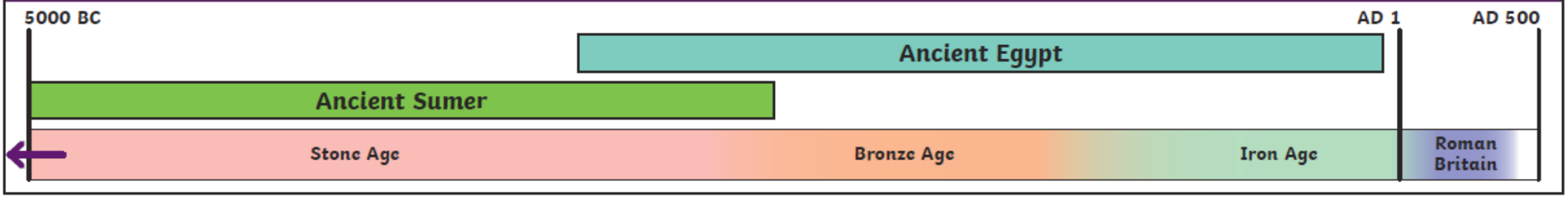
Stone Age to Iron Age

LKS2

Timeline



Key Vocabulary

Hunter-gatherer
Palaeolithic
Mesolithic
Neolithic
Tribe
Hillfort
Roundhouse
Stonehenge

Key Questions:

1. What does the word 'prehistory' mean?
2. What were the names of the three periods of prehistory?
3. What is the job of an archaeologist?
4. How have humans changed from these early species?
5. Where would Neolithic people have lived?

Historical Skills Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date is before the year AD 1. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC.
AD	Used to show that a date is after the year AD 1. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.
archaeologist	A person who studies the past by excavating historical places and studying objects and remains.



How Do We Know About Prehistoric Times?

It is generally believed that the first written records available for British history are from Roman times so the periods before the Romans arrived in Britain are classed as being prehistoric.

Archaeologists have been able to work out lots about what life was like in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age using evidence from artwork, artefacts, monuments and also from animal and human remains.

The Stone Age

The Stone Age was a very long period of time when early humans made tools and weapons from stone.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a historic site and monument that was started in the New Stone Age but was also developed later through the prehistoric period. Lots of people added to it over many years.



Palaeolithic (or Old) Stone Age

The Palaeolithic period was significantly longer than any other time in the Stone Age and any other period in human history. In Britain, it is thought to have started around 800,000 BC. At this time, people were hunter-gatherers and moved on to live in a different place once they had hunted and gathered all the food available.

Mesolithic (or Middle) Stone Age

The Mesolithic period started in Britain from around 8000 BC around the end of the last Ice Age. People were still living as hunter-gatherers but towards the end of this time in the Stone Age, people started to learn about agriculture.



Neolithic (or New) Stone Age

People started to live in permanent settlements having been introduced to agriculture by people migrating from Europe.



The Bronze Age

During the Bronze Age, people developed the technology to make bronze. This was used to make bronze tools, containers and jewellery. There was a lot of migration to Britain during this period. Some of the people who arrived in Britain were from Central Europe and were called the 'Beaker People'. They are known for the distinctive bell-shaped pottery they made, mainly used for drinking from. It is likely, but not certain, that the Beaker People brought their knowledge of making bronze to Britain and that is how the Bronze Age in Britain started.



The Iron Age

During the Iron Age, technology developed further across many aspects of life. People began to make tools and weapons from iron. Again, many of the new ideas came with the migration of people. People who lived at this time are now often called 'Celts'. Celts were farmers and lived as part of a tribe.

Hillforts developed during the Iron Age. Communities lived on hills for protection from when other tribes attacked.