

# YEAR 3 THE STONE AGE



## THE STONE AGE

The Stone Age was a very long time ago, even before people started building houses and using money. It was a time when early humans lived in caves and used simple tools made out of stone. Let us take a look at what life was like during the Stone Age.

## WHAT WAS THE STONE AGE?

The Stone Age lasted for many thousands of years. It is called the "Stone Age" because the people who lived back then used stones to make their tools, weapons, and even art. There were no cars, phones, or even farms. People lived in small groups and moved around to find food.

## THE 3 PERIODS OF THE STONE AGE

The Stone Age is divided into three different periods: the **Paleolithic**, the **Mesolithic**, and the **Neolithic**.

1. **Paleolithic** (Old Stone Age): This was the longest period, lasting for about 2 million years. People in this time were hunter-gatherers, using simple tools made from stone. They lived in caves and made fire to keep warm.
2. **Mesolithic** (Middle Stone Age): This period lasted for around 10,000 years. People began to develop new ways of hunting, fishing, and gathering food. They made smaller, sharper tools and started to build more complex shelters.
3. **Neolithic** (New Stone Age): This is when humans began to settle down and farm. They domesticated animals like sheep and cows and grew crops. This was a huge change because people no longer needed to move around to find food.

## EARLY HUMANS

The early humans in the Stone Age were very different from us. They did not speak the way we do today, but they could communicate by using sounds and simple gestures. They were strong and used their hands to hunt animals and gather fruits and plants to eat. These humans are called "hunter-gatherers."

## STONE TOOLS

One of the most important things in the Stone Age was tools. Early humans made sharp tools from stone to help them hunt animals and cut meat. They also made tools for building shelters and scraping skins. As time passed, people became better at making tools, using more complicated techniques like sharpening stones into points and blades.



## FINDING FOOD

In the Stone Age, people had to hunt wild animals like mammoths, deer, and rabbits. They also gathered plants, berries, and nuts. Some groups of people learned how to fish in rivers and lakes. They had to be careful, as there were no shops to buy food from, and they could not grow crops like we do today.

## LIVING IN CAVES

During the early Stone Age, humans lived in caves. Caves kept them safe from wild animals and the weather. Some caves had drawings on the walls that showed animals, people, and scenes from their lives. These drawings are called "cave paintings" and are some of the earliest forms of art made by humans.

## THE END OF THE STONE AGE

The Stone Age ended when people learned how to make tools from metals like copper, bronze, and iron. This led to the start of the next period in history called the "Bronze Age." The people of the Bronze Age were able to make stronger tools and build better houses. They also started farming, which changed the way people lived.

## CONCLUSION

The Stone Age was a very important time in human history. It helped shape the way we live today. Early humans learned how to survive in a world without the technology we have now, and they left behind clues that help us understand how they lived. From stone tools to cave paintings, the Stone Age is a fascinating chapter in our story.

## FIND OUT MORE...

[The Stone Age – Years 3/4 and P4/5 History Collection - BBC Bitesize](#)

---

### EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What were the three periods of the Stone Age?
2. How did people in the Stone Age find their food?
3. What were cave paintings, and what did they show?
4. Why is the Stone Age called the "Stone Age"?
5. How did life change during the Neolithic period?