



Unit of work

Would you have preferred to have lived in the Stone Age, the Bronze Age or the iron age?

Year group

3

Prior learning

- Life existed before your grandparents were born
- Millions of years ago, dinosaurs lived.
- Evidence of this was found by Mary Anning, who discovered fossils.
- What climate means and an example of it
- 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.

National Curriculum Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age

Knowledge/ Skills

Describe what life was like during the three stages of the Stone Age - use a Venn diagram to show similarities and differences.

- Use word mats to understand the meaning behind the words, Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.
- Ask questions and find out the answers about the Stone Age.
- Explain how Britain changed during the Stone Age using a timeline to help.
- Study Stone Age artefacts/tools and explain what their uses were.
- Place events on a timeline using dates
- Look at pictures of Skara Brae and describe the features of the settlement.
- Present what you know about the Stone Age using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography English, Maths, Computing)

Vocabulary and definitions

Vocabulary	
ancient	belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire (AD 410)
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
artefact	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
century	a period of 100 years
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
discovery	If someone makes a <b>discovery</b> , they are the first person to find or become aware of a place, substance, or scientific fact that no one knew about before.
era	a period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.
extinct	no longer has any living members, either in the world or in a particular place
farming	when an area of land is used to produce crops or to breed animals and livestock.
flint	a piece of stone used in fire-starting and as a tool
gather	collect things together
hearths	the floor of a fireplace, or the stone or brick area in front of it
island	a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water
land clearance	the removal of trees, or other things that are not wanted from an area to clear the land.
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age
migration	movement from one place to another in order to settle there
Neanderthal	an early species of human being, now extinct
Neolithic	New Stone Age
nomad	a person or a group of people with no fixed home who travelled around to find shelter.
Palaeolithic	Old or 'ancient' Stone Age.
remains	traces of the past
resources	something used to help when needed.
settler/ settlement	people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement

Significant people

Cheddar Man – remains of a Mesolithic man

## Important facts

The Stone Age began when the first tools were made from stone and ended with the introduction of metal tools.

- At the end of the Ice Age, the sea levels rose and so Britain turned into an island.
- Humans survived by using sharp stone tools to kill animals, such as mammoths.
- Dead animals proved to be useful resources because they provided food to eat and skins to keep warm. Their bones were another useful material for making tools.
- Evidence of the Stone Age includes discoveries of:
  - cave paintings
  - early tools such as flints
  - fire hearths
  - settlements such as Skara Brae
  - Cheddar Man - the remains of a Mesolithic man
- At the same time in another part of the world was the Egyptian civilisation - the Egyptians were building the pyramids around the same time as the Neolithic era.

**Bronze Age:**

- The Bronze Age started at different times around the world.
- Tools were made from bronze - copper and tin were heated up and poured into casts.
- Evidence of the Bronze Age:
  - Amesbury Archer - the remains of an early Bronze Age man who was buried with over 100 artefacts
  - Discovery of round barrows and stone circles
- The Bronze Age started when the Beaker People arrived from Europe.
- They brought with them new ways of making metal.
- Bronze Age people lived in settlements, which was a group of round houses.
- Houses were made from wattle (sticks) and daub (mud) or dry stone.
- Settlements traded resources like copper and tin.
- Burials were important to Bronze Age people - they placed stone circles where burials took place.

**Iron Age:**

- Tools were made from iron. Iron was heated up then the hot iron was hammered into shape.
- Settlements became larger because tribes were better able to farm and defend themselves.
- At the end of the Iron Age, coins were made and used as currency.
- There were lots of battles between tribes who fought each other for more land and power.

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