



The Stone Age



The Stone Age was a broad prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make implements with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface. The period lasted roughly 3.4 million years and ended between 8700 BCE and 2000 BCE with the advent of metalworking

Key Knowledge

Skara Brae

- December 1850, William Watt spent 18 years investigating the site and found 4 houses altogether.
- In 1925, they found more houses.
- Skara Brae shows that people were beginning to settle in 1 place, making homes and farms.
- Skara Brae is on Mainland, the largest of the Orkney islands, off the North coast of Scotland - 8 houses linked by covered passageways.
- Houses - circular shape, 1 main room with fire pit and beds built into the walls. Each house had a set of stone shelves called a dresser.
- Later houses slightly rectangular. Very small doors because humans were shorter then. They also kept the bad weather out.

Stone Henge

- Stonehenge is a very famous prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, South England. The building of Stonehenge started around 5000 years ago towards the end of the Stone Age and the beginning of the Bronze Age, around 3100 - 3000 BC.
- The earthwork was a circular ditch dug using antler picks with a bank both inside and out.
- The central area was about 100m in diameter and there were two entrances. There were 56 pits dug around the circle.
- It is unclear when the second stage started, it could have been between 4000 and 5000 years ago. The stones that were added at this point came all the way from the Preseli Hills in South Wales. They were called bluestones (because they appear to be slightly blue when broken or wet) and 82 of them, weighing up to 4 tonnes each, were transported an amazing 240 miles over land and water.
- They were set up in a double circle pattern. During this second stage, the north-east entrance was widened and the largest stone, known as the Heel Stone, was added. The Avenue was started. This was an earth corridor dug to connect Stonehenge with the River Avon.
- Sarsen stones and came from the Marlborough Downs, about 25 miles from Stonehenge. The Sarsen stones were enormous, the upright stones being over 4m high, 2m wide and weighing up to 30 tonnes! An outer circle was created, with stones laid horizontally across the top
- More stones were laid in a horseshoe shape in the middle.
- At the centre of Stonehenge was a stone called the Altar Stone.
- The slaughter Stone is a type of sandstone which, after rain, can appear to have a reddish colour.


Stone Age Tools

- They found that flint, which is similar to a diamond in hardness, fractures easily to give razor sharp edges.
- Later, in the Mesolithic or middle stone age, people developed skills at making flake tools that could be mounted in a wooden shaft to make arrows or spears and the first purpose-designed carpentry tools like the Tranchet adze.
- In the Neolithic or new stone age, people began to live in agricultural settlements. They had time to make intricately flaked tools such as scythes and polished axes.

Key Vocabulary

archaeological dig	Excavation is the exposure, processing and recording of archaeological remains. An excavation site or "dig" is a site being studied.	Medieval gallows	A frame, typically wooden, from which objects can be hung or "weighed".
arsenic bronze	An alloy in which arsenic is added to copper to make bronze.	Mesolithic	A cultural period of the Stone Age between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, marked by the appearance of microlithic tools and weapons and by changes in the nature of settlements.
Aubrey holes	A ring of fifty-six chalk pits at Stonehenge.	Neolithic	The Neolithic comprises a progression of behavioral and cultural characteristics and changes, including the use of wild and domestic crops and of domesticated animals.
Bronze Age	The time period when people made tools from an alloy (a mixture of metals) called bronze. Bronze is a mixture of mainly copper and tin.	Nomadic	A member of a community of people without fixed habitation which regularly moves.
Druids	A member of the high-ranking professional class in ancient Celtic cultures.	Palaeolithic	A period in human prehistory distinguished by the original development of stone tools.
flint	Flint breaks and chips into sharp-edged pieces, making it useful for knife blades and other cutting tools. Found in rock such as chalk or limestone.	Preseli Hills	A range of hills in north Pembrokeshire.
Homonids (Homo Habilis)	An archaic species of Stone Age human who lived between roughly 2.1 and 1.5 million years ago.	Pre-historic	The period between the use of the first stone tools c. 3.3 million years ago by hominins and the invention of writing systems.
Homo Sapiens	The biological classification of modern humans.	Sarsen Stones	Sandstone blocks found in quantity in the United Kingdom on Salisbury Plain and the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire.
hunter gatherer	A human living in a society in which most or all food is obtained by foraging.	Skara Brae	A stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney.
Ice Age	Is a long period of reduction in the temperature of the Earth's surface and atmosphere, resulting in the presence or expansion of continental and polar ice sheets and alpine glaciers. Earth's climate alternates between ice ages and greenhouse periods, during which there are no glaciers on the planet.	Stonehenge	A prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, each around 13 feet high, seven feet wide, and weighing around 25 tons.
Iron Age	A period when the production of iron or steel had been brought to the point where iron tools and weapons superior to their bronze equivalents became widespread.	wattle and daub	A composite building method used for making walls and buildings, in which a woven lattice of wooden strips called wattle is daubed with a sticky material usually made of some combination of wet soil, clay, sand, animal dung and straw.



																			
Stone Age	Ancient Egypt	Mayans	The Shang Dynasty	Celts	Ancient Greeks	Romans and Celts	Anglo-Saxons	Vikings	Riotous Royals	St Nicholas Church	Queen Elizabeth I	The Great Fire of London	Florence Nightingale	The arrival of the railways	History of diversity in the local area	20th Century Entertainment	Queen Elizabeth II Coronation	Pynford School opened	Moon Landing
10,000 BC	3 100BC	2600BC	1766 BC	750BC	700BC	AD43	AD449	793	1066	1140	1559	1666	1820	1825	1852	1900	1953	1950	1969
Year 6	Year 5	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3	Year 6	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 4	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 2	Year 3	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1