



Year 3 HistoryPrehistoric Britain

What was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age is named after the stone (flint) tools that the earliest humans used to help them survive. They used them to kill animals, such as mammoths, for their meat, bone marrow and skins. The bones were also useful for making tools, such as needles to sew skins together.

The Stone Age (covers a huge period of time - over **3 million years**. It can be broken down into 3 smaller time periods:

- **Palaeolithic** - around 3,000,000 BC. Early humans used simple stone tools with sharp edges.
- **Mesolithic** - around 10,000 BC. Humans were hunter-gatherers and moved around from place to place with the seasons, in order to keep safe and warm and to follow the animals they hunted.
- **Neolithic** - around 4500-2400 BC. Farming developed and villages were built.

Skara Brae - a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located in the Orkney region in Scot-land. It is a cluster of eight houses, which was occupied between 3000 and 2500 BC.



Key Events

3,000,000 BC	Palaeolithic (early Stone Age) period begins
800,000 BC	Earliest footprints in Britain date back to this time
40,000-8000 BC	People start creating cave paintings
25,000 BC	Ice Age in Northern Europe & Britain
12,000 BC	Modern humans start living in Britain
10,000	Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) period begins
8,500 BC	Climate gets warmer in Britain
6,000 BC	Sea levels rise & Britain becomes an island (before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe).
4,000 BC	Farming introduced in Britain; people start to settle in one place instead of moving with the seasons
3,000 BC	• Stonehenge started to be built—it took around 1,000 years to complete • Skara Brae first inhabited
4500-2400 BC	Neolithic (late Stone Age) period: Farming develops and people begin to build villages (settlements) and live in one place
2,500 BC	'Bell Beaker' culture arrives in Britain. These people are named for their distinctive decorative pottery.



Cave painting



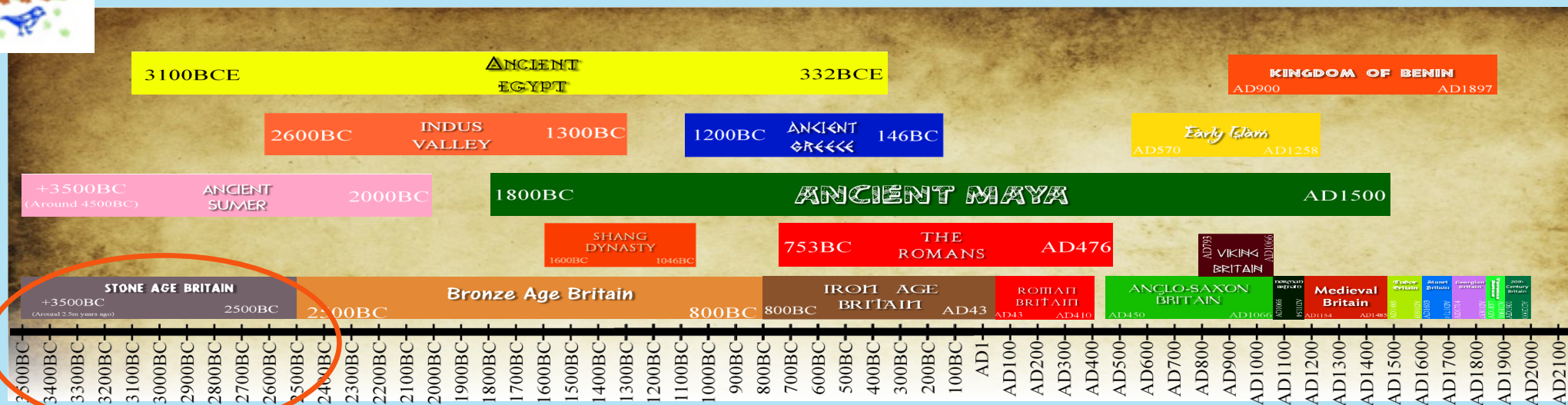
Archaeological dig,
Star Carr, Yorkshire.

Stone Henge - a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 4 metres high. Its purpose and how it was built remains uncertain.



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Key Vocabulary

Prehistoric	Time in history before written records began
Timeline	A tool to order events from the past in the order that they happened
BC/ BCE/ AD (A way of dividing time)	BC: Before Christ BCE: Before Common Era (means the same as BC) AD: After Christ's birth (the year of our Lord)
Archaeologist	A person who studies human history by looking at artefacts and other remains.
Artefacts	Objects from the past
Sources of information	Primary source: information about the past that has been written/ made in that time period Secondary source: information about the past that's been created <u>after</u> the time period, using artefacts & records from the time period
Settlement	A place where people live
Hillfort	A fort built on a hill with outer walls or ditches for defensive purposes (for example Maiden Castle/Danebury fort)
Earthworks	A large bank or mound of soil that has been made on purpose.
Homo Sapien	The scientific name for a human being
Homo Neanderthalensis (Neandethal)	Another type of human that is now extinct

Sticky learning: Can you answer any of these questions?

- Draw and label a picture of Bronze Age roundhouse.
- Why did people start building hillforts during the Iron Age?
- Describe the differences between the Stone Age, Bronze Age & Iron Age (think about houses, clothes, food, farming and tools).
- Scan this QR code to complete our class quiz & find out if you would survive in the Stone Age!

