

History Year 6

Prehistory

Pupils will be taught about changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age (NC)



Key Facts

- Prehistory is split into three archaeological periods: the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.
- Prehistory means a time before written records.
- Archaeologists have to interpret clues left behind in order to understand the history of this time.
- The Stone Age covers over three million years!
- The Stone Age is split into three parts: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.
- It is called the Stone Age because the earliest humans used stone to make tools.
- Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people led largely nomadic lives as hunter-gatherers who moved with the seasons.
- In the Neolithic period, farming began, pottery was developed and villages were built.
- Skara Brae is a remarkably well preserved Neolithic village found on the Orkney Islands.
- People wore animal skins to keep them warm, sewn together using bone needles.
- Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric monument. Construction started at the end of the Stone Age.
- The Bronze Age in Britain lasted around 1500 years.
- Bronze is a metal alloy made by mixing copper and tin. These elements are found in certain rocks.
- The Bell Beaker People arrived in Britain; they are named after their distinctive bell-shaped pottery.
- It is thought the Beaker People brought with them the knowledge of how to make bronze.
- Tools that used to be made from stone were now made from stronger bronze.
- Wool was now being woven into sheets of fabric and used to make clothes.
- The Iron Age in Britain lasted for around 800 years.
- Iron replaced bronze as the chosen metal for making weapons and tools.
- Iron is found in rocks called iron ore.
- Iron is harder and was also considered easier to work with than bronze.
- The people living during the Iron Age were known as Celts. They lived in tribal kingdoms.
- Hillforts were defended settlements that made use of natural rises in the landscape.
- Roundhouses were typical Iron Age homes.
- Druids were priests and the religious leaders of the time.

Prehistory Legacy: Changes in Britain during the prehistoric era were transformative. People began to settle in one place rather than move with the seasons. Farming and metalwork radically changed the way people lived and worked.

Chronology of Key Events



Historical Skills



- Understand that no single source of evidence gives the full answer to questions about the past.
- Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history.
- Describe the characteristic features of the past.
- Describe the main changes in a period of history.
- Use dates and terms accurately in describing events.
- Use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate.

Key Vocabulary



- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)
- Neolithic (New Stone Age)
- Earthwork
- Fur Pelt
- Long Barrows
- Henge
- Hillfort
- Roundhouse
- Pottery

Significant People



- Neolithic people
- Hunter-gatherers
- Beaker People
- Druids
- Celts
- Tribes
- Julius Caesar
- Emperor Claudius

When in History?

