

Year 3: Settlements in the Stone Age and the Iron Age

Prior Learning

Pupils will have completed some longitudinal studies in KS1, which will have prepared them for learning about chronology in this unit.

Following on:

- The concepts of **communities** and why settlements are shaped in the way they are will be further explored in future units.
- The concepts of afterlife and **belief systems** will be explored in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome and several other units.

The Stone Age

(to 2300 BCE)

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture – from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began utilising metal to make tools and objects. The Stone Age is often divided into three periods:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) to 10,000 BCE
- Mesolithic (Mid Stone Age) to 4000 BCE
- Neolithic (New Stone Age) to 2300 BCE

The Bronze Age

(From 2300 BCE to 800 BCE)

The Bronze Age is the name given to the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons. This, along with other developments, helped to influence big changes in the ways that people lived.

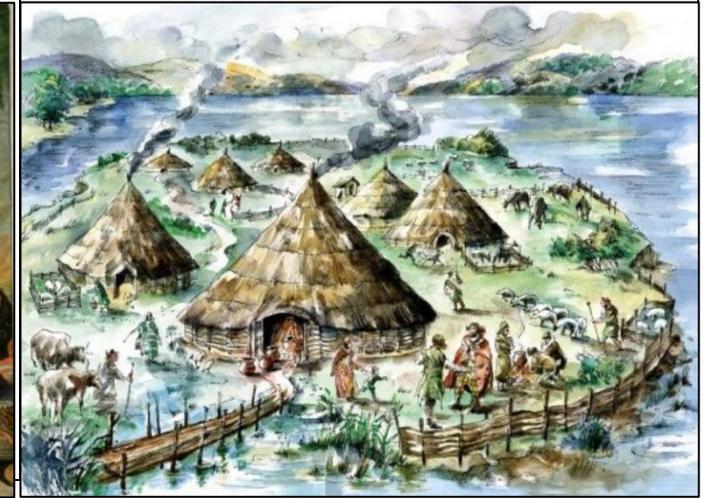
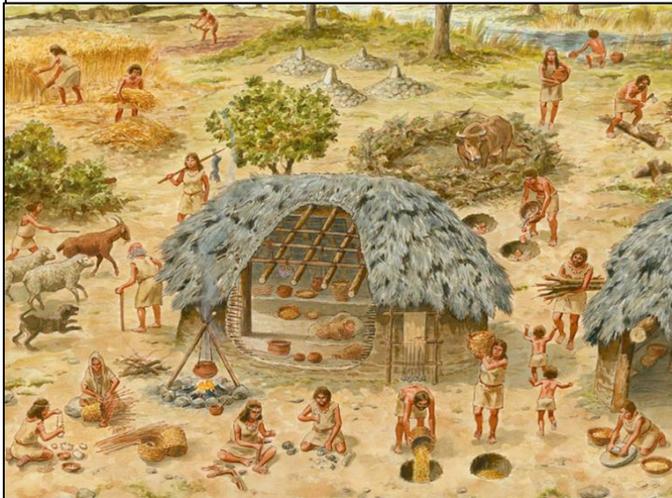
The Bronze Age is the period of time between the Stone Age and the Iron Age. It is difficult to give an exact time period for when the Bronze Age occurred, as bronze was discovered in different places at different times. However, most experts suggest that the Bronze Age started around 3300BCE and ended in most regions by 1200BCE.

The Iron Age

(From 800 BCE to 43 CE)

The Iron Age is the name given to the time period in which iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. It followed the Bronze Age, which had followed the Stone Age.

The Iron Age began in the Ancient Near East (today the countries of the Middle East) around 1200BCE, spreading quickly to the Mediterranean basin and to South Asia. However, it did not reach central Asia until some time later, and did not reach Northern Europe until around 500 BCE. The Iron Age in Britain is defined as being between 800BCE and 43CE.



4000 BCE Adoption of agriculture 3000 BCE Stonehenge was started 3000 BCE Skara Brae built 2300 BCE Bronze working introduced 1600 BCE Stonehenge abandoned 1500 BCE Villages and mixed farming 1200 BCE First hillforts 4000 BCE Ironworking introduced

Year 3: Settlements in the Stone Age and the Iron Age

Food

- Palaeolithic hominins were hunter-gatherers. This meant they sourced food through hunting, fishing, and collecting wild fruits and nuts.
- The Mesolithic period was a transition period; humans started to farm in some places, but many still relied on hunting and gathering.
- By the Neolithic period, humans had transitioned to becoming farmers. They purposefully cultivated crops and domesticated animals to support this.

Communities

Communities changed massively during Pre-historic Britain, mostly due to the development of farming.

1. Communities got bigger.
2. Communities settled in one place.
3. Homes became more sophisticated.

Burials

Burial practices varied across the prehistoric period, partly as a result of the changing communities and diet. One thing they do seem to have in common is presence of grave goods, which suggest beliefs in some kind of life after death.



Belief systems



While prehistorians can be quite certain about what people ate and where they lived by excavating remains or structures, it is almost impossible to use the same methods to know what people believed. Instead, prehistorians use what they can see and hypothesise. Some useful sources of evidence are stone circles, hill forts and the White Horse at Uffington.

Paleolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age
				
<i>Caves or very basic huts</i>	<i>Simple huts</i>	<i>More permanent huts and early roundhouses</i>	<i>Larger roundhouses</i>	<i>Larger and well-built roundhouses</i>

