



Driving Question: How can we speak clearly and confidently about Stone Age archaeology?

Power Skill: Communication - I can present my understanding verbally..

National Curriculum Learning Objectives

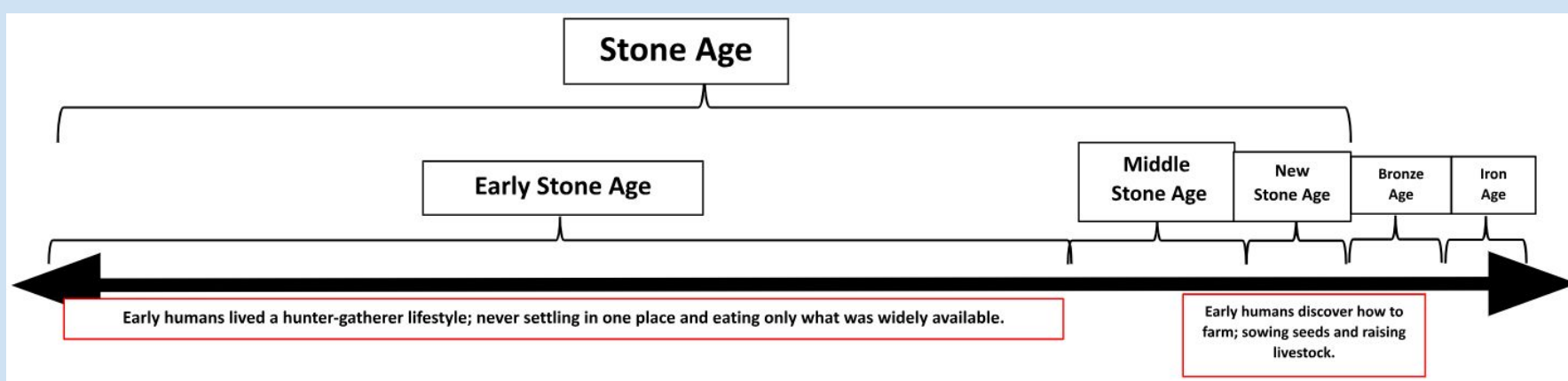
- Understand the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources

Key Vocabulary

prehistoric	Homo sapien	Neanderthal	BC = Before Christ	AD = Anno Domini
hunter-gatherer	shelter	community	settlement	weapons
hides				

Key Learning

The Stone Age was a time in history when early humans used tools and weapons made from stone. It lasted from when the first stone tools were made, by our ancestors, about 3.4 million years ago, until the introduction of metal tools a few thousand years ago.

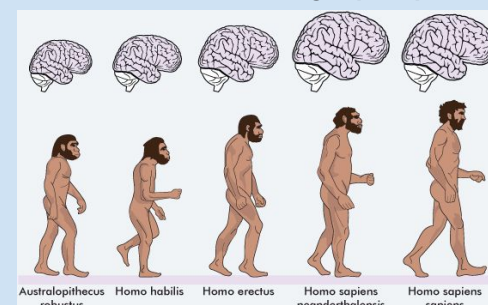


The Stone Age is split into three periods:

- The Early Stone Age was when Britain was part of mainland Europe. The first humans probably arrived in Britain around 900,000 BC. Early Stone Age people lived in caves or very simple shelters. They made stone tools and survived by hunting and fishing.
- The Middle Stone Age began at the end of the last Ice Age. During the Middle Stone Age, Britain was not attached fully to Europe and was now linked to Europe by a strip of land called the Doggerland. People in Britain began to set up camps along the British coast and river banks. Hunters worked in teams using spears, bows and arrows.
- The final period is known as the New Stone Age and this is when humans began to farm. Britain became an island at the start of the period. People learned to farm. They cleared large areas of land and settled in small communities. These Stone Age people used flint, antler and bone to make tools and developed the skill of making clay pots.

Thinking Point

Did the Stone Age begin before or after the Ice Age?



Modern Humans - Homosapiens (24,000 years ago - present day):

Everyone in the world today belongs to one group, Homo sapiens, meaning "wise man". The first modern humans evolved in Africa about 200,000 years ago when there were about six other kinds of human-like beings alive at the same time. By about 24,000 years ago, Homo sapiens were the only humans left on Earth and they lived on every continent in the world, except Antarctica. Homo sapiens had large brains for the size of their slender bodies.

Thinking Point

Name 2 differences between the Early and New Stone Age.



Enquiry lesson

Use knowledge gained to explore what replica artefacts could have been used for, what they are made from and how they were formed. Discuss who found these artefacts, how they were discovered and extracted and why we don't have artefacts of every part of the Stone Age (eg. animal hides)

Resources:

Replica artefacts (flints, axe, fishing spear, pot), timeline cards, library books

Key Learning

A Stone Age Diet:

Hunting and Gathering:

For most of the Stone Age, humans lived as hunter-gatherers. This means that instead of growing their food, they went out and found it. They hunted and fished for food, especially during the Ice Age.

Later, they learned to gather edible plants, collect eggs from birds' nests, and, for a sweet treat, they took honey from wild beehives. What hunter-gatherers ate depended on what they could find each season, eating fruit and berries when they ripened and eating meat from animals when they were most plentiful.

They travelled from place to place in search of the best hunting grounds, living in temporary shelters.

Many large and dangerous animals lived in the last Ice Age. People hunted some of these huge animals, such as mammoths, for food.

Hunters probably targeted young, sick, or lone animals that had become trapped or stuck in a muddy swamp. After wounding their prey by using pointed sticks and simple arrows, the hunters waited until it collapsed, then moved in for the kill.

Humans who lived by the sea, rivers, or lakes used spears to catch fish and, later, traps to catch eels, crabs, and lobsters.



Farming:

Eventually, humans learned to grow their own crops and began to settle in one place. These people became the first farmers. Around 10,000 BC (12,000 years ago), hunter-gatherers made an incredible discovery. They dug up the ground, scattered a few wild grains, and learned how to farm. Farming meant that early humans could control their sources of food by growing plants and raising animals. They no longer had to move in search of food and eventually began to settle in one place all year round.



Thinking Point

What did early Stone Age humans eat and where did they get their food from?



Homes:

In Britain, archaeologists have found evidence of four different types of Stone Age dwelling across the country.

During the Palaeolithic period (around 800000 BC - 10000 BC), humans in Britain sheltered from ice and cold inside caves. These were ready-made houses for them to take shelter in quickly.

Evidence found from Mesolithic times (around 15000 BC) indicates a circular structure made from wooden posts. There are no houses remaining, but archaeologists have found marks in the ground that they believe were made from timber poles. The frame may have been round or conical, like a tepee. They may have used animal skin, thatch or turf to cover the frame. There was evidence to suggest that the floor was covered with a layer of moss, reeds and other soft plant materials.

During the Neolithic period (4000 BC and 2500 BC), Stone Age houses were rectangular and constructed from timber. None of these houses remain but we can see the foundations. Some houses used wattle (woven wood) and daub (mud and straw) for the walls and had thatched roofs. Other houses from the Neolithic period, like the ones uncovered at Skara Brae, were built from stone.

Thinking Point

What might you find inside an Early Stone Age person's home?
What about in the New Stone Age?



Skara Brae:

Skara Brae is a remarkably well-preserved Stone Age Village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000 BC. It is on the Orkney islands, off the north coast of Scotland. It was discovered in AD 1850 after a heavy storm stripped away the earth that had previously been covering what we can see today.

The remains of eight houses stand on the site. They were not all built at the same time, so at some point the original village was added to. Most of the houses were linked by covered passageways. The earlier houses had more of a circular shape. There was one main room with a fire pit in the middle and beds built into the walls at the sides. Each house had a set of stone shelves called a dresser. The later houses were slightly bigger and more rectangular, although the corners were still rounded. They still built stone beds, but not into the walls. The fire pit and stone shelves remained. Although the doorways seem very small to us, early humans were shorter than we are today. Lower doorways would also have helped keep the weather out. The doors were stone slabs and could be bolted shut.

What was found at Skara Brae?

- Animal bones including cattle and sheep, as well as barley and wheat grown nearby, suggest a farming community.
- Lots of remains of fish and shellfish show they were also skilled fishermen. Large piles of limpets were found but these weren't necessarily part of their diet but instead they may have been used for bait.
- The lack of weapons found suggests that life was peaceful.
- Richly-carved stone objects might have been used in religious ceremonies.
- Bone tools, along with the absence of tools for weaving, show that animal skins were used for clothing.
- Many examples of jewellery were found including pendants, pins, necklaces and beads.
- One of the houses could only be locked from the outside, so anyone inside it couldn't have left unless they were let out.



Thinking Point

How do we know how people lived in the Stone Age?



Key Learning



Stone Age Clothing:

The cold climate during the Ice Age made clothing essential.

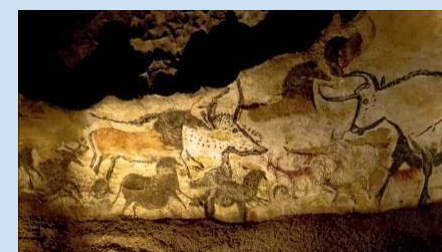
Early humans cleaned, prepared, and wrapped animal skins around themselves to keep warm.

Early man made clothing by using sharp, pointed tools to punch small holes in animal skins and then simply laced them together with natural thread. It is likely that a tunic was first made from two pieces of rectangular animal hide bound together on one short side with a hole left for the head. The arms stuck through the open sides and the tunic was either closed with a belt or similar. Shoes were made from a single piece of animal hide and were shaped to fit the wearer's foot.

Examples of this have been found to date back to around 5,000 BC (7,000 years ago).

Early humans may have also decorated their faces and bodies with paints made from natural pigments.

Around 75,000 years ago, humans strung shells together to make some of the first jewellery.



Thinking Point

What did early humans wear?



Cave paintings:

Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival. Paintings of animals on cave walls are common. Perhaps this was thought to bring success when hunting or may have acted as a call for help from a spirit world the people believed in. The famous cave paintings at Lascaux in southwest France are about 18,000 years old. Stone Age artists also created sculptures from clay, ivory, bone, or carved stone.

Stone age artists used their fingers, as well as twigs, moss and horse-hair brushes, to dab paint on the cave walls. They also blew paint through bone tubes or reed pipes. They would grind up coloured rock (yellow ochre, red oxide rocks, and charcoal) in to a powder and make a paste by mixing it with spit, water or animal fat which helped the paint stick to the cave walls.

Stone Age Beliefs:

Early humans developed religious beliefs to help explain the world around them. Hunters and gatherers tried to make contact with the spirits of the animals they hunted. As people began to settle and farm, they made tombs for their ancestors. They became aware of the changing seasons and made up stories about why the Sun rose in the morning or why there were thunderstorms, and started worshipping such forces of nature. To keep their gods happy, they offered gifts and performed ceremonies. Tombs made of large boulders called 'megaliths' were a link between the living and the dead.



Thinking Point

What evidence of early humans' religious beliefs might we still see today?



Bronze Age:

The Bronze Age began when people in South Eastern Europe discovered how to make bronze. The invention of this changed the lifestyles of early man because it was stronger and more reliable for tools and weapons.

Previously, they would use copper for decorative metal objects but it was too soft and needed sharpening regularly. Bronze spread throughout Europe and to other parts of the world by 2,000 BC (4,000 years ago).

Bronze was hard. It was made by combining copper and tin to make tools, weapons and armour, and beautiful jewellery. Soon, it was being used throughout the ancient world.



Bronze Age Settlements:

At the beginning of the Bronze Age, most people lived in small villages or farms. They built houses from materials that were found nearby, such as wood or stone. Most people in Western Europe lived in small round houses. Communities later began to compete with each other for land and fighting broke out. This led to people building fences surrounding their villages to keep enemies out.

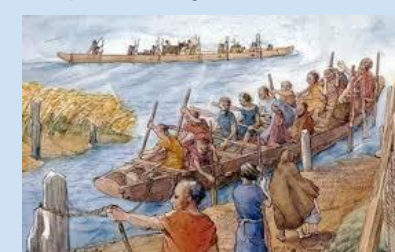


Bronze Age Warriors:

European Bronze Age burials show a society led by warriors. The high status of warriors in Europe was displayed in the richness of their personal items, which included fancy jewellery such as bangles and pins, and beautifully decorated weapons. Bronze Age warriors wore armour and carried swords, spears, and shields. Spears were used for stabbing as well as throwing at enemies from a distance. Swords and axes were used for hand-to-hand fighting. Very important warriors would have also ridden on horse-drawn chariots during fights.

Bronze Age Travellers and Trade:

During the Bronze Age, people travelled huge distances to trade tin and other objects, including salt. Boats were used to transport things like tin, copper, and finished bronze objects. Although copper was found in many parts of the world, tin was only found in some parts of Europe, so had to be taken to other countries where people wanted to make bronze. People traded their own unwanted goods for items they wanted, like tin or amber (a precious stone). Some items for trading were carried over huge distances, which probably would have increased how much they were worth.



Thinking Point

How is the way Stone and Bronze Age people lived different?

