

3 Prehistoric Britain



How do we know about Prehistoric Britain?

- Prehistoric refers to a time before there were written records of events.
- Archaeologists have used cave paintings and artefacts.
- Skara Brae and Stonehenge are important historical sites.
- The remains of people also tell us about the past.

Who was the Amesbury Archer?

- The Amesbury Archer's burial site was discovered by archaeologists in 2002.
- He was buried with around 100 objects, which have helped us to learn more about the Bronze Age.



What is Stonehenge?

- It is a prehistoric monument built in the Stone Age.
- It was seen as important by people of the Bronze Age who buried people nearby.



Stone Age



Humans lived in caves or simple huts. Shelters included paintings of humans, animals and signs.



Bronze Age

Humans began to live in larger communities. Shelters, called roundhouses, had circular stone walls and a thatched or turf roof with a fireplace.



Iron Age

Humans began to live in tribes and would often be at war. Homes could include four rooms and a stable. Homes were blocked together with streets and water systems.



Tools

Tools were basic and made from stone or bone, including stone axes. People wore animal skins for warmth and protection.

Copper and tin were mixed to make bronze, which was used for weapons and tools. The wheel was also invented along with the potter's wheel, which led to pottery. People were able to spin wool which led to skirts, kilts, tunics and cloaks.

New ways to heat and shape iron were invented. Iron was easier to make than bronze. This led to mass production of tools and weapons made from iron.



Food

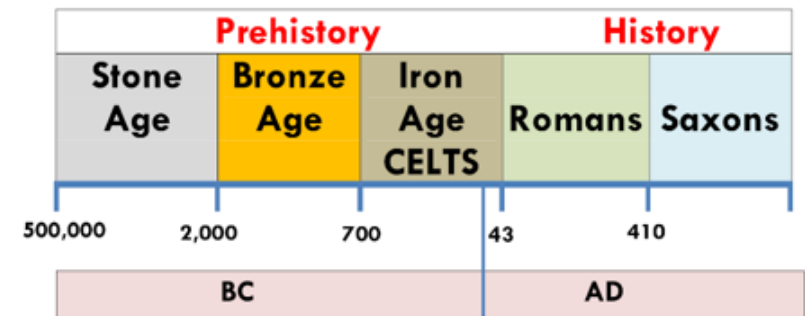
People hunted birds and wild animals. They also fished and collected berries, fruit and nuts.

Communities still hunted and fished but also had farms for growing crops like oats, wheat and barley.

Farming provided the majority of food as more iron ploughs and tools were made for growing crops and breeding animals.

What is Skara Brae and why is it so important?

- Skara Brae is a Stone settlement located in the Orkney region in Scotland.
- There is a cluster of eight houses, which were used between 3000-2500 BC.
- Skara Brae was discovered after a storm in 1850 AD removed the earth that had been covering it.
- The village tells us a lot about life in the late Stone Age, including what people ate and what sort of tools they used.



Ancient The very distant past.	Prehistoric The time before there were written records about the past.	AD Anno Domini. Latin for 'in the year of the Lord' marking years since the birth of Jesus in the Christian calendar.	BC Before Christ. Based on the Christian calendar as a way of marking time.	Stone Age A prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of stone or of organic materials such as bone, wood, or horn.	Bronze Age A prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of bronze.	Iron Age A prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of iron.	Agriculture Using land to grow crops and rear animals for food.	Nomadic people A group of humans who move from place to place in search of food and shelter.	Settlement A place where people establish a community or home.	Tribe A group of families or communities that share a common culture and language, usually with one leader.	Archaeologist A person that studies the past by discovering artefacts.
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