

# VOCABULARY

**ancient**—belonging to the distant past  
**Archaeologist**- someone who studies the past by exploring old remains  
**Artefact**- an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like  
**Century**- a period of 100 years  
**circa** -Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.  
**civilisation**—a human society with its own social organisation and culture.  
**Era**- a period of time in history. An era often begins or ends with an important event.  
**Extinct**—no longer has any living members, either in the world or in a particular place  
**Flint**- a piece of stone used in fire-starting and as a tool  
**Foundry**—A place of work where metal castings are made.  
**Forage** To look around for things to eat.  
**Handaxe** A sharp tool that you can hold in your hand. It was used for hunting and building  
**hearths**—the floor of a fireplace, or the stone or brick area in front of it  
**Mammoths** A large, elephant-like creature that is no longer alive today  
**Monument**—a a building, structure site that is of historical importance or interest.  
**migration**—movement from one place to another in order to settle there  
**Neanderthal** - an early species of human being, now extinct  
**Neolithic**—New Stone Age  
**nomad**—a person or a group of people with no fixed home who travelled around to find food and shelter.  
**Palaeolithic**—Old or 'ancient' Stone Age.  
**remains**—traces of the past  
**settler/settlement**—people who move to a new place / when people start a community



# HISTORY KNOWLEDGE MAT

## STONE AGE TO IRON AGE

With no written sources, what we know about this period comes mostly from artefacts and monuments that archaeologists have discovered. What we do know is that the period from the Stone Age to the Iron Age was one of big change in human development, spanning from the early hunter-gatherers who roamed the countryside to the highly sophisticated and organised groups of the late Iron Age. We break this period into the following historical divisions: the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age

The first people in Britain lived about 15,000 years ago and historians split them into 'ages' to find out what was different about them.

**Stone Age** - When the first humans began to live in Europe. They used stones as tools.



**Bronze Age** - In this era, metals were used to make hunting tools. Humans also began to farm land.



**Iron Age** - Humans used iron to make tools, and farmed land instead of hunting. They lived in communities.

### Stonehenge

This is a prehistoric monument in England. It is made up of a ring of standing stones. It might have been used as a meeting place or for religious ceremonies.



### Skara Brae

Skara Brae is a neolithic settlement built out of stone in Scotland. It has helped historians find out more about how Stone Age people lived.



# KEY LEARNING

## Stone Age:

- Palaeolithic to 10,000 BCE (end of the Ice Age) / Mesolithic to 4000 BCE / Neolithic to 2300 BCE
- Early Stone Age Man was a hunter-gatherer, travelling around following food sources, setting up

## Bronze Age:

- The Bronze Age started when the Beaker People arrived from Europe with new ways of making metal. Tools were made from bronze - copper and tin were heated up and poured into casts.
- The tools led to developments in farming and therefore larger productions able to feed growing cities. The invention of the wheel meant that animal drawn vehicles could drive along tracks and roads. The potter's wheel and textile production meant that better pottery and clothing could be produced.
- Evidence: Amesbury Archer - the remains of an early Bronze Age man who was buried with over 100 artefacts; Discovery of round barrows and stone circles.
- Bronze Age people lived in settlements, which was a group of round houses. Houses were made from wattle (sticks) and daub (mud) or dry stone.
- Settlements traded resources like copper and tin.
- Burials were important to Bronze Age people - they placed stone circles where burials took place.

## Iron Age:

- Tools were made from iron. Iron was heated up then the hot iron was hammered into shape.
- Settlements became larger because tribes were better able to farm and defend themselves.
- At the end of the Iron Age, coins were made and used as currency.
- There were lots of battles between tribes who fought each other for more land and power.

## Timeline

13,000 B.C.	4500-3500 B.C.	2300 B.C.	1800 B.C.	1200-800 B.C.	800-700 B.C.	700-500 B.C.	100 B.C.
People make cave paintings	Farming starts to begin to spread and pottery is made	Start of the Bronze Age	The first copper mines are dug	Metal tools are made and used	Start of the Iron Age / The first hill forts are made	Iron is more commonly being used	Coins are made and used for the first time / Iron Age end with Romans in 43 AD

## WHAT CAME BEFORE

Year 2— Historically significant events

## WHAT COMES NEXT

Year 4— Ancient Egypt