

Stone Age



Movement

Quick Facts



- Our ancestor, *Homo sapiens*, emerged around 200,000 years ago.
- Flint was commonly used for making stone tools, but other stones such as chert and obsidian were also used.
- The Stone Age is divided into three periods; the Palaeolithic (old Stone Age), Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) and the Neolithic (new Stone Age).
- Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people were nomadic hunter-gatherers. They moved frequently following the animals that they hunted and gathering fruits and berries when they could.
- The dog was the first animal to be domesticated. This happened during the Mesolithic period. Dogs could help with the hunt, warn of danger and provide warmth and comfort.
- The gradual development of agriculture and the domestication of animals during the Neolithic period meant that people could live in settled communities.
- The houses in Skara Brae, a Neolithic Orkney village, had beds, cupboards, dressers, shelves and chairs.

Vocabulary



Ancestor
A person from whom one is descended and who lived several generations ago.



BC
An abbreviation for "before Christ."



Palaeolithic
Old Stone Age, from about 2 million B.C. to about 10,000 B.C.
The word "Palaeolithic" comes from two words in Greek: Palaeo- "old" + "lithic" meaning "consisting of stone."



Mesolithic
Middle Stone Age from about 10,000 to about 8,000 B.C.
The word "Mesolithic" comes from two words in Greek: Meso- "middle" + "lithic" meaning "consisting of stone."



Neolithic
New Stone Age from about 8,000 B.C. to about 2,500 B.C.
The word "Neolithic" comes from two words in Greek: "neo", meaning "new" and "lithic", meaning "stone".



Prehistoric
Belonging to a period in a time before written history.

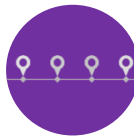


Homo Sapiens
The scientific name for human beings or for mankind in general.



Nomadic
Travelling from place to place.

Timeline



2 Million BC-10,000BC: Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)
10,000BC-8,000BC: Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)
8,000BC-2,500BC: Neolithic (New Stone Age)

Impact



In the early (old) Stone Age, which we call the **Palaeolithic**, people were hunters and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons.

The middle Stone Age, called the **Mesolithic**, began at a time when sea levels rose and Britain became an island (before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe). During the Mesolithic period, tools were developed to become smaller and finer. The invention of canoes meant that people were better able to hunt for fish as well as animals.

In the New Stone Age, which is called the **Neolithic**, the way people lived changed a lot because they began to settle into farming villages instead of moving from place to place. People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people were **nomadic hunter-gatherers**. They moved frequently following the animals that they hunted and gathering fruits and berries when they could. They were also looking for warmer climates.



Skara Brae is a well-preserved Stone Age village in the Orkney Islands, Scotland. The settlement dates back to about 3,000BC and was made up of several one-room dwellings, with a communal room for cooking and working. These small houses were notable for their stone furniture, a drainage system and even an indoor toilet.

Surrounding Chronology



Palaeolithic
2 Million BC-10,000BC

Neolithic
8,000BC-2,500BC

Bronze Age
3,000BC-800BC

Mesolithic
10,000BC-8,000BC

Start of Ancient Egypt
3,100BC

Iron Age
800BC-43AD