





How did the lives of ancient Britons change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

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

We also talk about the Stone Age in three periods:

The Early or Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic era)	The Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic era)	The New Stone Age (Neolithic era – this was the last stage of the Stone Age)
<p>Early Stone Age (Paleolithic) 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 years ago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Early Stone Age, Britain was part of mainland Europe. The first humans probably arrived in Britain around 900,000BC. Homo sapiens (our ancient ancestors) arrived around 30,000BC. Early Stone Age people lived in caves or very simple shelters. They made simple stone tools and survived by hunting and fishing. <div data-bbox="109 826 432 1070">  </div> <p>Art found in a cave at Cresswell Crags, Derbyshire. It was made around 12,000 years ago.</p>	<p>Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic) 8000BC to 4500BC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the Middle Stone Age, Britain was linked to Europe by a strip of land called Doggerland. People in Britain began to set up camps along the British coast and on river banks. Hunters often worked together as a team, using spears and bows and arrows. People also tamed wolves so they could work as hunting dogs and guard their camps. <div data-bbox="947 826 1290 1059">  </div>	<p>New Stone Age (Neolithic) 4000BC to 2500BC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain became an island at the start of the Late Stone Age. During this period, people learned to farm. They cleared large areas of land and settled down to live in small communities. Neolithic people used flint, antler and bone to make tools, and developed the skill of making clay pots. They buried their dead in large tombs (known as long barrows) and built huge stone circles for outdoor ceremonies, such as Stonehenge. <div data-bbox="1473 839 1760 1002">  </div> <p>Long barrow</p> <div data-bbox="1787 839 2042 1002">  </div> <p>Stonehenge</p>



BC and AD

B.C means 'Before Christ'. A date such as 3000BC means 3000 years before the year 1 AD (there was no year zero)

A.D means 'Anno Domini' in Latin which stands for 'in the year of our lord.' A date such as 2019 AD means 2019 years after Christians believe Jesus was born.

Skara Brae – An archaeological site in Orkney, Scotland

- It is a stone-built Neolithic settlement that was inhabited between 3200 BC and 2200 BC.
- There are eight one-roomed houses, linked together by a series of low alleyways.
- It is famous because it has been well preserved and has taught us a lot about life in the Stone Age.

Bronze Age 2500BC to 800BC	Iron Age 800BC to AD43
<p>In the Bronze Age ancient Britons learned to work with copper, tin, gold and bronze.</p> <p>Bronze Age people lived in small communities led by a warrior chief. They gathered together for religious ceremonies and built circular tombs (known as round barrows) for important men and women.</p> <p>The Beaker culture also spread to Britain. The Beaker way of life involved making pottery and metal, holding feasts and building stone circles.</p>	<p>People in Britain learned to make iron around 800BC. They used it to make tools and weapons.</p> <p>During the Iron Age, farming flourished and the British population grew very fast. But it was a very violent time. Tribes fought against each other and many people lived in hill forts to protect themselves.</p> <p>The Iron Age ended in Britain in AD43 when the Romans arrived. Slowly, people stopped living in tribes and began to follow a Roman way of life.</p>
	

KEY VOCABULARY TO LEARN			
Prehistoric	Prehistoric means the time before recorded history.	Hunter-gatherer	Prehistoric people who had to catch or find everything they ate. They moved from place to place in search of food.
Archaeologist	Person who learns about the past by digging up artefacts and studying them.	Flint	A type of stone that can be shaped into blades, knives and spears for hunting.
Artefact	An object made by human beings in the past.	Quern	A hand mill used for grinding corn.
Preserve	To keep something in good condition so it lasts a long time.	Monument	Something built to remember an important person or event.
Tribes	A group of people that live together and live a common way of life. They also share the same language.	Henge	A circular monument made of wood or stone.
Settlement	A place where a group of people live together in many buildings.	Homo Sapiens	The type of human species today.