

Stone Age 15,000BC - 3,000BC

Palaeolithic Period (Old Age)

The first artwork was created. People in the Palaeolithic Period used minerals, stones and bones to create art on cave walls. People were hunter-gatherers and moved to live in a different place once they had hunted and gathered the available food.



Mesolithic Period (Middle Age)

Mesolithic people used small stone tools with points to work as spears. They often lived nomadically in camps near rivers. People still lived as hunter-gatherers but were starting to learn about agriculture.



Neolithic Period (New Age)

People begin to live in settlements. Agriculture and food production developed: people domesticated animals and grew grains.



Skara Brae and Stonehenge, both built during the Neolithic period

Bronze Age 3,000BC - 800BC



- Advances were made in metal work as copper and tin were discovered. This led to the creation of bronze, which combines the two metals.
- The ox-drawn plow and the wheel were invented.
- The potter's wheel was invented.
- People mostly wore woolen items including skirts, kilts, tunics and cloaks.
- People lived in round houses with stone walls and a thatched or turfed roof.
- Organised government, law and religion began.

Key vocabulary

Agriculture: the science of farming.

Bronze: a metal made by combining **copper** and **tin** (two metals which can be mined from the ground).

Domesticated: tame animals kept as pets or for food.

Evolve: something which develops gradually.

Forge: to make something out of metal by heating it with fire and hammering it.

Gatherer: someone who collects (gathers) food or resources.

Homo Sapiens: the only surviving human species.

Hunter: someone who hunts animals.

Iron Age 800BC - 54BC



- The Iron Age began with the discovery of ways to make iron.
- Homes now had up to four rooms.
- Palaces and temples were built.
- Cities were built, including blocks of homes along paved streets.
- Water systems were put in place.
- Writing systems develop, including alphabets.
- Art, agriculture and religion become more complex.

Iron: a metal which can be mined from the ground.

Mining: digging for metal or other materials in the earth.

Nomadic: people who travel from place to place, often following animals for food.

Prehistoric: from a time before there was writing.

Settlement: a place where people lived.

Skara Brae: a Neolithic settlement in Scotland.

Stonehenge: a Neolithic monument in England.

Technology: using knowledge to invent new tools.

Tribe: a group of people who live together and have a leader, as well as shared traditions.