

# Our History • Stone Age to Iron Age

**Key Learning Question:** How did people's lives change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?



## Crucial Knowledge

- The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age are named after the materials discovered in those eras. As a result of newly discovered materials, tools evolved and improved and allowed people to create and build with new techniques.
- Prehistoric Britain began over two and a half million years ago, before history was written down. It was a long time after dinosaurs existed but a long time before the Great Fire of London and the Victorians. There was huge change in technology and discovery of materials through this time.
- During the Stone Age, people were hunter gatherers. They had to do this every day. They used spears and bows and arrows to hunt prehistoric animals that are different from those that exist today. They also gathered nuts and fruits.
- During the Stone Age many people lived in natural caves. The first houses were built with simple stone circles with hay or animal hide as roofs.
- During the Bronze Age technology developed and people built roundhouses.
- Stonehenge is the world's most famous prehistoric monument. It is dated from the Stone Age and nobody knows exactly why or how it was built. It is widely believed that people gathered there for religious ceremonies.
- The Iron Age in Britain lasted about 850 years. During this time the metal iron was used widely to make tools and weapons. Celts were people who lived in Britain and northwest Europe during the Iron Age.



## Key Vocabulary

- tribe:** Families or communities living together in a group with a common culture.
- prehistoric:** From a time in the past before there were written records of what happened.
- flint:** A hard grey rock of silica, good for sharpening into tools and weapons.
- settlement:** Any place where people decide to live
- ceremony:** A formal occasion, often celebrating an event or anniversary
- archaeologist:** A person who studies history by digging up sites and studying artefacts and remains.
- roundhouse:** A type of hut built with wattle and daub
- hill fort:** Protected base on a hill first built in Britain in the Iron Age

## Big Ideas:

- Chronology • Society • Beliefs
- Evolution & Technology



## Important People & Places



### Cheddar Man

Oldest person ever found in Britain– believed to have lived in the Mesolithic period, around 9100 years ago.



### John Aubrey

An early archaeologist who linked Stonehenge to prehistoric times, and suggested it had been built by druids.



### Stonehenge

A world famous neolithic structure in Wiltshire, England. It began to be built around 5000 years ago, with the largest stones weighing around 25 tons.



## We Are Building Our Knowledge From

- Historical skills from Year 1 and Year 2

## This will help when we learn about

- The Romans in Britain (Y4)
- Vikings and Anglo Saxons (Y5)



## Timeline

From around  
2.5 million BC

20,000 BC

9,000 BC

4000 BC

2000 BC

700 BC

61 AD

Paleolithic Period ('Old' Stone Age)  
Hunter gatherers

Woolly Mammoths hunted to extinction in Britain

Mesolithic ('Middle' Stone Age)  
Animals tamed

Neolithic ('New' Stone Age)  
Farming crops

Start of Bronze Age

Start of Iron Age

Romans conquer Britain