

Stone Age to Iron Age

History

Year 3 Term 5



What have we learned previously?

Fossils are the remains of plants and animals that died many years ago. They are a source of evidence that help historians learn about the past.

What was the Stone Age?

The first humans learned to make weapons and tools out of stone. These included axes and spears. These new tools helped them make shelters and hunt food easier. Later on, homes and monuments were also made from stone.



Chronology

Stone Age to Iron Age in Britain

800,000BC - 10,000BC

Palaeolithic era - Old Stone Age

10,000BC - 4,500BC

Mesolithic era - Middle Stone Age

4,500BC - 2,400BC

Neolithic era - New Stone Age

2,400BC - 700BC

Bronze Age

700BC - 43AD

Iron Age

410AD

Saxons invade Britain

Who were hunter gatherers?

The first humans did not know how to farm.



They had to hunt other animals for food and gather wild plants to eat. They didn't have permanent homes and instead roamed the land looking for food and water. They lived in very small family groups.

What did hunter gatherers eat?

Hunter gatherers would eat whatever they found on their journeys. They would gather wild berries and other fruits, as well as hunting animals for meat.



Stone Age to Iron Age

Why was Skara Brae a significant discovery?

Skara Brae was a stone age settlement that showed historians how some people lived at that time. It is one of the best surviving examples because most other homes have been destroyed over the years. The people who lived at Skara Brae were some of the earliest farmers in Britain!



How did life change for British people during the Bronze Age?

More people began to trade in the Bronze Age. Tin, which is an important metal for making bronze, was mined in Britain. Many traders voyaged to Britain to buy tin. Tools made from bronze were stronger and more durable than stone tools. Thanks to better farming, people started settling down in small villages.

How did life change for British people during the Iron Age?

Iron became the most common material for making tools and weapons. It was a lot stronger than bronze. During this time, people began to live in huge settlements called hill forts which were built to protect the settlers.

Where did hunter gatherers live in Britain?

Hunter gatherers would live wherever there was food and water. This map of the British Isles shows some of the locations that evidence has been found of hunter gatherers. This has included piles of shells left in middens (rubbish piles), as well as small pieces of flint that were left behind from flint knapping (making stone tools). Many of these locations are next to the sea and near rivers as they provided easy access to food and water. Hunter gatherers didn't settle down in one place for long.



Geography

How was land used during the Stone Age?

When humans learned to farm, they didn't have to roam the land any more. They started settling in very small settlements. They would grow crops or raise animals, or do both. This depended on the land they settled on. In some places where there were lots of hills and little soil, settlers would use more of the land for raising animals for meat. In flatter areas with richer soil, settlers would use more of the land for growing crops. They would still hunt animals and gather wild food as well.

