

Lutley

Primary School

Learning, Caring, Aiming High - Together

Year 3

Changes in Britain from
Stone Age to Iron Age

Building on Knowledge and Skills

The story of prehistoric Britain began when the first humans arrived in Britain. It ended when the Romans conquered the ancient Britons and Britain became part of the Roman Empire (You will learn about the Romans in Year 4). The earliest humans were hunter-gatherers. They survived by hunting animals and finding food to eat. Then, very gradually people learned new skills. First, they learned to herd animals and grow crops. Later they discovered the secrets of making bronze and iron.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to take a trip though prehistoric history.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- BBC Bitesize — 6 [Class Clips](#)
- Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura
- CGP Stone Age to Celts Study Book
- DK Find out! Stone Age
- Horrible Histories Savage Stone Age
- Usborne The Stone Age

Suggested family experience:

- [Stonehenge](#), Salisbury, SP4 7DE
- [Prehistoric Birmingham](#)
- [Charnwood Museum](#), Loughborough. Neolithic - Iron Age tools, jewellery and chariots.

National Curriculum:

Changes in Britain from Stone Age to Iron Age, including:

- Late Neolithic-gatherers and early farmers, for example Skara Brae
- Bronze Age religion, technology and travel, for example, Stonehenge
- Iron Age hill forts: tribal kingdoms, farming, art and culture

Local History Links:



Wychbury Ring is an Iron Age hill fort located on Wychbury Hill, near the border of Halesowen and Hagley. The fort measures 250 m from east to west and 150 m from north to south, covering an area of 2.93 hectares. Small bronze rings, including an Iron Age torcet, were found in the fort in 1884, and Roman coins and masonry have been found nearby, suggesting a possible site of a later Roman Villa.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
archaeologists	People who study the past by examining remains and objects
ancestors	People who someone is descended from, older than a grandparent
climate change	A change in the average conditions in an area over time
domesticated	Tamed animal on a farm or kept as a pet
hunter-gatherer	People who live by hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild food
monument	A building or structure on a site historically important
pre-historic	Before written records
preserved	Kept in its original state
scavenge	Searching for something
settlement	A place where people start a community
technology	The use of scientific discoveries for practical purposes
wattle and daub	A mixture of mud and twigs

Quick Summary

The **Stone Age** began about 2.5 million years ago and lasted a long time. During the Stone Age, people started to use tools and weapons made out of stone to help them hunt and eat food. After the Stone Age was the **Bronze Age**. During the Bronze Age, people began to use metals such as bronze. Bronze is made from copper and tin. Next, was the **Iron Age**. The Iron Age in Britain was from approximately 800 BCE until the Roman Conquest of 43 CE. You will learn more about the Roman invasion in Year 4. During this period, iron was used to make weapons and farming tools because it was stronger than bronze.

Click [here](#) for a summary or scan the QR code.



Main events

- 6000 BCE: Humans began extracting and using copper
- 3300 BCE: Bronze Age began in Sumer
- 3000 BCE: Stonehenge first built
- 2100 BCE: Bronze Age began in Britain
- 800 BCE: First hill forts built in Britain
- 500 BCE: Celts arrived in Britain
- 43 CE: Second Roman invasion of Britain marked the end of the Iron Age

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

How did people find food in the Stone Age?

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What was religion, technology and travel like in the Bronze Age?

Describe how people farmed and lived in the Iron Age

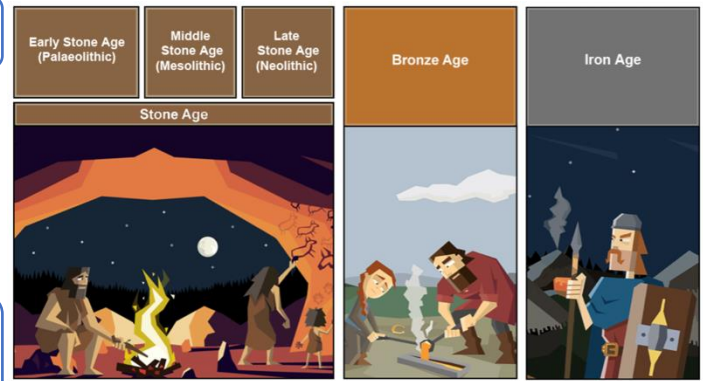
Using what you know, describe the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to Iron Age.

Pre-historic Britain

The prehistoric period is divided into **three 'ages'**. They are known as the **Stone Age**, the **Bronze Age** and the **Iron**

Prehistoric people left no written records, as people back then couldn't read or write, so how do we know about their lives? Archaeologists work like detectives looking for evidence to build up a picture of the past. The remains of homes and temples show how people lived and worshipped. Tools and weapons give clues about the way people farmed, worked and fought. Bumps and ridges in the earth show the layout of ancient villages, fields and forts.

Some of the best evidence comes from human remains. Skeletons have been found buried with their possessions and some bodies have been preserved in bogs. By examining human remains, experts can work out when a person lived and even what they looked like!



Main events



Artefacts

Hunter-gatherers in the Stone Age

Early Stone Age hunter-gatherers had to catch or scavenge for everything they ate. People gathered fruits, seeds, grasses, nuts and dug up roots. They moved in groups from place to place to find food.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see how our tools were made.

Climate change (you will learn more about that in Year 4) during the Stone Age caused animal life in Britain to go through several changes, crops became more readily available.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out more about the first farmers and Skara Brae, a settlement in the Orkney Islands.

The Stone Age saw the beginning of the use of tools and weapons, made out of stone. The earliest evidence of humans using simple tools is from about 2.5 million years ago. Stone Age humans started to hunt and kill animals to eat, rather than hoping to find dead animals as they searched for food. Early Stone Age people hunted with sharpened sticks. Later, they used bows and arrows and spears tipped with flint or bone.



These tools and weapons helped to hunt other animals such as woolly mammoths, bison, deer and sabre-toothed cats. As technology developed, Stone Age humans began using tools like hammers made from bones, ivory or antlers, hand axes, scrapers and nets.

Stone Age people cut up their food with sharpened stones and cooked it on a fire. They used animal skins to make clothes and shelters. After a good day's hunting, people could feast on meat. But the next day they had to start finding food again!

By 3500BC, people in many parts of Britain had set up farms. They made clearings in the forest and built groups of houses, surrounded by fields. The early farmers grew:

- wheat and barley, which they ground into flour
- beans and peas
- flax, which they made into linen for clothes.

They also kept lots of animals. They had herds of wild cows that had been domesticated. The cattle provided beef, as well as milk and cheese. Sheep and goats provided wool, milk and meat. Wild pigs were domesticated and kept in the woods nearby. Dogs helped on the farms too. They herded sheep and cattle and worked as watchdogs. The early farmers still went hunting and gathered nuts and berries to eat, but they spent most of their time working on their farms.

The Stone Age ended when humans began to use metal to make tools and weapons.

Stonehenge



Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric stone circle in Salisbury, England. It began being built around 3000 BC and it took hundreds of years to finish. Over the next thousand years, people made many changes to the monument. The last changes were made in the early Bronze Age, around 1500 BC.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out more about Stonehenge.

Despite only using basic tools and technology, the construction of Stonehenge was very sophisticated. Archaeologists believe that the ancient Britons hammered wedges of wood into cracks in the stone to cut boulders. When the wood was soaked in water, it expanded and split the stone. Next, the builders used chisels and hammers to shape them. The stones were then transported to the building site. They were probably carried on rafts down rivers, then dragged overland by teams of men and oxen. The stones were placed on giant wooden sledges and pulled along the ground using log rollers. Builders dug deep ditches for the stones. Then they pulled on ropes to raise them into place.



It took a huge effort to build Stonehenge. The only tools the builders had were made of stone, wood and rope! Only a few stones are left standing today.

No one is sure of its purpose, but it could have been used as a place of worship, a form of solar calendar or a communal burial ground.

Bronze Age

Around 2500BC, settlers from mainland Europe brought a new skill to Britain. They were metalworkers who knew how to work with copper. Gradually, Britons learned to make objects from copper, gold and bronze. By 2100BC, Britons were mining metals.

People crossed the sea from mainland Europe to Britain, traveling in long wooden boats rowed by oarsmen. The boats carried people and animals. Trading ships carried goods such as metal (copper and tin) from mines, precious swords, pots and jewellery, also heavy goods such as stone. Large areas of land were covered by forest, so it was easier to carry goods by river.

People also began to tame horses and carts were made with wheels, which helped farmers.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out more about life in the Bronze Age.



Some settlers who arrived belonged to the Beaker culture. Beaker people lived in clans led by powerful chiefs. They held religious ceremonies at stone circles, and buried their dead in circular graves. These customs became part of life in Ancient Britain.

Iron Age

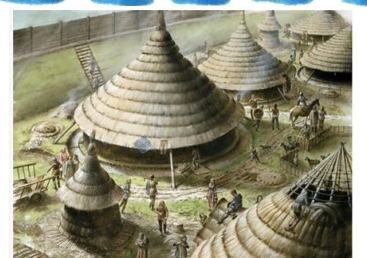
Around 800BC, people in Britain learned how to use iron. This discovery had a big impact on everyday life. Iron tools made farming much easier than before, and settlements grew in size.

Iron Age Britain was a violent place. People lived in clans that belonged to tribes led by warrior kings. Rival tribes fought with deadly iron weapons made by blacksmiths. Many people lived in hill forts to keep safe from attacks. Men and boys fought.

The Celtic people spread out across Europe and many settled in Britain. The ancient Britons followed a Celtic way of life. They produced fine metalwork and enjoyed feasting, music and poetry.

Inside hill forts, families lived in round houses. These were simple one-roomed homes with a pointed thatched roof and walls made from wattle and daub.

Iron Age farmers grew crops and vegetables. They kept geese, goats and pigs and had large herds of cows and flocks of sheep. Some people worked as potters, carpenters and metalworkers. Iron made farming tools like the plough more powerful, consequently more land could be farmed.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out more about life in the Iron Age.



Beliefs



Artefacts



Location



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Settlements



Food and farming



Society