



Key Concepts/Features

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture, when stone tools were first used. The Stone Age is divided into three periods; the Paleolithic (old Stone Age), Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) and the Neolithic (new Stone Age). Bronze Age is the period when copper and tin were mined and tools and weapons were made. The Iron Age period followed, tools and weapons more sophisticated and made from **smelting** steel and iron.



Key Concepts/Features

Stone Age was a broad prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make implements with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface. The period lasted roughly 3.4 million years and ended between 8700 BCE and 2000 BCE with the advent of metal working.

Bronze Age was a period of time between the Stone Age and the Iron Age when **bronze** was used widely to make tools, weapons, and other implements. **Bronze** is made when copper is heated and mixed with tin, creating a stronger metal than copper.

Iron Age was a period of time when **iron** and steel was smelted. Weapon and tool making is much more sophisticated. **Celtic** culture and **hill forts** came to prominence.

Timeline

2,000,000 BC	The first real humans (Homo habilis) appear - They used simple stone tools, which they made, and built shelters.
800,000 BC	Paleolithic era. Early humans make it to Britain, coping with the cold weather by living in caves and making warm clothes from animal skins, living nomadically .
10,000 BC	'The Ice Age' comes to an end in Britain - This marks the beginning of the Mesolithic era. Farming begins.
4000 BC	Neolithic Era. Animals are being domesticated and are used for transport.
2,200 BC	Bronze Age begins, copper mining and metal tools are made and used. Tribal kingdoms and Celtic cultures begin to appear, and hill forts are built.
850 BC	The Iron Age begins. They are skilled farmers, formidable warriors and use horse-drawn chariots. Use of iron and steel is used to make stronger weapons and tools which stay sharp for longer.
100 BC	Coins are made from a variety of metals and are used for trading.
43 AD	Julius Cesar and the Roman Empire invade Britain.

Key Locations

Caves of Lascaux

Early humans, expressed their struggles and successes by creating cave art. The famous cave paintings at Lascaux (France) are about 18,000 years old. Stone Age artists also created sculptures from clay, ivory, bone or carved stone.



Skara Brae

Skara Brae is one of the most perfectly preserved Stone Age villages in Europe. It was covered for hundreds of years by a sand dune on the shore of the Bay of Skail, Orkney Islands, Scotland.



Key Vocabulary

bronze	A mixture of copper and tin.
celts	The civilisation that lived across most of Europe during the Iron Age.
flaking	A process of shaping stone by chipping pieces off the edges.
hill forts	Iron-Age Celtic tribes built strongly defended hill forts, which could be like small towns.
hunter-gatherer	A person who meets their needs by hunting animals and gathering plants.
iron	Iron ores are rocks and minerals from which metallic iron can be extracted.
microlith	Small, sharp stones used as arrow and spear heads.
nomadic	Moving around a lot.
smelting	To extract (metal) from its ore by a process involving heating and melting.