

HISTORY · Y3-Y5

Stone Age to Iron Age

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 History

Key vocabulary

1

Prehistoric

Time before written history. We know about it from objects people left behind.

2

Stone Age

Earliest period when humans made tools mostly from stone (about 2.5 million BC to 2500 BC in Britain).

3

Bronze Age

Period when bronze (mixed copper and tin) was used for tools (about 2500 BC to 800 BC in Britain).

4

Iron Age

Period when iron tools and weapons were used (about 800 BC to 43 AD in Britain).

5

Hunter-gatherer

Someone who survives by hunting animals and gathering wild plants — earliest human lifestyle.

6

Settlement

A place where people lived together in a community.

7

Hill fort

Iron Age settlement built on a hill, surrounded by deep ditches and high banks for defence.



8

Henge

Circular earthwork enclosure, often containing standing stones — like Stonehenge.

9

Round house

Circular Iron Age home with a thatched roof and central fire.

10

Celt

Iron Age peoples who lived in Britain when the Romans arrived.

Metals — three big changes

What changed between the periods?

- **STONE AGE:** tools made from stone, bone, antler. People hunted and gathered.
- Later in Stone Age (Neolithic): people started farming, keeping animals, making pottery.
- **BRONZE AGE:** people learned to mix copper and tin to make **BRONZE** — stronger than stone.
- Bronze Age people built burial mounds, traded across Europe, made bronze tools and weapons.
- **IRON AGE:** people learned to work iron — even stronger and more common than bronze.
- Iron Age people built hill forts, lived in tribes, fought each other, traded with Romans.
- Each new metal allowed better tools, better weapons, and (often) more powerful tribes.

Prehistoric British sites

Places you can still visit today

- **STONEHENGE** (Wiltshire) — built between 3000-1500 BC. Stones brought from Wales.
- **AVEBURY** (Wiltshire) — even bigger stone circle than Stonehenge.
- **SKARA BRAE** (Orkney) — Stone Age village preserved under sand for 4000 years.
- **WILTSHIRE WHITE HORSE** — chalk hill carving from Bronze Age.
- **MAIDEN CASTLE** (Dorset) — huge Iron Age hill fort with concentric ditches.



- FLAG FEN (Cambridgeshire) — Bronze Age timber causeway with thousands of offerings.
- THE UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE — Bronze Age chalk figure, Britain's oldest hill figure.
- BUTSER ANCIENT FARM (Hampshire) — reconstructed Iron Age settlement you can visit.

- the period closest to the Romans

How most prehistoric Britons lived just before

- Lived in round houses with thatched roofs and central fires.
- Settlements often inside hill forts on hilltops, surrounded by ditches.
- Farmers — grew wheat, barley, beans; kept sheep, cattle, pigs.
- Druids — religious leaders who memorised stories, laws, knowledge.
- Skilled craftspeople — made beautiful jewellery, weapons, pottery.
- Traded across Europe — tin from Cornwall went to Mediterranean.
- Many tribes (Iceni, Brigantes, Trinovantes, Catuvellauni) — often at war with each other.
- When Romans arrived in 43 AD, most Britons lived this way.
- Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, led the most famous rebellion against Rome (60 AD).

