

Subject specific vocabulary

archaeologist	A person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and analysis of artefacts.
archaeology	The study of buildings, graves, tools and other artefacts from the past to learn about the people who lived at that time.
artefact	An object such as a tool or decoration, which is of historical interest.
flint	A hard, grey rock that was used in prehistoric times to make tools or weapons.
fortified	A town that has strong walls and can be defended against enemies.
harpoon	A spear that is attached to a long rope and thrown at large fish or whales to kill them.
monument	A statue, building or other structure that is built to help people remember a special person or event.
prehistory	The time before written records.
tribe	A group of people, often made up of many families who live together.



Tribal Tales Knowledge Organiser

Prehistoric life

Humans first arrived in Britain after the dinosaurs died. Prehistoric time is the time before there were written records. People use artefacts and cave art, as well as buildings and burial sites to discover more about how prehistoric people lived. Prehistory is divided into three periods: The Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages which are named after the main materials used at each time.

Stone Age (450,000 - 2300) BC

The Stone Age is named after the stone 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.

People in the Stone Age moved around from place to place with the seasons, in order to keep safe and warm and to follow the animals they hunted.

Bronze Age (2300-700BC)

- Tools and weapons were made from bronze.
- Bronze was harder and more durable.
- They made daggers, swords, spearheads, chariots and armour.
- Gold was used to create jewellery and luxury items.
- Most people lived in villages or on farms.
- They lived in roundhouses with a central fireplace and a roof of animal skins or thatch.
- They built fences around their villages to keep out enemies.

Iron Age (700BC-AD43)

- Tools and weapons were made from iron.
- Iron was cheaper, stronger and lighter than bronze.
- Celtic people settled in Britain.
- People lived in tribes and fought against each other for land and goods.
- Hill forts were built for defence.
- They lived inside the forts and warriors defended them against enemy attack.
- The Iron Age ended when the Romans invaded and settled in Britain.



Skara Brae

It was discovered after a storm in AD 1850 removed the earth that had been covering it. It is a village of eight houses, linked by covered passageways. Not all of the houses were built at the same time. The later ones are slightly bigger but they have similar features, such as a central firepit and stone shelves. The village tells us a lot about life in the late Stone Age, including what people ate and the tools they used.



Left:
Location of Skara Brae.
Right:
Stonehenge



Stonehenge

A famous prehistoric monument in southern England, built at the end of the Stone Age and into the Bronze Age. Originally, it was just an earthwork and up to 150 people were buried there. The huge stones that we see were added in different stages. Some were brought from 240 miles away in Wales.

Sticky knowledge

- hunting changed to farming
- development of tools and weapons
- development of housing and settlements
- development of communication

Topic links

- Y1 Dinosaurs, prehistoric life
- Y2 Towers, Tunnels and Turrets - compare types of settlements