

Changes in Britain from the stone age to iron age

Stone Age people were initially hunter gatherers. This meant they collected food from the environment around them and hunted animals. They usually lived in caves or tents.

During the Stone Age, people began to farm animals and crops. This was known as the Neolithic period. This meant they began to live in more durable, permanent homes.

During this period many sites like Stone Henge were built. We don't fully understand their purpose but there are many theories.



The period from the Stone Age to the Iron Age is known as the prehistoric period. As there were no written records, we only know about this period through artefacts left behind.

The Stone Age started around 2.7 million years ago when people first began to make tools out of stone. The first people came to Britain around 900,000 BCE.

The discovery of bronze allowed people to make beautiful jewelry and better tools. They also used bronze to trade. The production of bronze led to new jobs like being a blacksmith.

People also began to use wool to weave clothes rather than wearing animal skins. They also started to grow different crops like grains and farm animals like cows, sheep and pigs.



As iron is much stronger than bronze, its discovery meant that weapons and tools became more effective. This meant warfare became deadlier and farming was easier. Many people began to live in hillforts to keep them safe.

Key Vocabulary

Prehistoric: A time long, long ago before people wrote things down. We don't have books or records from that time.

Stone Age: A very old time when people mostly used rocks to make tools and other items.

Bronze Age: A time when people started using a special metal called bronze to make tools and other useful items.

Iron Age: Another old time, when people discovered and used iron to make stronger tools.

Artefacts: Objects made by people from a very long time ago. They could be tools, decorations, or things they used every day.

Site: A place where people used to live or do things. It could be a campsite, a village, or somewhere special.

BCE (Before Common Era): A way to talk about years in the past, like counting backward on a very big calendar.

CE (Common Era): A way to talk about years that are happening now or in the future, also like counting on a big calendar.

Tools: Things people use to help them do tasks, like cutting, digging, or building.

Cave: A big hole in a rock or a mountain where people might have lived a very, very long time ago.

Cave paintings: Pictures that people painted on the walls of caves a long time ago, showing scenes from their lives.

Hunt: Going out to find and catch animals for food, like a really old-fashioned way of getting dinner.

Gather: Collecting fruits, nuts, and other plants from the land to eat.

Farm: Growing plants and raising animals on purpose to have a stable supply of food.

Crops: Plants that are grown on a farm for food, like wheat, corn, or vegetables.

Henge: A special kind of circle made of stones or wood, often with a ditch around it. People used them for ceremonies or special events.

Jewellery: Decorations that people wear, like necklaces, bracelets, and rings, usually made from shiny or pretty materials.

Trade: Swapping or exchanging things with other people. For example, trading food for tools or clothes.

Jobs: Things that people do to help themselves and others. Some people hunt, some gather, some farm, and some make things.