







Key questions:

- How did Britain change between the Stone Age to Iron Age?
- What is meant by hunter gatherers?
- What is Skara Brae?
- When was Stonehenge created and why?
- When did the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age occur?

Key facts and figures

<p>Who was Lucy?</p> 	<p>In 1978, fossil discoveries at Hadar in Ethiopia revealed a new species of human – Australopithecus afraensis. Remains have been dated to between 3.85 and 2.95 million years ago. The discovery provided scientists with 47 bones of a skeleton. They concluded it was female based on its small size and pelvic shape, and named her Lucy (after the Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds which was playing on a radio when the archaeological team were celebrating their find.)</p>
<p>When was the Stone Age?</p> 	<p>The Stone Age lasted approximately 3 million years and ended between 6000 and 2000 BCE (Before Christian Era). By around 40,000 years ago, our ancestors had developed from the ape-like Lucy into more modern looking humans. They lived as hunters and gatherers, and had gained skills to aid them in surviving. These skills would have included tool and fire-making, and the beginnings of language.</p>
<p>Who was Otzi the Iceman?</p> 	<p>In September 1991, two hikers discovered a frozen body in the mountains near the border between Austria and Italy. The body turned out to be the oldest frozen mummy ever found, dating to around 3,200 BCE. Along with the body itself, many of the man's belongings were also preserved, including his weapons, clothing and tools. Scientists named him Otzi the Iceman after the Otzal area where he was found.</p>
<p>When was the Bronze Age?</p> 	<p>The beginning of the Bronze Age in Britain can be put around 2,000 BC. Although not certain, it is generally thought that the new bronze tools and weapons identified with this age were brought over from continental Europe. The skulls recovered from burial sites from the Bronze Age are different in shape from Stone Age skulls. This would suggest that new ideas and new blood were brought over from the continent.</p>
<p>When was the Iron Age?</p> 	<p>The Iron Age of the British Isles covers the period from about 800 BC to the Roman invasion of 43 AD, and follows on from the Bronze Age. The Iron Age saw the gradual introduction of iron working technology, although the general adoption of iron artefacts did not become widespread until after 500-400 BC.</p>
<p>What are the Lascaux caves?</p> 	<p>The Lascaux caves in France are famous for their cave paintings – estimated to be around 20,000 years old. They were discovered in 1940 by a group of teenagers in the hills outside the town of Montignac. The cave paintings are some of the oldest and best-preserved examples of prehistoric art in the world. Their purpose is unknown, but the subject of the paintings is almost entirely animals, including horses, bulls and deer. A few also feature human figures and may depict hunting scenes.</p>

Key vocabulary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prehistoric • Stone Age • Bronze Age • Iron Age • Tribe • Nomad • Hunter-gatherer • Palaeolithic • Mesolithic • Neolithic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronology • Timeline • ancestor • dwellings • settlements • Roundhouse • Hillfort • Weapons • Tools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skara Brae • Stonehenge • BC (Before Christ) • AD (Anno Domini) • CE (Common Era) • BCE (Before Common Era) |
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