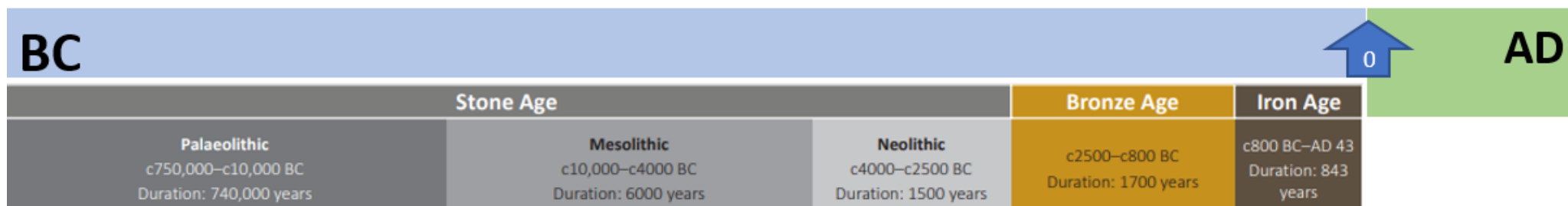


Would you prefer to live in the Stone Age, Bronze Age, or the Iron Age?



Stone Age

Tools and weapons – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

Everyday life – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

Settlements – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



Beliefs – People built monuments, including stone circles, henges and earthworks. Historians believe that they used these monuments for gatherings and worship.

End of the Stone Age – The Beaker folk arrived from Europe and brought their knowledge of metalworking to Britain.

Bronze Age

Tools and weapons – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

Everyday life – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

Settlements – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



Beliefs – People were buried with objects, including Bell Beaker pottery, to use in the afterlife. They threw weapons and objects into rivers as offerings to the gods.

End of the Bronze Age – People stopped using metal during a time called the Bronze Age collapse.

Iron Age

Tools and weapons – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

Everyday life – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

Settlements – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



Beliefs – Priests called druids led worship. Humans were sacrificed as offerings to the gods. People threw votive offerings into rivers and lakes.

End of the Iron Age – The Romans invaded and conquered Britain in AD 43. They created written records, so this event ended prehistory in Britain.

Archaeological evidence

Archaeologists find out about prehistoric life by studying the artefacts and settlements left behind by prehistoric people.

Skara Brae is a Neolithic settlement in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. It has well preserved, interconnected houses made of stone.



Stonehenge is a stone circle in Wiltshire, England. It is made of stones from the local area and Wales. The stones line up with the Sun during midsummer and midwinter.



The **Amesbury Archer** was buried near Stonehenge with his tools, including arrowheads, a metalworking stone and some Bell Beaker pottery.



The **Mold cape** was made from one piece of gold the size of a golf ball. It is finely made and archaeologists believe that it was worn by a wealthy tribe leader.



The **Snettisham Great torc** was made during the Iron Age. It was worn around the neck and is crafted from twisted gold stands.



The **Battersea shield** was found in the river Thames. Archaeologists believe that it was put in the river as a votive offering to the gods in the Iron Age.



Key Vocabulary

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Archaeologist | A person who learns about the past by recovering building, graves and other objects that belonged to people from the past. |
| AD (Anno Domini) | The Latin for 'in the Year of the Lord', a term used to describe the years after Jesus was born. |
| BC (Before Christ) | A term used to date the years before Jesus was born. |
| Bartering | Trading by exchanging one item for another item with the use of money. |
| Hunter-gatherers | A group of people who move around hunting or collecting food |
| Settlement | A place where people live together as a community. |
| Trade | The buying and selling of goods (objects) and services (labour). |
| Tribe | A group of people who lives together in a hill fort and shared the same language and ideas, usually led by a chief or king. |
| Prehistoric | Prehistoric means the time before recorded history. |
| Artefact | An object made by human beings in the past. |
| Preserve | To keep something in good condition so it lasts a long time. |
| Henge | A circular monument made of wood or stone. |