

THE STONE AGE



TOOLS

The Stone Age is called the Stone Age because the tools were made of stone. The earliest humans managed to survive by using sharp stone tools to kill animals, such as mammoths. They move around from place to place in order to stay safe and warm, according to the time of year. The dead animals provided food to eat and skins to keep warm. Their bones were another useful material for making tools, such as needles, to sew animal skins together.

PREHISTORIC TIMES - THE BRONZE AGE

There is a large period of time for which we have no written records; we call this time period 'prehistory'. Starting from evidence of the first early humans, it is split into three sections:
 The Stone Age: 800 000 BC
 The Bronze Age: 2100 BC - The Bronze Age in Britain lasted around 1500 years.
 The Iron Age: 750 BC



ANIMALS

Animals were the main source of food. They would eat all of the animal. When the meat was stripped off the bones, the bones would be smashed so the marrow could be eaten from the inside. Marrow is high in fat and would have been a good source of energy

Good tools were the difference between living and dying in the Stone Age. A good tool meant that you could hunt successfully. The meat and skin could clothe and feed your family. Weapons changed; spears, axes, bows and arrows were developed to make hunting quicker and better. Dogs would help with hunting. Graves have been found where dogs had been buried with tools, like the ones they buried humans with. This tells us that dogs were treated like a part of the family. The Stone Age people developed the first bow and arrow



Just like the Stone Age was so called because early humans made tools from stone, the Bronze age was called the Bronze Age because humans started making tools from... bronze! Bronze was an alloy made from copper and tin. The Bronze Age started at different times in different countries. As people travelled to other countries, the knowledge of how to mix the copper and tin to make bronze was brought with them. Not all parts of the world had copper and tin available. Bronze was already being used in other parts of the world before it was brought to Britain around 2100 BC.

Key Vocabulary			
Stone Age	Stone Age was a time in history when early humans used tools and weapons made out of stone. It lasted from when the first stone tools were made, by our ancestors, about 3.4 million years ago until the introduction of metal tools a few thousand years ago.	Iron Age	A prehistoric period that followed the Bronze Age, when weapons and tools came to be made of iron.
Neolithic period	The Neolithic period is the time when farming was invented and when people started caring for animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs. The Neolithic starts at different times in different places, since not everyone started farming at the same time.	Prehistoric Period	Pre-history is the time before people began to write. The word comes from the Ancient Greek words προ (pre = "before") and ιστορία (historia = "history")
Bronze Age	The Bronze Age is a time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons. Some groups of Bronze Age people developed early writing and other important advances included irrigation, the wheel and the potter's wheel	Druids	A druid was a member of the priestly and learned class in the pre-Christian, ancient Celtic societies. These societies existed through much of Western Europe, Britain and Ireland, until the Roman government took over and, later, Christianity arrived.
Bronze	Bronze was an alloy made from copper and tin.	Skara Brae	Skara Brae is a one of Britain's most fascinating prehistoric villages. Archaeologists estimate it was built and occupied between 3000BCE and 2500BCE, during what's called the 'Neolithic era' or 'New Stone Age'.
Alloy	Alloy is a metal made by combining two or more metals to improve its properties	Construction	The definition of construction is the process of making something, the occupation of building or the way that something is put together

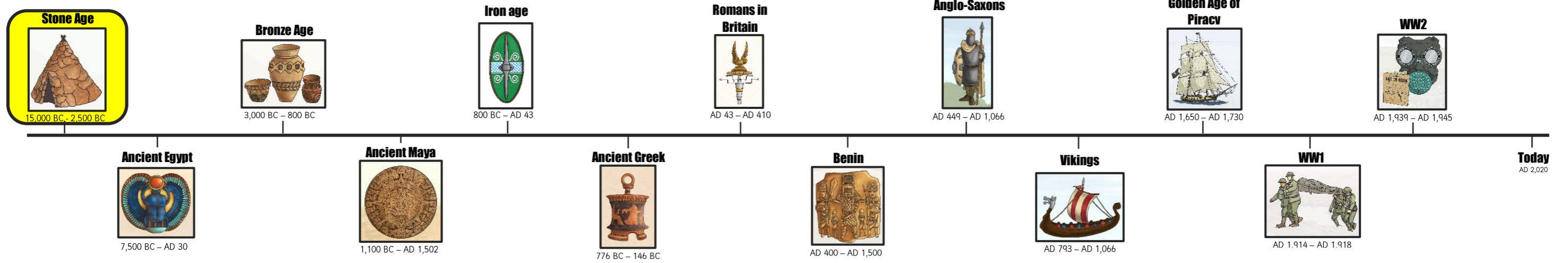
SKARA BRAE



Skara Brae is a remarkably well -reserved Stone Age village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000 BC. It was discovered in 1850, after a heavy storm stripped away the earth that had previously been covering what we can see today. The Orkney Islands sit off the North coast of Scotland. Skara Brae can be found on Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands

The remains of eight houses stand on the site. They were not all built at the same time, so at some point the original village was added to. Apart from one building, which stands slightly separate from the others, the layout of the houses is very similar.

History Timeline

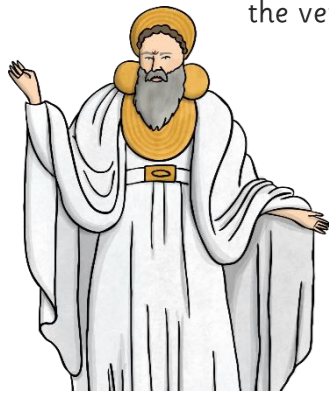


STONEHENGE



Stonehenge is a very famous prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, South England. The building of Stonehenge started around 5000 years ago towards the end of the Stone Age and the beginning of the Bronze Age, around 3100 – 3000 BC. Up to 150 people were buried there when it was just an earthwork. The stones that we see today were added later. The stones are positioned very carefully to align with sunrise at midsummer and sunset at midwinter at opposite ends of the circle.

- It has been estimated that the three phases of construction could have taken more than thirty million hours of labour!
- Modern calculations show that it would have taken 500 men using leather ropes to pull one Sarsen Stone, with an extra 100 men needed to lay the huge rollers in front of the sledge.
- To make the stones fit together well, they carved bumps and holes to make them fit together, a bit like Lego!
- The stones would have been moved and raised using a combination of rollers, ropes, wooden levers, A frames and pulleys, and a massive amount of man power! It is thought that the horizontal stones would be raised to the height of the vertical stones by building up wooden platforms.



THE DRUIDS

Druids were the priests of the Celts. The Celts were a group of the most powerful tribes in Europe during the Iron Age. The Celts believed in over 400 gods and goddesses that lived in rivers, cliffs, springs, lakes, bushes and other natural places. The only people who could communicate with the gods were the Druids.

The main religious festivals for the Celts were based around important times in the farming year:

- Imbolc: 1st February
- Beltane: 1st May, the beginning of warm weather
- Lughnasadh: 1st August, the time for harvesting.
- Samhain: 1st November

The Druids sacrificed food, precious objects and even humans to the gods, to keep them happy.

Druids were not just priests

Medicine: they were also like doctors, finding cures in plants.

Law: they sorted out problems in the tribe if there was a disagreement, a bit like a judge.

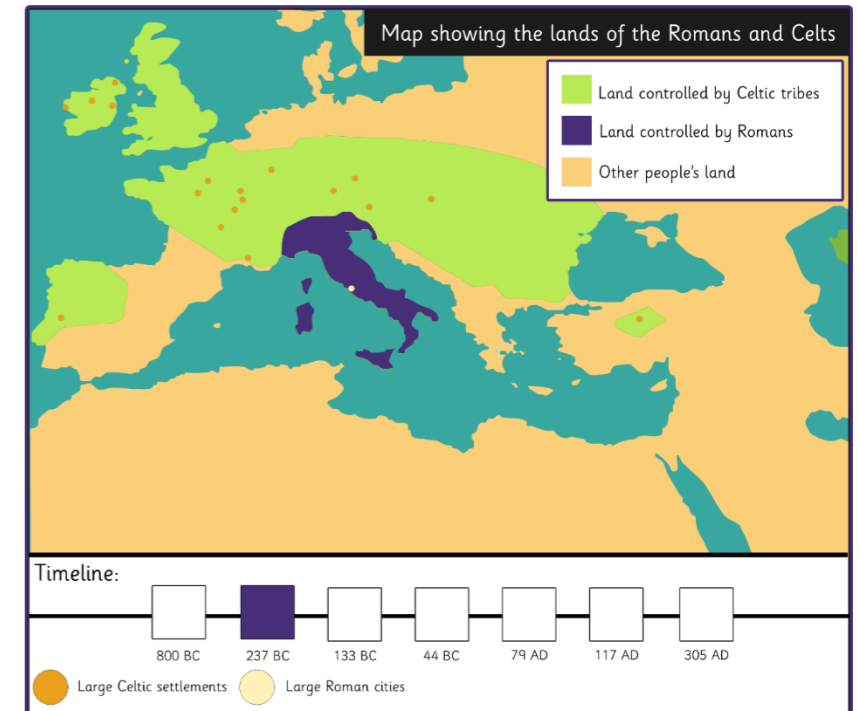
Clairvoyant: they tried to predict the future by studying nature.

Power: their opinions were more important than the opinions of the king.

THE IRON AGE AND HILLFORTS

The Iron Age followed the Bronze Age. The Iron Age took its name from the iron that was being used for tools, weapons and technology at the time. The people living in Britain during the Iron Age were called Celts. This map shows (in green) where the Celts could be found during the Iron Age. The Celts were made up of many tribes, such as the Britons and the Picts.

The Iron Age refers to the period of time in Britain (from around 800 BC until the Roman conquest in 43 AD) when iron and steel began to be used to make tools and weapons instead of bronze. Iron was a stronger, harder metal than the bronze previously used. It was worked into shape by hammering it against an anvil – a process known as smithing – and was used to make objects such as ploughs, armour and coins (which were used for the first time in the Iron Age around 100 BC). Significant changes in farming techniques and technology also occurred during this period in history and led to a significant population increase.



The people living in Europe during the Iron Age are referred to as Celts, although this term was not used until the eighteenth century and so would not have been what the Celtic people actually named themselves at the time. The Celtic people living in Britain were actually referred to as 'Britons' by the Romans. The word Celt, which means 'barbarian' comes from the Greek word 'Keltoi'.



The first hillforts were constructed around 800 BC. These were defended settlements that made use of natural rises in the landscape for defensive advantage. Between 500 and 100 BC, many parts of Britain were dominated by hillforts with settlements providing a home for hundreds, and later thousands of people. The remains of some very large hillforts, which made complex changes to the landscape, have been discovered. One example is Maiden Castle in Dorset, which was one of the biggest hillforts in Europe.

