

Through the Ages

We are asking the question:

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

Sticky Knowledge

1. What changes occurred between the Stone Age and the Bronze Age?
2. What changes occurred between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age?
3. What is prehistory?
4. What is Skara Brae?
5. Why were tombs and monuments like Stone Henge built?



Prehistory in Britain started c750,000 BC, when several species of humans arrived from Europe. Prehistory is divided into three main periods: the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.



There are 1,000s of Stone Age monuments in the UK, made of stone or earth. One of the best known is Stone Henge. The earliest structures are 6,000 years old. Henges were stone circles that archaeologists believe were used for religious purposes.



Archaeologists have found many examples of Stone Age settle-

ments in

Britain. Skara Brae is one of the best-preserved examples. People lived there from c3200-c2200 BC. It was very well-preserved by sand and soil and contains many clues about how Neolithic people lived. The houses are made of stone and have built in stone furniture.



During the Iron Age, fighting was common between different tribes. The development and use of iron meant that more people had strong, sharp weapons, like swords and spears. Tribes started to attack neighbouring tribes in the hope of gaining more land and wealth.

Stone Age

Palaeolithic

c750,000–c10,000 BC
Duration: 740,000 years

Mesolithic

c10,000–c4000 BC
Duration: 6000 years

Neolithic

c4000–c2500 BC
Duration: 1500 years



Stone Age



flint

Stone Age

Tools and weapons – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

Everyday life – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

Settlements – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



Image from: Getty Images/Boeing Kindelsey



hunter-gatherer



henge

Bronze Age

c2500–c800 BC
Duration: 1700 years

Iron Age

c800 BC–AD 43
Duration: 843 years

Bronze Age

Tools and weapons – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

Everyday life – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

Settlements – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



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Iron Age

Tools and weapons – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

Everyday life – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

Settlements – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



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Bronze Age



bronze



Iron Age



iron