



# THE STONE AGE to THE IRON AGE

**History - Changes through time Movement—settlement/migration/invasion**



**The Stone Age** was when early humans used tools from stone. This is also known as pre-history.

At the end of the Ice Age, the sea levels rose and so Britain turned into an island.

The Stone Age had three periods - Palaeolithic ('old' Stone Age), Mesolithic ('middle' Stone Age) and Neolithic ('new' Stone Age).

Palaeolithic Stone Age lasted until the end of the Ice Age. Early humans used stones as tools. This lasted till about 10, 500 BC

Mesolithic Stone Age was from about 10, 500 BC to 4, 000 BC. Humans would demonstrate a variety of ways to gather food including hunting and fishing.

Neolithic Stone Age was from 4, 000 BC to about 2, 500 BC. This marked the start of farming including land clearance and the keeping of animals.

**The Bronze Age** was when people discovered how to get metals out of rocks

Bronze replaced stone as the best material for making tools.

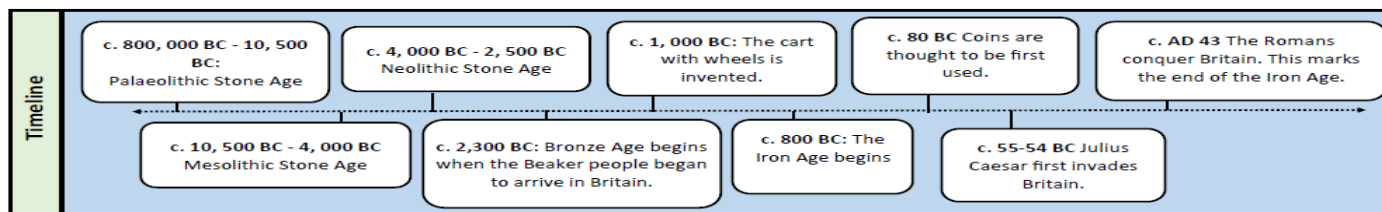
People were able to build better farming equipment and they also began to make bronze weapons.

**The Iron Age** saw bronze replaced with iron as the main material for making tools and weapons.

People lived in tribes and they were often at war with each other.

Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts. Sometimes people from the Iron Age are called 'Celts'.

Agriculture	The process of cultivating land to grow crops and rearing animals for food
Artefact	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
Chronological	In time order starting with the earliest time.
Civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
Evolution	A gradual process of change over time
Hunter-gatherer	A member of a nomadic group who hunt or harvest food that grows in the wild
Migration	movement from one place to another in order to settle there
Nomadic	people that move from place to place in search of food and shelter
Settlement	When people start a community, this is a settlement
Smelting	A process to separate metal from rocks by heating and melting the metal
Trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services
Tribes	A group of families or communities that share a common culture and language, usually with one leader



**Roundhouses**

1. thick thatch
2. door
3. wattle
4. daud
- e. timber frame
- f. upright loom
- g. hearth (fire)
- h. beds
- i. logs for sitting on



**Arbour Low**

Arbour Low is a well-preserved Neolithic henge near Bake-well. It lies on a carboniferous limestone plateau known as the White Peak area. The monument consists of a stone circle surrounded by massive earthworks and a ditch. The monument includes about 50 large limestone blocks, quarried from a local site, which form an egg-shaped circle. There were probably 41-43 stones originally, but some are now in fragments. Finds have included flint scrapers, arrowheads, and bone and antler tools



**Mam Tor**

The mighty hill of Mam Tor (sometimes known as the Shivering Mountain because of landslides on its eastern side) stands near Castleton. The first evidence of prehistoric use of the hill comes from the [Bronze Age](#) but it must have been a significant place to people long before that - indeed a polished stone axe and [flints](#) from the [Neolithic](#) had been found here. During the later Bronze Age and into the [Iron Age](#) the hill was occupied as a "[slight univallate hillfort](#)" which is defined as a small hilltop enclosure consisting of a single line of defenses. Mam Tor fits this description in that its earthwork is a single rampart, a berm, a ditch and an outer bank that enclose an area of about 6 hectares near the top of the hill.



**Lismore Fields, Buxton**

Lismore Fields is the site of a Stone Age settlement in Buxton. The first inhabitants of Buxton made their home at Lismore Fields 6,000 years ago. Excavation of the prehistoric settlement discovered the remains (floors, post holes and pits) of a Mesolithic timber roundhouse and of two Neolithic longhouses. The layout of these buildings can be clearly seen from the positions of the post holes. Flint implements were also found. Lismore Fields could be the earliest cereal cultivation site discovered in Britain. Cereal stores were revealed by the archaeologists. Pollen analysis of soil samples and charred plant remains uncovered evidence of emmer wheat, crab apples, hazelnuts and flax. Researchers believe that this ancient site marks the period when Stone Age people developed from hunter-gatherers to farmers.

The "Lismore Pot" is a 5,500 year-old Grimston-ware bowl, [7] pieced together from pottery fragments, and is one of the oldest pots ever found in Britain. It is on display in the Buxton Museum.

**Skara Brae** was discovered after a storm in AD 1850 removed the earth that had been covering it. It is a village of eight houses, linked by covered passageways. Not all of the houses were built at the same time. The later ones are slightly bigger but they have very similar features, such as a central firepit and stone shelves. The village tells us a lot about life in the late Stone Age, including what people ate and what sort of tools they used.

**Stonehenge** is a famous prehistoric monument in southern England, built at the end of the Stone Age and into the **Bronze Age**. Originally, it was just an **earthwork** and up to 150 people were buried there. The huge stones that we see were added in different stages. Some were brought from 240 miles away in Wales.

1. Match the stages of the Stone Age to their meanings.	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Palaeolithic	New Stone Age	
Neolithic	Middle Stone Age	
Mesolithic	Old Stone Age	

2. Which of these is an example of a stone age settlement?	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Sudbury		
Skara Brae		
London		
Lismore Fields		

3. Give an example of evidence that tells us about the stone age/ bronze age/ iron age?	Start of Unit	End of Unit

4. Put these time periods in order of which they happened	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Mesolithic		
Palaeolithic		
Neolithic		

5. Put these in order of which they happened	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Early humans use tools such as flints to help them survive		
The start of farming		
The start of hunting and gathering		

6. Why were animals important to Stone Age people?	Start of Unit	End of Unit
They provided them with food		
They used their bones to make tools		
They used their skins to keep warm		
They loved being around all kinds of animals		

7. Place these in order of chronology	Start of Unit	End of Unit
The cart with wheels is invented		
The Romans invade Britain		
Beaker People arrive		
Iron age begins		

8. How did Iron Age people protect their settlements?	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Trade		
Hillforts		
ramparts		

9. A settlement is...	Start of Unit	End of Unit
Where people are buried		
Where people hunted		
Where people migrated to, to live in a community		

10. The Iron Age ended when...	Start of Unit	End of Unit
The Beaker people settled in Britain		
The Romans invaded Britain		
Coins were made and used as currency		