

## Surviving in the Stone Age -fact sheet

### Early Stone Age (Palaeolithic)



2.5 million years ago to 10,000 years ago

In the Early Stone Age, Britain was part of mainland Europe.

The first humans probably arrived in Britain around 900,000BC.

Homo sapiens (our ancient ancestors) arrived around 30,000BC.

Early Stone Age people lived in caves or very simple shelters.

They made stone tools and survived by hunting and fishing

### Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic)



8000BC to 4500BC

During the Middle Stone Age, Britain was linked to Europe by a strip of land called Doggerland.

People in Britain began to set up camps along the British coast and on river banks. Hunters often worked together as a team, using spears and bows and arrows.

People also tamed wolves so they could work as hunting dogs and guard their camps.

### Late Stone Age (Neolithic)



4000BC to 2500BC

Britain became an island at the start of the Late Stone Age. During this period, people learned to farm. They cleared large areas of land and settled down to live in small communities. Neolithic people used flint, antler and bone to make tools, and developed the skill of making clay pots.

They buried their dead in large tombs (known as long barrows), like the one in the picture, and built huge stone circles for outdoor ceremonies.

### Bronze Age



2300BC-700BC

The Bronze Age is a time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons. This led to improvements in agriculture and brought with it changes in the way people live. Some groups of Bronze Age people developed early writing and other important advances included irrigation, the wheel and the potter's wheel.

### Iron Age



The Iron Age was a period in human history that started between 700 B.C. and 53 B.C and followed the Stone Age and Bronze Age. During the Iron Age, people began making tools and weapons from iron and steel. By the end of the Iron Age, amongst other things, coinage had been introduced, there was an increased interest in personal appearance, people had started to live in larger and more settled communities,

### Timeline of Key Events:

#### Stone Age:

Palaeolithic to 10,000 BCE

Mesolithic to 4000 BCE

Neolithic to 2300 BCE

Bronze Age: 2300 BCE to 800 BCE

Iron Age: 800 BCE to 43 CE

All dates below are approximate

800,000 BCE Earliest footprints in Britain

400,000 BCE Earliest hearth in Britain

10,000 BCE End of the last Ice Age

6000 BCE Land bridge to Europe flooded

4000 BCE Adoption of agriculture

3000 BCE Stonehenge started

3000 BCE Skara Brae built

2300 BCE Bronze working introduced

1500 BCE Villages and mixed farming

1200 BCE First hillforts

800 BCE Ironworking introduced

120 BCE Coins introduced from Europe

80 BCE Roman amphorae imported

54 BCE First Roman invasion (Julius Caesar)

43 CE Second Roman invasion (Claudius)

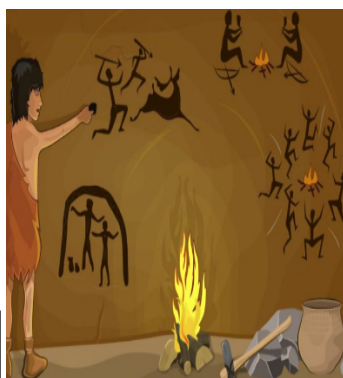
People living in caves decorated their walls with pictures of animals. Carvings found on cave walls show giant bulls, stags, horses, bison and birds.

The Palaeolithic period lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history.

### Stone Age Tools



Prehistoric people couldn't read or write, but they were astonishing builders. Their tombs, forts and monuments have survived for thousands of years.



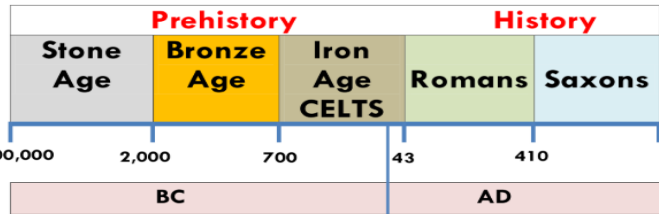
In the early Stone Age, people made simple hand-axes out of stones. They made hammers from bones or antlers and they sharpened sticks to use as hunting spears.

Stone Age Britons made necklaces and bracelets from tusks, bones and shells. They also drew patterns on their bodies, using a kind of paint made from ochre (a type of red clay).

Stone Age people cut up their food with sharpened stones and cooked it on a fire. They used animal skins to make clothes and shelters. After a good day's hunting people could feast on meat. But the next day they had to start finding food again!



Vocabulary	Definition
The Stone Age	The first period in human history
Palaeolithic	Old Stone Age, the earliest part of the Stone Age
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age
Neolithic	New Stone Age
Pre-history	The period of time before people were recording history
Timeline	A way to plot and track events in time
Artefacts	Objects collected from history
Throwing stones	Stones that were used as weapons
Spears	weapons made from stones and wood
Cave paintings	Art on cave walls
Skara Brae	A famous Stone Age site of pre-historic houses
Hammer Stone	A very hard stone, used a bit like a hammer
Hand Axe	A weapon and tool made from stone and wood
Stonehenge	- A famous Stone Age landmark
Flint	A type of hard, grey rock



## Types of Rocks

Types of Rocks Chart | Main photo (Cover)

### Igneous

Formed by solidified molten rock.

**Extrusive (volcanic)**  
Formed when molten rock reaches the Earth's surface and cools.

Basalt, Pumice, Obsidian

**Intrusive (plutonic)**  
Formed when crystallized magma, cooled over time, is solidified deep in the Earth.

Serpentinite, Granite, Gabbro

### Metamorphic

Formed when other rocks are changed by heat, pressure, and chemical action.

Schist, Marble, Slate, Gneiss, Phyllite

### Minerals

Rocks are made of minerals.

Calcite, Quartz, Hornblende, Biotite, Feldspar

### Sedimentary

Formed when combinations of rock fragments, seashells, and chemicals are compressed in layers and hardened.

Dolomite, Shale, Sandstone, Limestone, Conglomerate