich. Iron was much more common than copper or tin so more tools could be made; it did however need to be melted at a much higher temperature. Iron could be turned into strong, longer lasting tools that made day-to-day life easier. Iron allowed axe heads and blades for new heavy ploughs. Farming increased in efficiency and trees could be cut down much more easily. Tribes became more common and people lived in roundhouses or in hillforts protecting themselves using walls made of chopped down logs. Druids were important members of a tribe who people went to for advice believing that they could communicate with the gods. In both the bronze age and the iron, people still lived in roundhouses, farmed the land, practiced crafts and traded goods such as pottery, metals and salt