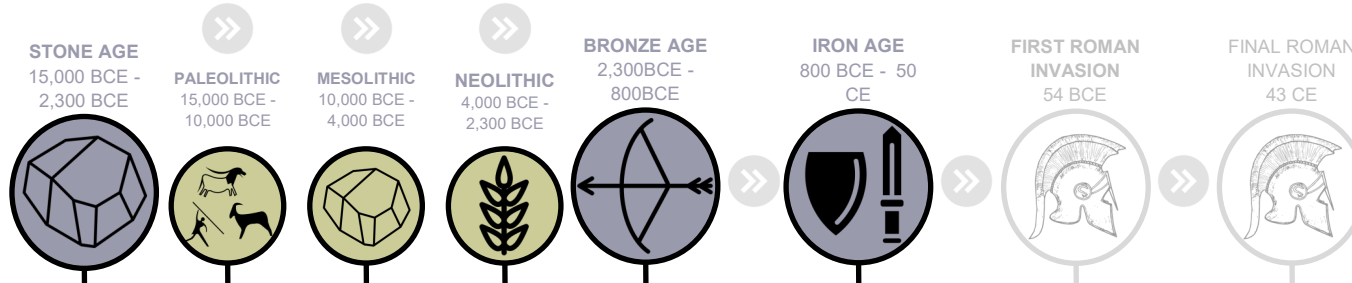


# Year 3: Pre-Historic Britain

## BRITISH HISTORICAL CONTEXT



### THE STONE AGE:

The earliest evidence of life in Britain is a collection of stone tools, which are roughly 950,000 years old, found in Happisburgh in Norfolk.

The Stone Age is called this because the people used mainly stone tools - no metals or plastics. There were also lions and elephants in Britain.

Because the period lasted so long, it is usually split into three different periods: Paleolithic; Mesolithic; and Neolithic.

Remains of eight houses from about 5200 years ago have been found at Skara Brae in Orkney. They had no windows, a smoke hole in the roof (made of wood and turf), a stone dresser and in the centre there would have been a hearth for fires and cooking.

### THE BRONZE AGE:

The Bronze Age started about 4000 years ago.

Bronze is a mixture of two metals - copper and tin - which makes it harder and stronger.

It is called the Bronze Age, because people started making tools and weapons from Bronze.

This period was the first time there was an economic divide in people (rich and poor) - people started to live in tribes.

Those who had metal and could make tools from it were rich.

People travelled and traded goods all across Europe in this period.

## PREHISTORIC BRITAIN:

The time of pre-history ended when the Romans arrived in Britain.

It was before the time when Jesus was born and was before 0AD. AD stands for Anno Domini which means 'in the year of our Lord'.

Prehistoric Britain is split into three periods - the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Iron Age.

The three periods stretched from roughly 950,000 years ago, to when the Romans invaded Britain nearly 2000 years ago.

### THE IRON AGE:

About 2700 years ago, people started making tools and weapons out of iron as well as bronze.

Iron Age people are often called Celts. They were made up of a number of different tribes.

In the Iron Age, people continued to live in hillforts and to travel and trade. Life was quite unsettled with lots of fighting.

This period ended when the Roman Empire invaded Britain in 64AD.

## KEY VOCABULARY



**ARCHAEOLOGIST:** a person who studies what people made, and left behind, as well as how



**ARTEFACTS:** an object made by a human being, typically of cultural or historical interest



**BRONZE AGE:** a period in time where tools were made from copper ore mixed with tin



**CAVES:** a natural underground chamber in a hillside or cliff



**GLACIER:** a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed on mountains or near the poles.



**HARPOON:** a barbed missile, like a spear, attached to a rope and thrown. Used for catching whales and other sea creatures.



**HEARTH:** the floor of a fireplace



**HILLFORT:** a fort built on a hill used as a defence against attack by Iron Age people.



**HUNTER-GATHERER:** a member of a group of people who live by hunting and fishing and harvesting wild food.



**HUT:** a small, simple, single-storey house or shelter



**IRON AGE:** a period in time where tools were made from iron and steel.



**MONUMENT:** a building, structure or site that is of historical importance or interest



**NEOLITHIC:** the latest period of the Stone Age where humans began to settle and farming



**PALEOLITHIC:** the ancient era of the Stone Age where humans hunted animals and moved from place to place.



**POTTERY:** pots, dishes and other items made of fired clay



**PRE-HISTORY:** before written records and recorded history.



**PRIMARY SOURCE:** immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic.



**SECONDARY SOURCE:** information that was created later by someone who did not experience it first hand.



**SETTLEMENT:** a place, where people establish a community.



**SMOKE HOLE:** a vent (as in a flue or roof) for smoke.



**SPEAR:** a weapon with a pointed tip, and long shaft, used for throwing to hunt.



**STONE AGE:** a period in time where tools were made from stone.



**TRADING:** the action or activity of buying and selling goods and services.



**TRIBES:** a community of people, consisting of families linked with a common culture and having a recognised leader.



**TUBERCULOSIS:** an infectious bacterial disease in the lungs.