



## Stone Age to Iron Age Britain

Between the Stone Age and the Iron Age, huge changes occurred in Britain, changing the lives of the people who lived here. Stone Age people, created tools and weapons from stone. They were usually hunter-gatherers. During the Bronze and Iron Ages, humans began to develop their uses of metals to support and improve their lives. They developed new ways to farm land and catch food.

The Stone Age was a period where early humans (homosapiens) used tools and weapons made from stone. It was divided into three specific periods and during this time, humans went from being nomadic hunter-gatherers to developing the use of farm animals and beginning to create specific settlements.



### Key Dates:

2.5 million years ago - 10,000 years ago - Early Stone Age (Palaeolithic)  
 Around 900,000BC - The first humans probably arrived in Britain.  
 Around 30,000BC - Homosapiens (our ancient ancestors) were around.  
 8000BC - 4500BC - Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic)  
 4500BC - 3500BC - Simple pottery begins to be made  
 4000BC - 2500BC - Late Stone Age (Neolithic)  
 Around 3180 BC to about 2500 BC - Skara Brae was lived in.  
 3300BC - 1200BC - The first stone circles (henges) are built  
 2500BC - 800BC - Bronze Age  
 800BC - 43AD - Iron Age  
 43AD - Romans invaded Britain



Skara Brae is a settlement found on the Orkney Islands off the north of Scotland. It is one of Britain's most fascinating prehistoric villages. Archaeologists estimate it was occupied sometime between 3000BC and 2500BC. The village is actually older than the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge!

### Topic Vocabulary:

Homo sapiens - An ancient ancestor of modern day humans.

Hunter-gatherer - someone who hunts to find food.

Mesolithic - The middle part of the Stone Age, where humans further developed their tools.

Neolithic - The latest part of the Stone Age, where humans began to stay in clear settlements and were less nomadic.

Nomadic - Someone who does not live in one place.

Paleolithic - The earliest period of the Stone Age.

Primitive - A very basic and simple design.

### General Historical Vocabulary:

AD (Anno Domini) - The period of history after Christians believe Jesus was born - sometimes known as BCE (Before Common Era).

BC (Before Christ) - The period of history before Christians believe Jesus was born - sometimes known as CE (Common Era).

Artefact - An object we can use to study the past.

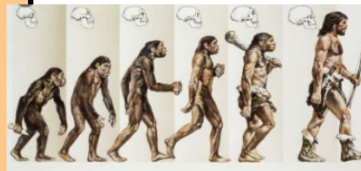
Chronological - In time order.

Continuity - A state where everything stays the same.

Continuity - A state of everything being the same.

Source - An object or account which gives information about a period of history.

During the Bronze Age, Britons learned to work with copper, tin, gold and bronze. They also began to mine metals and trade with mainland Europe with different metal materials. Some settlers began to hold religious ceremonies at stone circles and buried their dead in circular graves. Around this time, Stonehenge was built.



### Useful websites:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/stone-age/>  
<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/iron-age/>  
<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/bronze-age/>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk>  
<https://www.stedward.bham.sch.uk/changes-in-britain-from-the-stone-age-to-the-iron-/>

The people of the Iron Age (called Celts) lived in tribes. Most people were farmers who used a variety of iron tools. There were often battles with neighbouring tribes, therefore, chiefs built hillside forts to protect their villages from invasion. The people of this time were also skilled metalworkers who could make distinctive art.