



Year 3 History

Autumn 2026

How did Britain change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

National Curriculum:

- the changes in Britain that happened between the Stone Age and the Iron Age
- an aspect of local history.

Prior learning:

- answer questions by using a specific source
- use phrases and words like: 'before', 'after', 'past', 'present', 'then' and 'now'.

Future learning:

- impact Romans had on life in Britain
- develop timeline skills for longer periods of time.

Key Vocabulary

Using phrases and words to describe the passing of time e.g. 'past' 'before' 'now' 'then' 'present' 'period' 'decade' 'century' 'Long ago' 'before I was born' 'changes to now' 'stayed the same'.

Using words and phrases to describe events and people from the past e.g. 'hunter gatherer' 'migration' 'impact' 'significant' 'continuity' 'change' 'warrior' 'prehistoric' 'artefact' 'BC/AD' 'BC, Neolithic shelter, Mesolithic, spears, Homosapien, fur/pelt, mammoth, Paleolithic, tribe, flint, axe, agriculture, settler, settlement, nomad, nomadic, ancient civilisations, Bronze Age, Stone Age, Iron Age, pre history, Stonehenge, archaeologist, archaeology.

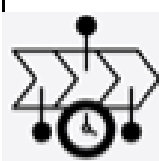
Learning Sequence

What do we know about prehistoric Britain?

Substantive Knowledge:

- 'Prehistory' means the time before people started writing and being able to record events. The suffix 'pre' means 'before' so prehistory is literally before history.
- People have been in Britain for about 1 million years and the first writing was found from 2,000 years ago. This

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Chronology

- Chronology in history refers to the arrangement of events in the order in which they occurred.

means there is a lot of history that we don't know about from written records.

- The earliest signs of humans in Britain have been discovered in a place called Happisburgh these include basic stone tools and teeth. No human bones have been found from this period.
- At the time, the land looked very different and Britain was connected to Europe. The stone tools are the earliest evidence of people in Britain. The remains found are possibly 950,000 years old (nearly 1 million years old).
- The Stone Age is so named because the people used stones as tools.
- Our species is called homo sapiens. When we go back into prehistory, humans looked different from us today. Our ancestors include Australopithecus, Homo Erectus and Homo Neanderthals.

- It is the study of how time is organised and divided in relation to historical events.
- The goal of chronology in history is to place events in their proper order, so that they can be studied and understood in their historical context.



Sources and evidence

- Our knowledge of the past is gained through sources.
- The evidence is what we get from the sources to enable us to build the knowledge base we need.
- By using evidence from an increasing range of sources with more precision and confidence we can combine them to develop a deep understanding.



Historical terminology

- Using historical vocabulary.

How and what do we know about Stone Age Britain?

Substantive Knowledge:

- The remains of Boxgrove Man are believed to be 500,000 years old.
- Paviland Man or 'The Red Lady' originally thought to be a woman as they were buried with jewellery was buried 33,000 years ago. It is believed he was killed whilst hunting a woolly mammoth.
- Bones from 10,000 years ago have been found in the caves of Cheddar Gorge (Somerset).
- There are animal bones with marks made by stone knives and also human bones with similar marks.
- Historians believe this shows that humans here may have eaten other humans this is known as cannibalism (eating meat from the same species as yourself).

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Sources and evidence

- Historians and archaeologists look for evidence to work out what happened and what life was like in the past.
- Historians use primary and secondary sources to find out about the past.
- Primary sources are from the period of time that's being studied – this includes objects and writing.
- Secondary sources are not from the time period being studied – they can include books and films about the past.
- Finding new sources is important for historians as they can help us change our ideas about the past.

- During this time Britain was often covered in large glaciers made of ice and known as part of the last ice age. About 11,500 years ago, the glaciers melted and the ice age was over.

What are the similarities and differences between Stone Age periods?

Substantive Knowledge:

Mesolithic Life

- After the glaciers melted, Britain was open grassland with lakes and forests.
- Many animals such as deer, boar, elk and wild cattle roamed and the hunters of the Mesolithic Age used tools made of stone to hunt them.
- They also used deer antlers as spears to hunt land animals or used them as harpoons to hunt fish in the lakes and rivers.
- People may have lived in small houses with thatched roofs or caves.
- We know from fossils that Mesolithic people looked more like us and lived in families. They also had spiritual beliefs, wore clothes and had possessions such as jewellery and ornaments.
- They were often buried with their belongings, which gives us a clue that they had spiritual beliefs.
- Mesolithic people created cave paintings.

Neolithic Life

- People had begun to grow their own crops and domesticate animals to be used as helpers or food.
- Towns were being formed rather than settlements and people began to stay in one place to tend crops and look after their animals.
- This is the start of how most people live today.

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Similarities and differences

- To find similarities and differences between different time periods.

- This is known as an agricultural society as people were farming rather than hunting and gathering.
- Neolithic people made pottery and wove material (they still only had stone tools at this point).
- Fighting began as the population grew and space was needed to grow crops. Land wars began.
- Tuberculosis spread killing many people (contracted through milk from an infected cow).
- Diseases spread quickly and humans contracted illnesses from animals they kept.
- Skara Brae in Orkney is an important Neolithic site for archaeologists to study.
- Neolithic people created stone circles such as Stonehenge to mark important days in the year.

How did the Bronze Age change how humans lived?

Substantive Knowledge:

- The Bronze Age followed the Stone Age and began about 4,000 years ago.
- Bronze was made from copper and tin.
- Copper alone is soft but when melted and mixed with tin, it becomes harder and more useful.
- For the first time, there was a difference between people who had many belongings and those that did not – rich and poor.
- People did not have money but they could make things to trade with.
- People with metal working skills were seen as more important than others.
- Trading of goods began all over Europe and people would travel to trade on foot or by boat.
- Families lived in large huts, owned animals and made/grew things they needed.

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Cause and Consequence

- Identifying the major causes of advancement from Stone Age to Bronze Age and how these impacted globally, nationally and locally.
- Identifying what caused the shift from hunter-gathering to farming – communicating the reasons for it and the impact on life.

- Hill forts were built with walls around them to stop raiders taking camps or killing animals. Alliances between families meant people began to live in tribes.
- People began to fight more for land and wanted to be part of a strong tribe to protect themselves.
- The weather became colder and wetter. Parts of England became too cold and wet to farm.
- Archaeologists have discovered that people often threw bronze axes and swords into rivers and believe this was done as an offering to the water spirits and gods in return for good weather. This shows people had developed spiritual beliefs.

What was the significance of finding iron and how did this impact people's lives?

Substantive Knowledge:

- The Iron Age began circa 800BC and followed the Bronze Age.
- Iron began to be used more than bronze as it is thought that maybe materials needed to make bronze had become harder to find.
- Tools and weapons were now made of iron.
- Iron Age people are often called Celts.
- There were a number of different tribes all over Britain.

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Significance & Interpretation

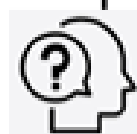
- Identifying why advancements in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages were significant to the development of modern Britain.
- Identifying why our interpretation of these times and ancient civilisations is difficult due to limited primary sources or written evidence.

What can Danebury Hill fort tell us about how Iron Age Britons lived? **LOCAL STUDY**

Substantive Knowledge:

- Danebury Hillfort has given archaeologists lots of information about Iron Age Britain.
- Archaeologists have spent decades studying the site.
- Damaged skulls and burial pits have been found there suggesting wars and fighting occurred.

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Historical Enquiry

- Asking questions or hypothesising about the past.
- Using evidence to help answer our questions.

How did the Iron Age end and why?

Substantive Knowledge:

- The Iron Age in Britain ended in 43AD when the Romans arrived from Europe.
- Rome was a powerful city.
- The Romans came to Britain because they knew it had rich resources such as gold, silver, lead, copper and tin.
- They also liked conquering new lands.
- Roman leader Julius Caesar, led the invasion of Britain.
- Romans were often literate so there are good sources of primary evidence.
- Prehistoric Britain ended.

Disciplinary Knowledge:



Continuity and Change

- Identifying the continuity and changes throughout the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

Final Assessment Piece

Answering Enquiry Question

Create a Stone Age Menu using understanding and knowledge of the 'hunting and gathering' civilisation.

Use all learning about life during the stone age to debate the question Was the stone Age sexist? Link to PSHE