

The Stone Age

The Stone Age covers a period of over 3 million years and started when the first human-like animals came into existence. These early humans first arrived in Britain more than 800,000 years ago.

When Was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age is split into three time periods:

- Palaeolithic – around 3,000,000BC
The earliest **hominids** used simple tools. Britain was connected by land to France and Denmark.
- Mesolithic – around 10,000BC
People led **nomadic** lives as hunter-gatherers. Britain became an island.
- Neolithic – around 4500BC to 2400BC
Farming began, pottery was developed and villages were built.



Why Is It Called the Stone Age?

During this time, stone was the main material used to make tools and weapons with a sharp edge or point.

Where Did Stone Age People Live?

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Eras

Early Stone Age people were nomadic and some lived in caves. Evidence of humans sheltering in caves has been found by archaeologists, who discovered cave paintings of ancient animals.

However, most Stone Age people are thought to have lived in tents made with wood or animal bones and animal skins. There is evidence that the floor was covered with a layer of moss, reeds and other soft plant materials.

Neolithic Era

Stone Age people stopped travelling and began to settle in villages. There is evidence of settlements made up of simple roundhouses built from stone. They were built into mounds of rubbish known as midden, which would provide stability and warmth. These houses had beds, storage shelves and a hearth in the middle.