

HISTORY

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Overview

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 Stone Age spanned a long period of time, from the early (Paleolithic), to middle (Mesolithic), to late Stone Age (Neolithic).

2.5 million years ago to 10,000 years ago

Image of a Paleolithic hand axe



Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary		
What did a late Stone Age Settlement look like?	 <p>Skara Brae, The Orkney Islands off Scotland</p>	<p>In the Late Stone Age, the Neolithic, People began to create settlements and to keep cattle and sheep. They also began to farm</p> <p>In this well-preserved settlement in the Orkney Islands, people made furniture from stone such as a bed, seats and even a sideboard. Here they would most likely have displayed precious ornaments such as jewellery. The roof would have been made from turf and bracken.</p>
How did people use tools and hunt for food?	 <p>A Stone Age arrow head</p>	<p>They used flint hand axes for many things, such as slicing and preparing food, wood and leather. Wooden arrows with stone or bone tips were used for hunting.</p>
Did Stone Age people have beliefs, art and culture?	 <p>A Neolithic grave at Pentre Ifan, Wales. When it was built, the stones would have been covered by a large mound of earth.</p>	 <p>Stone Age people made art, such as this hand cave art by grinding natural materials to make colour paste and applying with their fingers.</p>

Key Vocabulary

- Paleolithic
- Mesolithic
- Neolithic
- Nomadic
- Hunter Gatherer
- Flint
- Tool-use
- Settlement
- Farming
- Monument
- Long Barrow
- Ceremony
- Ancestor
- Communal

Stone Age

Neolithic - 4000BC to 2500BC

- Britain became an Island
- People learned to farm, and settled into communities
- They used flint, antler and bone to make tools
- They built large outdoor monuments for ceremonies

They also built long barrows as burial mounds

Mesolithic - 8000BC to 4500BC

- Britain was still linked to Europe by a strip of land called 'Doggerland'
- People made camps along the coast to hunt and gather food. Sometimes they worked together
- People tamed wolves to help them hunt and to guard their camps

Paleolithic - 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 years ago

- First humans arrived in Britain around 900,000BC
- Our ancestors, Homo sapiens arrived around 30,000BC

They lived in caves and simple shelters and may have decorated these spaces with drawings or hand prints on the walls

Top 10 Facts!

- The Stone Age is made up of 3 periods: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic
- The Mesolithic or 'Middle Stone Age' was the age of the Hunter Gatherer people who were nomadic
- The Neolithic or 'New Stone Age' was the later period
- It wasn't until the Neolithic that people formed farms and settlements
- Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands is a Neolithic settlement
- Stone Age people honoured their dead with burial mounds and ceremonies
- The hand axe wasn't a weapon, it was a tool for cutting meat, skinning, chopping wood and carving
- Stone Age people had culture, art, and a system of beliefs before modern religion existed.
- People had furniture made from stone, such as a bed and a sideboard.
- They farmed cattle, sheep and crops

Stone Age Timeline

