

THE STONE AGE to THE IRON AGE

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Overview

The Stone Age

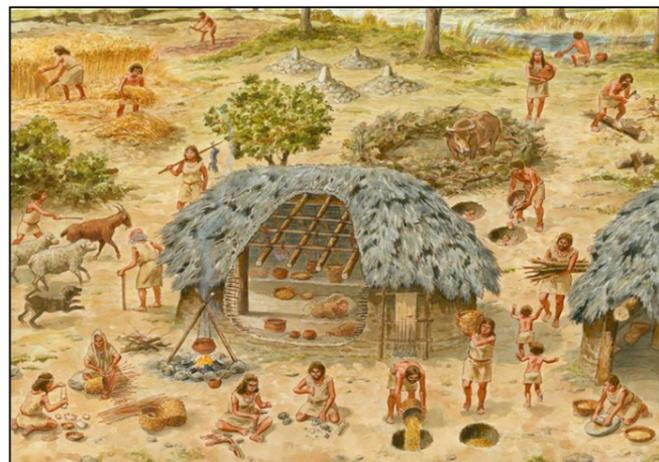
The Stone Age is the name given to the start of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began using stone to make tools and objects. The Stone Age is often divided into three eras:

-Paleolithic (Old Stone Age);

-Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age);

-Neolithic (New Stone Age);

The Paleolithic era lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history!



The Bronze Age

Around 4,000 years ago the Bronze Age came to Britain. This was the time period that linked the Stone Age with the Iron Age. The metal **Bronze** was used to make objects, weapons and jewellery, and people began to live in more permanent houses. During the Bronze Age, many people crossed the sea from mainland Europe to settle in Britain.



The Iron Age

The Iron Age lasted from about 800 BC to the Roman invasion of 43 AD. In the Iron Age, people started to use iron to make artefacts, weapons and tools. Iron Age settlers lived in villages and often constructed forts to protect themselves. There are 1,224 hill forts in England. Although some originate in the Bronze Age, the majority of hill forts in Britain were constructed during the Iron Age.



Skara Brae

Stonehenge



Life in the Stone Age

Hunter Gatherers		In the Paleolithic era, humans found their food from the locally and seasonally. They mainly used tools such as spears and slings to kill and capture animals.
Hunting and Fishing		In the Mesolithic era, more complex weapons, such as bows and arrows, were developed. Canoes were built to allow humans to fish in the rivers and seas, probably carved from tree trunks and branches.
Farming		In the Neolithic era, animals such as cows and sheep were domesticated, providing a ready-made supply of meat, milk and bone. Grain was developed as it could be stored for a long time. Farming is still very important in modern times!
Tools		In the Paleolithic Era, people started to use tools such as basic knives and axes in everyday life.
Metal Working		In the Bronze and Iron Ages, people began metal mining and working (Metallurgy) to make tools, household objects, weapons and jewellery.
Cave Paintings		Cave paintings are the earliest examples of art. As languages developed, so did art, dance, jewellery and social traditions.
Clothes		Mesolithic humans used to wear clothes made of bark and leaves in the summer months, and clothes made of animal skins in the winter months. In the Bronze and Iron Ages, clothing could be woven.
Nomadic		In the Paleolithic era, people moved homes to follow their food source.
Settlements		As the Stone Age Progressed into the Bronze Age, people began to build better houses and settle permanently. These settlements grew into villages with complex societies.
Roundhouse		People constructed circular buildings made of wood and straw with a central fire, to keep them and their animals warm.
Hill Fort		In The Iron Age, roundhouses were used in larger, more defensive settlements as part of tribal territories.

Timeline from Stone Age to Iron Age

PALEOLITHIC

KYA = 1000 Years Ago

Mesolithic

Neolithic

Bronze Age

Iron Age

The end of the last Ice Age dates to about 12kya.

Britain was finally an island around 8kya



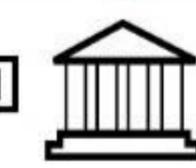
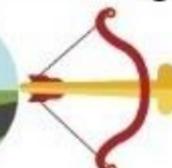
10kya
8000 BC

8kya
6000 BC

6kya
4000 BC

4kya
2000 BC

2kya
AD 43



Star Carr, a lakeside settlement in North Yorkshire with the earliest house in Britain (it would have look like a tipi), was almost permanently inhabited around 11kya. People wore red deer antlers in ceremonies

Farming was developed in the Near East around 10kya. This involved domesticating wheat, barley and sheep

Another tipi-like house was found at Howick in Northumberland and dates to about 7600 BC

The Storrega landslide off the coast of Norway c. 6100 BC caused a tsunami on the east coast of Britain and flooded Doggerland.

Farming reaches central Europe by about 7.7kya, 5700 BC

The earliest copper objects start being made in Europe around 7kya, 5000 BC

Farming was introduced to Britain around 6kya, 4000 BC. This included domesticated wheat and barley, sheep and cattle. Pottery was also introduced

The earliest feature of Stonehenge, a circular bank and ditch, was started around 5kya, 3000 BC. The stones came later. Skara Brae was also first inhabited in 3000 BC

The Bronze Age begins around 4.3kya, 2300 BC. The Amesbury Archer is buried near Stonehenge with the earliest metal tools and jewellery in Britain

The Iron Age in Britain begins around 2,8kya, 800 BC

The second Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43 is usually used as the end of the Iron Age and prehistory in Britain.