

History - Stones and Bones

Key Vocabulary

Prehistory	The time in history before written records
Palaeolithic	The three eras of the Stone Age
Mesolithic	
Neolithic	
Archaeologist	A scientist who studies the past

The Stone Age was a very long period of time that began from the very first humans. It is considered to have begun in Britain about 800,000 years ago. It is called the Stone Age because their most advanced material for making tools and weapons was stone. The Stone Age ended as the Bronze Age began, the new technologies making stone obsolete.

The first people came from Eastern Africa about 3 million years ago.



Palaeolithic people were very resourceful and didn't waste any part of the animals they hunted - they ate the meat and wore clothes made from animal skins to keep them warm.

How else do you think they used the animals?



Early people moved around to follow the animals they hunted. They would also forage for fruit and berries to eat.

As time moved on, they began to grow their own food and keep their own animals - these were the first farms.

Cave paintings were common in the Stone Age, some artwork has been discovered that is over 30,000 years old!

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Key Dates

800,000 BC	First people and the beginning of the Palaeolithic Era in Britain
10,000 BC	Palaeolithic Era ends and the Mesolithic Era begins
4500 BC	Mesolithic Era ends and Neolithic Era begins
2400 BC	Bronze Age begins
500 BC	Iron Age begins
73AD	Romans invade Britain, ending the Iron Age.

The Stone Age ended when people learned how to make bronze by mixing together two other metals. Bronze was lighter, easier to work with and stronger than stone. This new age was called the Bronze Age.

Can you find out which two metals make bronze?



Stonehenge



No-one really knows why or how Stonehenge was built, but there are lots of theories!
What do you think Stonehenge was for?

Iron was even stronger than bronze, so when people began making tools and, probably importantly, weapons from it, the old tech became obsolete and the Iron Age began.

Why would an iron sword be better to have than a bronze sword?

