

Stone Age - Mesolithic Life and Neolithic Life



People make cave paintings.



Farming starts and begins to spread.

Bronze Age



The first pottery is made and used.



People start to ride and use horses.



Metal starts to be used.



The first copper mines are dug.



Metal tools are made and used.



Tribal Kingdoms and Celtic culture.

Iron Age



The first hill forts are made.



Iron is used a lot more than before.



Coins are made and used for the first time.



The Romans invade Britain - Iron Age ends.

Stone Age to the Iron Age

we will answer the

question:

What were the benefits of a settler's lifestyle as opposed to a nomad's lifestyle?

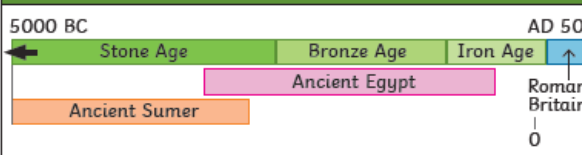
Important Time Periods

Stone Age – When the first humans began to live in Europe. They used stones as tools.

Iron Age - Humans now used iron to make tools, and farmed land instead of hunting. They lived in communities.

Bronze Age - In this era, metals were used to make hunting tools. Humans also began to farm land.

Timeline



Stone Age

Began about 2.6 million years ago – 3,000 BC

Bronze Age

3,000 BC – 800 BC (approximately)

Iron Age

800 BC – 43 AD

Pre-historic times in Britain ended when the

Homo habilis was an early human that lived around 2 million years ago. We think these were the first people to use stone tools.

Modern humans (or Homo sapiens) first appeared around 300,000 years ago.

An 'Age' starts when a country or area starts using that material.

The first people arrived in Britain over 700,000 years ago.

The Celts were the most powerful group of people living in Europe in the Iron Age.

Iron was better than bronze for many things because it was harder and blades stayed sharp for longer.

Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. This means they hunted animals and collected fruit from trees and bushes. As people settled more, during the Bronze and Iron Age, they began to grow their own crops and keep cattle.

Druids

Druids were the priests of the tribes we call 'Celts'. Their job was to communicate with the more than 400 gods that the people of the tribes believed in. They believed the gods lived in nature. The main festivals were based around important times in the farming year. The Druids sacrificed food, precious objects and even humans to keep the gods happy.

Druids were also like doctors and lawyers. They found cures in plants and resolved disagreements. Their opinions were more important than those of the king. It took at least 20 years to train to be a Druid. However, we only know about them from what the Romans wrote down.

Hillforts

People in the Bronze Age and Iron Age lived in roundhouses. These could be very large and would have housed many people. One household might have had two houses, one for living and one for cooking and making things. In the Iron Age, these houses were sometimes rectangular and were often gathered in farming communities on hills. These were known as 'hillforts'.

Between 500 and 100 BC, many parts of Britain were dominated by hillforts. These settlements provided a home for hundreds, and later thousands, of people.



An Iron Age hillfort

Round

- thick
- door
- wall
- door
- timber
- upright
- hear
- beds
- logs for sitting on

Skara Brae

Skara Brae 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 very 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 what sort of tools they used.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is 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.



| Vocabulary | Meaning |
|---------------|--|
| Agriculture | The practice of farming and growing crops. |
| Archaeologist | A person who learns about the past by digging up artefacts and studying them. |
| Artefact | An object made by a human being |
| Bronze | A metal alloy (mixture of two or more metals) made from a mixture of copper and tin. |
| Celts | People living in Europe during the Iron Age. |
| Citizen | An inhabitant of a particular place. |
| Civilisation | The society, culture and way of life of a particular area. |
| Eye-witness | A person who has seen something happen and can give a first-hand description of it. |
| Flint | A type of stone that can be shaped into blades, knives and spears for hunting. |
| Hillfort | A settlement on top of a hill, surrounded by banks and ditches. |
| Iron | A metal that is stronger and harder than bronze. |
| Mesolithic | Middle Stone Age. |
| Neolithic | New Stone Age. |
| Nomad | People who move from place to place and have no permanent homes. |
| Palaeolithic | Old Stone Age. |
| Pre-history | The period of time before written records. |
| Sacrifice | To give something up, break it or kill it as an offering to the gods. |
| Settlement | A place where a group of people live together in many buildings. |
| Settler | A person who moved with a group to live in a new area. |
| Source | A place, person or thing from which something originates. |
| Tribe | A group of people who live together for protection. |