

Stone Age to Iron Age Knowledge Planner: Who were the first Britons?

The Stone Age to Iron Age

This period of prehistory in Britain generally refers to the time before written records began. It begins when the earliest hunter-gatherers came to Britain from Europe around 450,000 BC and ends with the invasion of the Romans in AD 43.

With no written sources, what we know about this period comes mostly from artefacts and monuments that archaeologists have discovered. What we do know is that the period from the Stone Age to the Iron Age was one of immense change in human development, spanning from the early hunter-gatherers who roamed the countryside to the highly sophisticated and organised groups of the late Iron Age.

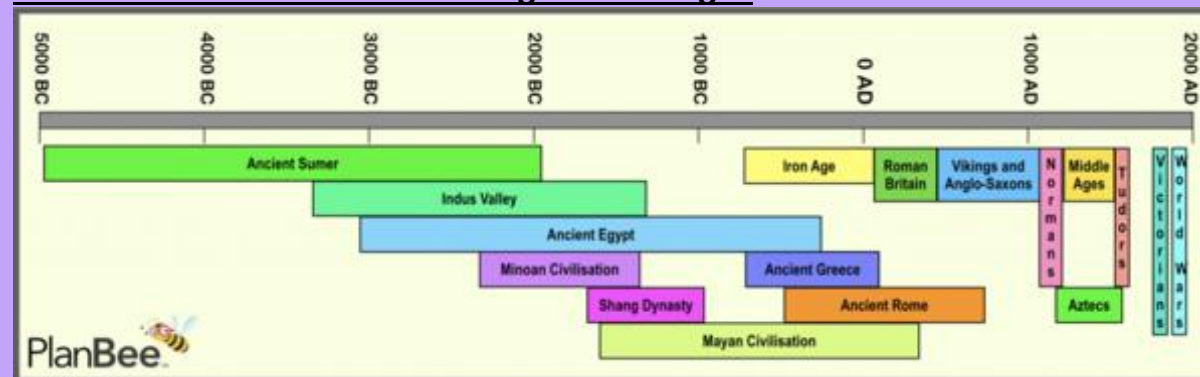
Historical Concepts

Change	The process or actions by which something or someone becomes different.
Continuity	Aspects that may stay the same despite changes.
Causation	The connections between events where one thing happens as a result of another
Significance	Identifying those events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
Similarity and Difference	Comparing ways of life at different times.
Perspective	When interpreting evidence recognise that judgements are influenced by the view and opinion of the observer.
Sources	Evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgements.
Chronology	Arrange historical events in their correct time order.
Empathy	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.

Key Vocabulary

Archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
Artefacts	An object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
Era	A period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.
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
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age
Migration	Movement from one place to another in order to settle there
Neanderthal	In 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 society people in general, thought of as a large organized group

Timeline: When was the Stone Age to Iron Age?



Key Information

The Stone Age

- 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

The Bronze Age

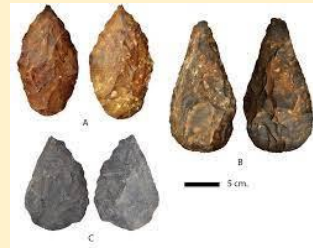
- The Bronze Age started at different times around the world
- Tools were made from bronze - copper and tin were heated up and poured into casts
- The Bronze Age started when the Beaker People arrived from Europe who brought with them new ways of making metal.
- Bronze Age people lived in settlements, 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.

The 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.

Important Artefacts

Stone Age



Bronze Age



Iron Age



Important Places

Skara Brae

Skara Brae is an archaeological site in Orkney, Scotland. -It is a Stone Age village -There are 8 houses made of stone -There is only one room in each house -It is famous because it has been well preserved and has taught us a lot about life in the Stone Age.



Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a famous monument located in Wiltshire, England -It is a circle of very large stones standing upright -It was built in the Stone Age -Nobody knows why it exists. Some believe it was built to learn about the movements of the sun and moon. Some believe it was a burial mound.



Timeline

