

CHANGES TO BRITAIN FROM THE STONE AGE TO THE IRON AGE (YR 3)



Stone Age

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began utilising metal to make tools and objects. The Stone Age is often divided into three periods:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age);
- Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age);
- Neolithic (New Stone Age);



Bronze Age

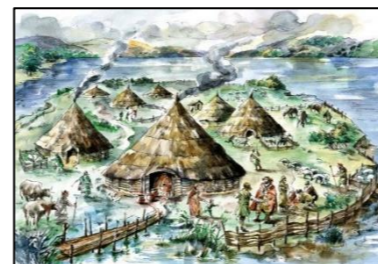
The Bronze Age is the name given to the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons. This, along with other developments, helped to influence big changes in the ways that people lived.


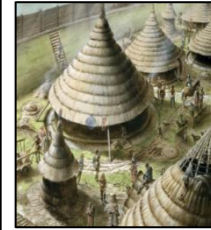
The Bronze Age is the period of time between the Stone Age and the Iron Age. It is difficult to give an exact time period for when the Bronze Age occurred, as bronze was discovered in different places at different times. However, most experts suggest that the Bronze Age started around 3000BC and ended in most regions by 800BC.






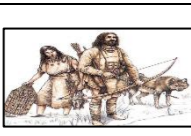


Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the time period in which iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. It followed the Bronze Age, which had followed the Stone Age.



Iron		From 800BC, ironworking by blacksmiths allowed them to make tools and weapons. Iron was found in rocks called iron ore.
Housing		Britain was a violent place throughout the Iron Age. People lived in clans and tribes, which would attack one another. As a result, many people lived in hill forts to keep themselves safe. Forts were surrounded by walls and ditches, and warriors were trained to defend villages from attack. Houses were typically one-roomed, with pointed thatched roofs and walls made from wattle and daub (a mixture of wood and twigs).

Life in the Stone Age

Food - Hunter Gatherers		In the Palaeolithic era, humans found their food from the local environment. They used tools such as spears and slings to kill and capture animals. They moved from site to site depending on the season, following sources of food as it migrated.	THE PALAEOLOGIC ERA
Religion		The period also saw the development of religions. Cave paintings suggest that many tribes believed in 'animism', or the idea that everything has a spirit, including animals, plants and inanimate objects.	
Food - Hunting and Fishing		More elaborate weapons, such as arrows and spears, were developed. Canoes were constructed to allow humans to fish in the rivers and seas, probably carved from tree trunks and branches.	THE MESOLITHIC ERA
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.	
Food - Agriculture		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.	THE NEOLITHIC ERA
Construction		Better tools and permanent settlements meant that large scale construction could take place. People lived in more permanent houses, which were congregated together in villages.	

Vocabulary

- Caveman
- Neolithic
- Mesolithic
- Palaeolithic
- Skara Brae
- Stonehenge
- Gatherer
- Hunter
- Smelting
- Forge
- Tribe
- Prehistoric