



Year 3 Knowledge Organiser: Stone Age to Iron Age



The **Stone Age**, **Bronze Age** and **Iron Age** cover a huge span of early human history from the first evidence and tool use roughly 3.4million years ago up until the Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD. The **Stone Age** covers these eras and covers the time when early humans were using stone tools and has 3 distinct periods. The first is the Palaeolithic era. During this time, early people grouped together in small societies and subsisted by gathering plants and scavenging wild animals. This was followed by the Mesolithic era which is associated the development of more finely smaller stone tools (microliths) and weapons. The end of the **Stone Age** brought the Neolithic era and settlements (such as Skara Brae) and the farming of crops along with the domestication of animals. The Neolithic era began with the introduction of bronze tools and weapons from continental Europe around 2500BC. This led to the development of pottery, textiles and trade. The **Iron Age** is thought to have started around 800BC and again with new influences coming in from Europe. Britain's population grew substantially in this period to around 1 million.

Key Terms:

Ancient— Something that is very old.

Agriculture - The practice of farming and growing crops (plants).

Era— A period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.

Flaking - A process of shaping stone by chipping pieces off the edges.

Flint - A very hard stone used to make tools.

Glacier - A large sheet of ice.

Hunter-Gatherer - A term used to describe Stone Age people before they started to farm.

Microlith - Small, sharp stones used as arrow and spear heads.

Neolithic Era - The last period of the Stone Age when humans began to develop agriculture and use tools and weapons.

Paleolithic Era - The earliest part of the Stone Age characterised by tools made of stone and by cave art.

Timeline:



3.4 million years ago	First evidence of tool use
2.6 million years ago	Palaeolithic era
500,000 years ago	Oldest known human remains in Britain
13,000 years ago	Earliest known cave art in Britain
Approx.10,000BC	End of the last ice age
Approx.10,000BC	Mesolithic era
Approx. 6,000BC	Neolithic era
Approx. 6,000BC	Britain becomes an island as sea levels rise
Approx. 6000BC	First evidence of farming in Britain
2,800 BC	First phase of building of Stonehenge
Approx. 2,300 BC	Bronze Age
2,300 BC	Amesbury Archer burial date
2000 BC	Stonehenge completed
800BC	Iron Age
43AD	Roman Invasion of Britain

Local Links:

We are very lucky to have a number of sites of prehistoric Britain on our doorstep.

The most well-known of these are Grimspound and Merrivale on Dartmoor <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/grimspound/> <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/merrivale-prehistoric-settlement/>

Bodmin Moor has one of the

densest concentrations of Stone Age and Neolithic sites including Trethven Neolithic burial circles known as



Bronze Age gold work

Cornwall is famous

world for its tin mining and there is evidence to suggest it dates back to the early Bronze age.

Even closer to home are the Cattedown caves: Palaeolithic caves which, although are closed off to visitors, have been found to contain the bones of at least 15 humans and many types of prehistoric animals dating back to 140,000 years ago.

How do we know about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age:

We mostly know about early Britain due to archaeological finds and digs at known prehistoric sites. Written records did not exist until the arrival of The Romans in AD43. Sites such as Skara Brae and discoveries of early skeletons such as the Amesbury Archer have been immensely helpful to archaeologists as they piece together life in early Britain. However with new technological advancements allowing these sites to reveal further secrets, historians are constantly revising Britain's early history.

Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age in other parts of the world:

The exact point in which one era became another varies greatly depending on where you are in the world for example the first known evidence of farming dates back to 12,000BC (although recent research suggests this could be even earlier) However in Britain is believed to have reached us later around 6,000BC. Notable civilisations in the same era include the Ancient Egyptians, Mayans and Chinese.

Websites you can visit:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/prehistory/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk/articles/z874kqt>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk/articles/z8bkwmn>

Remember: if you add "Key Stage 2" to your google search, you will get results aimed at junior school children! Always check with an adult if there is a website that you are unsure about.

Enquiry Questions:

Who was the Amesbury Archer?

What was and who built Stonehenge?

How do you make bronze?

How do you make iron?

Find out about other civilisations that were around at the same time as our Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age such as the Ancient Egyptians, Mayans and Chinese.

Visit a local site (see opposite for ideas) and tell us about it.



Quotes:

"I know this goes without saying, but Stonehenge really was the most incredible accomplishment." Bill Bryson Notes from a Small Island