

## Y3 – How did Britain change from the Stone Age to Iron Age?

<p><b>Key Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What do we mean by prehistoric?</li> <li>- What was life like in the Stone Age?</li> <li>- How and why did life change in the Bronze Age?</li> <li>- How and why did life change in the Iron Age?</li> <li>- What was life like during Hartlepool and the region during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages?</li> <li>- So, what do we know about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Big Picture</b></p> <p>This unit is focused on the concepts of continuity and change. In KS1 children studied changes within and beyond living memory. In year 1 they looked at the changes in toys, food, transport and our school in the lifetime of their grandparents. In year 2 they studied changes brought about by the Great Fire of London. They studied Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, the changes brought about by their life and work and how medicine has changed.</p> <p>In this unit, children focus on the key changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, including the development of farming and the ability to work metal. They look at the consequences of these changes and identify similarities and differences. They will go on to learn about the changes brought by the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions and settlement. Children begin to develop a chronological narrative of Britain which they build on throughout KS2, learning about the main periods of British history to 1066 in chronological order. Children begin to deepen their understanding of how we know about the past through a focus on the work of archeologists.</p>	<p><b>By the end of this unit, children will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- put the main periods of prehistory on a time line</li> <li>- know that archaeology gives us evidence of how people lived in prehistory</li> <li>- describe life for hunter-gathers</li> <li>- understand the changes farming made</li> <li>- understand how the ability to work metal changed life in the Bronze Age</li> <li>- describe some of the characteristics of life in the Bronze Age</li> <li>- describe how life changed in the Iron Age</li> <li>- begin to describe what life in Hartlepool and the local area might have been like in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages</li> </ul>
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Aspect	Chronology	Historical terms	Using evidence and communicating ideas	Interpreting history	Key historical concepts			
					Continuity and Change	Cause and consequence	Similarity and difference	Significance
Key Stage Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop chronologically secure knowledge of history</li> <li>• Establish clear narratives within and across periods studied</li> <li>• Note connections, contrasts and trends over time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the appropriate use of historical terms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions *</li> <li>• Understand how knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources</li> <li>• Construct informed responses by ... selecting and organising relevant historical information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that different versions of the past may exist, giving some reasons for this</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe / make links between main events, situations and changes within and across different periods/societies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and give reasons for, results of, historical events, situations, changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe social, cultural, religious and ethnic similarities and differences in Britain &amp; the wider world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify historically significant people and events in situations</li> </ul>

**Knowledge**

- Prehistory is the period of human history between the first known use of stone tools by c. 3.3 million years ago and the beginning of recorded history with the invention of writing systems. The use of symbols, marks, and images appears very early among humans, but the earliest known writing systems appeared c. 5,200 years ago.. The end of prehistory therefore came at different times in different places. The prehistoric period is often divided into three 'ages'. They are known as the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Because there is no written evidence from the Stone Age, we know about it from archaeological evidence.

**The Stone Age**

- Early Stone Age people lived in caves or very simple shelters. They made stone tools and survived by hunting, fishing and gathering food like fruit, nuts, eggs and berries where they could. They moved around frequently to follow the animals they hunted. These animals included woolly mammoths, reindeer and woolly rhinoceros. They used the animals' fur and hides to make clothes and their horns as tools and weapons
- Middle Stone Age people in Britain began to set up camps along the British coast and on riverbanks. Hunters often worked together as a team, using spears and bows and arrows.
- At the start of the Mesolithic, Britain was physically connected to Europe by a land bridge, which has been termed Doggerland. This was a low-lying landscape crossed by rivers and was certainly exploited for its rich natural resources in the early Mesolithic period. As the sea level rose Doggerland became flooded, initially leaving an island at Dogger Bank.
- Later (around 4,000 years ago), people began settle in small communities and to farm. The early farmers chopped down trees so they could grow crops and vegetables. They kept cattle, sheep and pigs. People used flint, antler and bone to make tools, and developed the skill of making clay pots.
- Most Neolithic people built houses with wooden frames but in the Orkney Island, people on the islands built their houses from stone. The Skara Brae settlement dates from between 3200 and 2700BC. It is made up of a group of one-roomed circular homes. These houses have built-in furniture made completely from stone. There are stone seats and beds and even stone shelves where precious objects were kept

**The Bronze Age**

- Around 2500BC settlers from mainland Europe brought a new skill to Britain. They were metalworkers who knew how to work with copper. Gradually, Britons learned to make objects from copper, gold and bronze.
- People used boats and horses and chariots as transport and began to trade over longer distances.
- During the early Bronze Age, circles built from stone or wood played a very important part in the religious life of the British people. Stonehenge is one of the world's most famous stone circles
- In 2002, archaeologists at Amesbury, in Wiltshire discovered the grave of a Bronze Age man.. Known as the Amebury Archer, he was buried with around 100 objects including Beaker pots, archery equipment (hence his name), copper knives and metalworking tools. His two gold hair ornaments are the oldest evidence for gold in Britain. The people who buried him must have believed that he would use the objects in the next world. The objects tell us about life in the Bronze Age. At the transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, metalworking was a specialist task and closely guarded secret. People may have thought it included magical processes. Specialists like the Archer may have been seen as powerful and dangerous.

**The Iron Age**

- Around 800 BC people in Britain learned how to use iron. This discovery had a dramatic impact on everyday life. Iron tools made farming much easier than before and settlements grew in size.
- Iron Age Britain was a violent place. People lived in clans that belonged to tribes led by warrior kings. Rival tribes fought with deadly iron weapons. Many people lived in hill forts to keep safe from attacks.
- The forts were surrounded by walls and ditches and warriors defended their people from enemy attacks. Inside the hill forts, families lived in round houses. These were simple one-roomed homes with a pointed thatched roof and walls made from wattle and daub.
- Iron Age farmers grew crops and vegetables. They kept geese, goats and pigs and had large herds of cows and flocks of sheep. Some people worked as potters, carpenters and metalworkers.
- People in Iron Age Britain believed in powerful spirits. They met to worship the spirits in sacred places, like the shores of a lake or a clearing in a wood. Priests known as druids led religious ceremonies. They sacrificed animals and sometimes humans too! The druids gave precious offerings, such as swords and cups, to the spirits. The Battersea shield was found in the River Thames. It was almost certainly thrown into the river as an offering to the spirits. Thousands of precious offerings have been found in British lakes, rivers and bogs.

Hartlepool and the local area in prehistory - Howick – site of Mesolithic house; Seaton Carew – fish trap and submerged forest; Starr Carr - animal bones, wood and antler tools; deer skull headwear; Windmill Fields, Ingleby Barwick – bronze age burials; Eston Nab - Bronze Age hill fort; Catcote – Iron Age settlement see <https://englandsnortheast.co.uk/prehistoric-north-east/>

<p><b>Topic Specific Vocabulary</b></p> <p>Archeologists, evidence, hunting, farming, Neolithic period (or new Stone Age), Skara Brae, circular, hunters, bronze ages, , early stone age, middle stone age, late stone age, clay pots, iron ages, copper, weapons, tools, Stonehenge, religious ceremonies tribes, hill fort, sacred places.</p>	<p><b>NC Subject content</b></p> <p>Pupils should be taught about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.</p>
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<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk/2014/08/01/when-do-you-start-teaching-changes-in-britain-from-the-stone-age-to-the-iron-age/">https://www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk/2014/08/01/when-do-you-start-teaching-changes-in-britain-from-the-stone-age-to-the-iron-age/;</a>  <a href="https://www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk/2014/08/19/running-a-mini-archaeological-excavation-with-a-twist/">https://www.schoolsprehistory.co.uk/2014/08/19/running-a-mini-archaeological-excavation-with-a-twist/</a>  <a href="http://www.starcarr.com/index.html">http://www.starcarr.com/index.html</a>    <a href="#">KS2 History: Ancient Voices - BBC Teach</a>    <a href="#">Historic England resources in folder on One Drive</a></p>	<p><b>Texts</b></p> <p><a href="#">Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura</a></p>
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2.5 million years ago to 10,000 B.C	10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C	8000BC – 2000BC	2000BC to 800BC	800 BC to AD 43
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# STONE AGE

# Bronze Age

# Iron Age

## Mesolithic

## Neolithic

The end of the last Ice Age dates to about 12kya.

Britain was finally an island around 8kya

10kya 8000 BC

8kya 6000 BC

6kya 4000 BC

4kya 2000 BC

2kya AD 43

Star Carr, a lakeside settlement in North Yorkshire with the earliest house in Britain (it would have look like a tipi), was almost permanently inhabited around 11kya. People wore red deer antlers in ceremonies

Farming was developed in the Near East around 10kya. This involved domesticating wheat, barley and sheep

Another tipi-like house was found at Howick in Northumberland and dates to about 7600 BC

The Storrega landslide off the coast of Norway c. 6100 BC caused a tsunami on the east coast of Britain and flooded Doggerland.

Farming reaches central Europe by about 7.7kya, 5700 BC

The earliest copper objects start being made in Europe around 7kya, 5000 BC

Farming was introduced to Britain around 6kya, 4000 BC. This included domesticated wheat and barley, sheep and cattle. Pottery was also introduced

The earliest feature of Stonehenge, a circular bank and ditch, was started around 5kya, 3000 BC. The stones came later. Skara Brae was also first inhabited in 3000 BC

The Bronze Age begins around 4.3kya, 2300 BC. The Amesbury Archer is buried near Stonehenge with the earliest metal tools and jewellery in Britain

The Iron Age in Britain begins around 2,8kya, 800 BC

The second Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43 is usually used as the end of the Iron Age and prehistory in Britain.