

Y3/4 STONE AGE TO IRON AGE

TIMELINE

Two and a half million years ago...



In Africa, the first ever humans appear

900,000 years ago...



Humans migrate to Britain

40,000 years ago...



Extinction of Neanderthals

11,000 years ago...



End of the last ice age

8,500 years ago...



Doggerland is submerged by rising sea levels

STONE AGE

The Stone Age gets its name from the stone tools people made.



During the **Palaeolithic** period, people invented clothing, lived in caves and started to control fire. They were nomadic and lived in groups of about 20 – 30 people. People hunted animals and gathered nuts, berries and grains.

OLD STONE AGE – Palaeolithic
In Britain: 900,000 – 10,500 BC

MID STONE AGE – Mesolithic
In Britain: 10,500 – 5,500 BC

During the **Mesolithic** period, people made cave paintings. They began to settle for periods of time in one place before moving on. As well as hunting, they gathered plants. People began to store food for later.



NEW STONE AGE – Neolithic
In Britain: 5,500 – 2400 BC



During the **Neolithic** period, people began to farm - planting grains and herding animals. They built permanent villages and developed pottery and weaving skills. New technology, including the arrowhead, plough and calendars were developed. Britain became cut off from mainland Europe.

BRONZE AGE

During the **Bronze Age**, people began to make tools and weapons from bronze (an alloy of copper and tin). Britons began mining metals. New settlers arrived. Some belonged to the Beaker culture – people who worshipped in stone circles. Many of their customs were adopted by the Britons. People began to trade the goods they were making and trade routes around Europe and Asia were set up.

BRONZE AGE
In Britain: 2400 – 800 BC



5,000 years ago...



Skara Brae is built

4,600 years ago...



Writing is developed = beginning of recorded history

3,000 years ago...



Celtic culture develops

Nearly 2,000 years ago...



55 BC Julius Caesar raids Britain

54 BC Julius Caesar invades Britain again and is defeated

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During the **Iron Age**, people began to make tools and weapons from steel (an alloy of iron and carbon) as it was stronger than bronze. In 100 BC, the first coins in Britain were minted. There was lots of fighting between tribes and many people lived in hill forts to protect themselves from attack. Men and boys were trained as warriors.

IRON AGE

In Britain: 800 BC – 43 AD

The Stone Age – Bronze Age – Iron Age

lithic = stone



Palaeolithic

palaeo = old

Mesolithic

meso = middle

Neolithic

neo = new

The Palaeolithic era was far, far longer than any of the other pre-historic eras.

Most of the information on this sheet is guess work. Archaeologists have pieced together what they think happened from the finds they have made. What we think happened during this pre-historic time changes with new finds. The footprints discovered in Norfolk six years ago have changed the date for when we now think the first humans came to Britain.

VOCABULARY

nomad	A person who moves from place to place	trade	Exchanging something for something else
migrate	To move from one region to another	archaeologist	A person who digs up artefacts to study human history
extinction	The action of becoming extinct (none left)	alloy	A metal made by mixing two or more metals
era	A length of time in history	culture	A way of life shared by a group of people
submerged	Underwater/completely covered	customs	Traditions/things that people do