



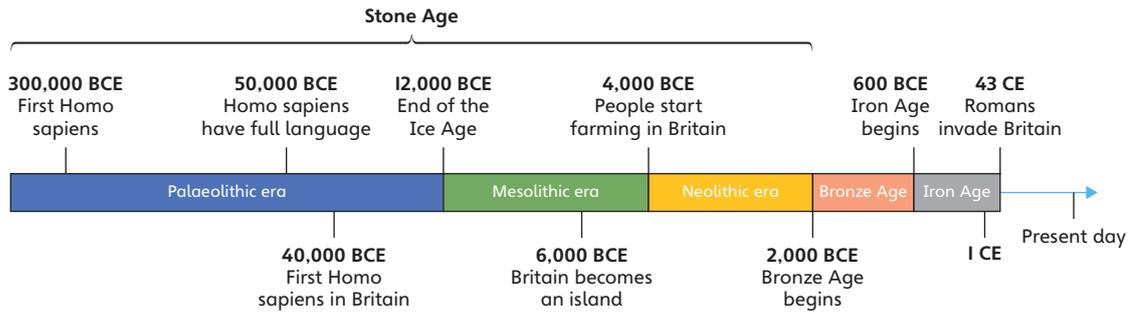
# Primary History

## Prehistoric Britain

Name:

Class:

# Knowledge organiser



Vocabulary	
Archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by looking at objects, buildings and remains
Bronze	A metal made by mixing copper and tin
Extant	A species that is still alive
Extinct	A species that is no longer alive
Evolve	The gradual changes of a plant or animal: over generations to adapt to its changing environment
Glacier	A huge sheet of ice
Homo sapiens	The scientific name for modern humans
Ice age	A long period of time when Earth was extremely cold
Neanderthals	A species of human that is now extinct
Ore	Rock that contains metal

Stone Age eras	
Palaeolithic era	The early Stone Age when humans used very basic tools
Mesolithic era	The middle Stone Age when humans perfected their tools
Neolithic era	The new Stone Age when humans began farming

## Prehistoric animals



Woolly mammoth (extinct)



Woolly rhino (extinct)



Elk (extant)

## Europe during the Ice Age



## Stone Age tools



Spear



Hammer stones



Hand axe

# Learning review

Lesson	Lesson question	You will learn...	Learning review
1	What was life like during the Ice Age?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which animals lived during the Ice Age.</li> <li>• Which of these species have become extinct.</li> <li>• How early humans made use of woolly mammoths.</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2	What tools did early humans use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the three eras of the Stone Age were.</li> <li>• What the different species of early humans were.</li> <li>• What tools humans used in the Stone Age.</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3	What was life like in a Stone Age settlement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What life was like for hunter-gatherers.</li> <li>• Why early humans began to settle.</li> <li>• What Neolithic settlements were like.</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4	Why was bronze used for tools and weapons?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the Beaker People got their name.</li> <li>• Which metals are used to make bronze.</li> <li>• What the advantages and disadvantages of bronze tools and weapons are.</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5	What can we learn from Skara Brae and other Stone Age sites?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How people learn about the past.</li> <li>• What Skara Brae is, and what we can learn from it.</li> </ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6	Assessment: What were the major differences between the different eras of the Stone Age?		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

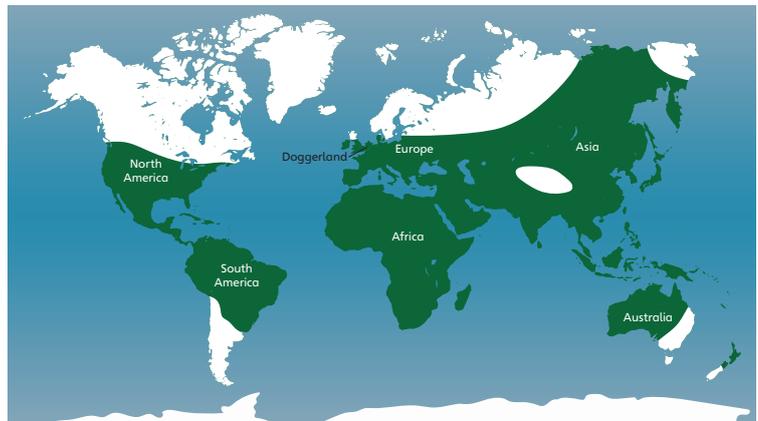
# Lesson 1

## What was life like during the Ice Age?

### A frozen planet

The way Earth looks has changed a lot over thousands of years. Early humans lived in an **ice age**, when the world was much colder than it is now.

There were huge sheets of ice, called **glaciers**, covering a lot of the land. This included most of what is now Europe, and parts of North America, South America and Australia. The most recent ice age began about 1.5 million years ago and ended about 15,000 years ago.



### Animals of the Ice Age

During the most recent ice age, incredible beasts roamed Earth. These animals were adapted to the cold. Some, like elk, are still **extant** today. Others became **extinct**. Scientists disagree about why.



1. What could cause a species to become extinct? Think of as many reasons as you can. Write your answer.

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## Woolly mammoths



Woolly mammoths were similar to elephants. They were larger than modern elephants, and covered in fur. Woolly mammoths became extinct about 4,000 years ago. Scientists have found frozen bodies of woolly mammoths underground.

## Hunting mammoths

Early humans had to work together to hunt woolly mammoths. It was very dangerous. They used spears, and perhaps bows and arrows. The humans had to plan and communicate instructions, something other animals couldn't do.

If they killed a woolly mammoth, humans could use the ivory tusks for tools and the skin for clothes, and have plenty of fat and meat to eat. However, a mammoth could kill a human easily, with a swipe of its tusks.



2. Was hunting a woolly mammoth worth the risk? Write some advantages and disadvantages in the table.

Advantages	Disadvantages



3. Woolly mammoths were not the only animals living in Britain during the Ice Age. How was each of these prehistoric animals adapted to life in the cold? Write a short description under each image.

Sabre-toothed tiger



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Woolly rhino



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Irish elk



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Cave lion



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Cave bear



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# Lesson 2

## What tools did early humans use?

### Quiz

1. When did the last ice age end? Tick the correct answer.
  - a. around 1.5 million years ago
  - b. around 200,000 years ago
  - c. around 15,000 years ago
  - d. around 4,000 years ago
2. Which word describes a species that has died out? Tick the correct answer.
  - a. extinct
  - b. extant
3. When did woolly mammoths die out? Tick the correct answer.
  - a. around 400 years ago
  - b. around 4,000 years ago
  - c. around 40,000 years ago
4. Complete these sentences. Write your answers.

Early humans used mammoth tusks for \_\_\_\_\_.

They used mammoth skin for \_\_\_\_\_.

They used mammoth meat for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What is another word for a huge ice sheet? Write your answer.

G\_\_\_\_\_

## Humans evolve

Humans **evolved** from apes over millions of years. The earliest humans looked more like apes than humans. They slowly evolved to have larger brains, walk upright and have better control with their hands. There were once lots of different species of humans, but only one type survives today. Modern humans are called **Homo sapiens**, and we first evolved about 300,000 years ago.



1. How have humans changed over time? Write your answer.

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## Humans in Britain

Another species of humans, called **Neanderthals**, evolved at about the same time as **Homo sapiens**, in different parts of the world. About 60,000 years ago, they arrived in Britain. Then, about 40,000 years ago, **Homo sapiens** arrived in Britain too. Neanderthals and **Homo sapiens** did interact, but Neanderthals eventually became extinct.

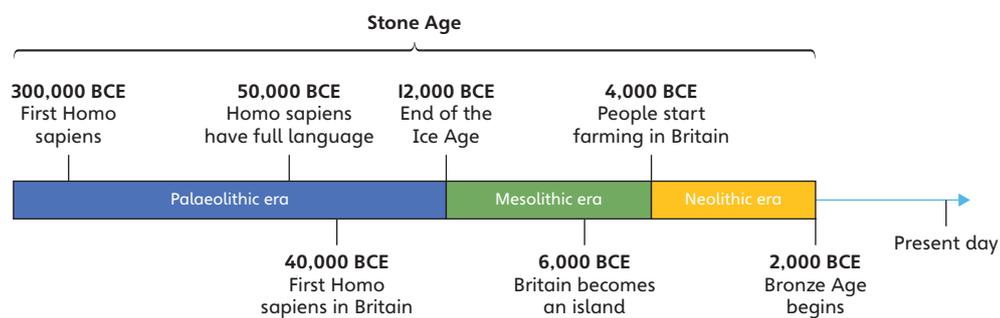
Neanderthals and **Homo sapiens** were able to walk to Britain from Europe because it was connected by an area of land called **Doggerland**. When the ice sheets melted at the end of the Ice Age, **Doggerland** was flooded and is now under the sea.



## Three different stone ages

Early Homo sapiens developed tools to help them survive. The period of time when they developed stone tools is called the Stone Age. The Stone Age is divided into three eras, or time periods:

- The Palaeolithic era
- The Mesolithic era
- The Neolithic era.



2. How did the Stone Age get its name? Write your answer.

## The Palaeolithic era

The Palaeolithic era is the oldest part of the Stone Age. This is why some people call it the 'old Stone Age'. It lasted a long time. Early humans did not have much language, and were always on the move looking for their next meal. We call them hunter-gatherers because they roamed around hunting animals and gathering plants to eat.

Humans used very basic tools. For example, they chose certain stones to use as hammer stones.



Hammer stones

## The Mesolithic era

The ice sheets began to melt about 15,000 years ago, as the Ice Age ended. A new period started, called the Mesolithic era (or 'middle Stone Age'). During the Mesolithic era, humans sharpened stones and bones into spears and knives. These were used for hunting, and to make clothing from animal skins.



Hand axe



3. What is another name for the Mesolithic era? Tick the correct answer.

- a. The old Stone Age
- b. The middle Stone Age
- c. The new Stone Age

## The Neolithic era

Finally, about 6,000 years ago, the Neolithic era (or 'new Stone Age') began. Humans discovered how to cook and eat different kinds of grain, such as wheat and millet. They began to farm these grains, which was easier than hunting and gathering.



Hand sickle

Neolithic humans fixed sharpened stones into wood or bone to make hand sickles to harvest their grains.



4. Match the Stone Age eras with the correct descriptions. Draw a line between them.

Palaeolithic
Mesolithic
Neolithic

Humans began to settle and farm.
Humans improved their tools.
Humans were hunter-gatherers using basic tools.

# Lesson 3

## What was life like in a Stone Age settlement?

### Quiz

- When did Homo sapiens begin to evolve? Tick the correct answer.
  - around 3 billion years ago
  - around 3 million years ago
  - around 300,000 years ago
  - around 3,000 years ago
- What was the name of the land that used to connect Britain to Europe? Write your answer.  
D\_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name of our species? Tick the correct answer.
  - Homo sapiens
  - Homo habilis
  - Homo australopithecus
  - Neanderthal
- Put the eras of the Stone Age into the correct order.
  - Neolithic
  - Palaeolithic
  - MesolithicOrder: \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_
- What was a hand sickle used for? Tick the correct answer.
  - to attack enemies
  - to gather grains
  - to cut animal skins
  - to hunt animals

## A nomadic lifestyle

Early humans were **nomadic**. This means that they did not have fixed homes, but instead travelled around, avoiding predators and searching for food. When they needed to sleep, they would find whatever shelter they could, in forests or in caves. We have evidence of humans living in caves from paintings on the walls.

This painting is from the Altamira cave in Spain, and is thought to be about 20,000 years old.



1. What does this painting show? Why do you think humans painted it? Write your answer.

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Nomadic humans sometimes had to walk for days, and did not carry heavy possessions. They did not have many opportunities for talking as they wandered around, so their language did not develop much. If they were unable to find food regularly, they starved to death.

## Settling down

All of this began to change during the Mesolithic era. The Earth began to warm up as the Ice Age ended. More forests and grasslands appeared. Humans began to stay in the same place for longer periods of time. They built small homes out of sticks and straw, usually near water.



2. Why do you think early humans made their camps near water? Write your answer.

## Building permanent homes

Humans began to use grains from grasses. Some of these, such as wheat and millet, were edible, although they had to be cooked or ground into flour first. It was much quicker to collect grains than hunting and gathering other kinds of food. In just a few hours, a person could collect enough grain to last for weeks. It wouldn't go rotten as long as it was kept dry, unlike meat and other plants. Over time, humans learnt how to grow these crops for themselves.

Eventually, humans began to build permanent homes by piling stones on top of each other. This was the beginning of the Neolithic era, and the first permanent villages.



3. Complete these sentences. Write your answers.

Early humans began to settle because \_\_\_\_\_

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Early humans began to settle but \_\_\_\_\_

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Early humans began to settle so \_\_\_\_\_

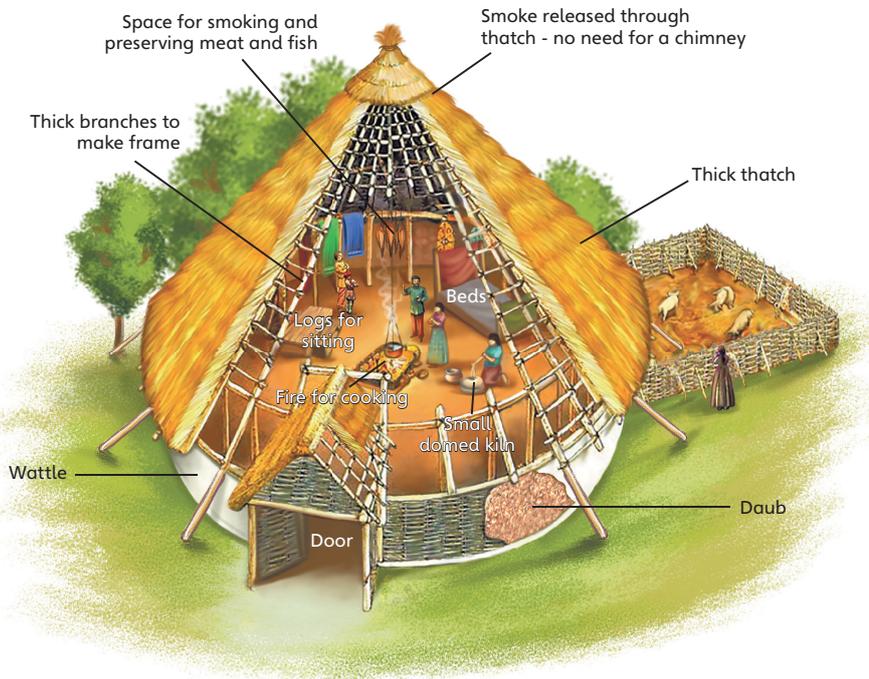
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# Roundhouses

As the Stone Age came to an end and a new age began, a new style of home emerged. Roundhouses were made by weaving sticks together, and packing them with a mixture of mud, clay and animal dung. This is called wattle (the sticks) and daub (the packing). The roof was then thatched with straw and sticks. Inside, a fire kept everyone warm and allowed cooking.



There are no roundhouses left today, but people have made copies using the same methods and tools, like the one in this picture on the right.



4. What would it be like to live in a roundhouse? Write your answer.

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## Unit progress check in

1. Read the statements below. Tick the correct answer for each one.
  - a. The Ice Age began about 1.5 million years ago. True  False
  - b. The Ice Age ended about 15,000 years ago. True  False
  - c. The Ice Age came after the Neolithic era. True  False
2. What parts of a woolly mammoth did early humans use? Write your answers.

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3. Put the three eras of the Stone Age in order. Write 1, 2 or 3 next to each.  
 \_\_\_\_ Mesolithic      \_\_\_\_ Palaeolithic      \_\_\_\_ Neolithic
4. What did Palaeolithic humans use to make tools? Tick the **two** correct answers.
 

a. bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. bone	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. iron	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. What is the name of our species? Write your answer.

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6. Complete the sentence using a word from the box.

hunter-gatherers      farmers      teachers

During the Neolithic era, humans were \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Fill in the blank to complete this sentence.

In the Neolithic era, humans started to build permanent houses from piles of \_\_\_\_\_.

# Lesson 4

## Why was bronze used for tools and weapons?



### Quiz

1. Where did Palaeolithic humans shelter? Write your answer.

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2. In which era did humans begin to settle in one place, rather than roam? Tick the correct answer.

- a. the Palaeolithic era
- b. the Mesolithic era
- c. the Neolithic era
- d. the Bronze Age

3. Fill in the blank to complete the sentence.

Mesolithic humans usually made their homes near \_\_\_\_\_.

4. What is millet? Tick the correct answer.

- a. a type of tool used by Homo sapiens
- b. a type of weapon used by Homo sapiens
- c. a type of grain humans can eat

5. Read the statements below. Tick the correct answer for each one.

- a. Grains did not last as long as other foods, such as meat and other plants. True  False
- b. During the Neolithic era, humans were hunter-gatherers. True  False

## A new material

Early humans used stone, bone and ivory tools for hundreds of thousands of years. Around 4,000 years ago, people discovered a new material: metal. This marked the beginning of the Bronze Age.



1. What objects do you use every day that are made from metal? Write your answer.
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Metals can be found in some rocks, called **ore**. It is very difficult to get metal out of rocks, which is why it took humans so long to discover and use metal. The first kind of metal humans used was **bronze**. Bronze is a mixture of two other metals: copper and tin.



## How to make bronze

1. Find some copper ore and tin ore.
2. Crush the rock to get the metal out.
3. Melt the copper with a small amount of tin in a very hot fire, and mix them together.
4. Pour the metal into a mould to make the shape that you want.
5. Let it cool and become hard.

By itself, copper is very soft. Tin, on the other hand, is brittle (it breaks easily). But when mixed together they make bronze, a new metal that is both sharp and strong. However, bronze is heavy and working with it requires skill.



2. How was bronze an improvement on the stone tools that early humans used? Write your answer.
-



# Lesson 5

## What can we learn from Skara Brae and other Stone Age sites?

### Quiz

- How many years ago did people start to use metal? Tick the correct answer.
  - around 4,000 years ago
  - around 40,000 years ago
  - around 400,000 years ago
- Which two metals are needed to make bronze? Write your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Why were these metals unsuitable alone? Tick the correct answer.
  - One was too soft. The other was too brittle.
  - One was too hard. The other was too brittle.
  - One was too soft. The other did not break easily.
  - One was too hard. The other did not break easily.
- How did the Beaker People get their name? Tick the correct answer.
  - They were from a place in Europe called Beaker.
  - They ate entire birds, including the beaks.
  - They were skilled at making beakers.
  - They wore a kind of beak mask over their faces.
- How old are the items in the Burton Hoard? Tick the correct answer.
  - around 300 years old
  - around 3,000 years old
  - around 30,000 years old

## Skara Brae

Skara Brae is a famous Neolithic village on an island in Scotland. People lived there about 5,000 years ago, but archaeologists only discovered it in 1850, because it had become buried with earth during a storm.



There are ten homes built from stone in Skara Brae, and they give us some ideas about how Neolithic people lived. Pottery remains are evidence of trading and crafting.

Each house had two beds and well-organized stone furniture such as cupboards, seats and shelves. The houses even have features that the Romans were thought to have introduced much later, such as drains.



1. What can sites like this tell us about homes, people and communities in the Neolithic era? Write your answer.

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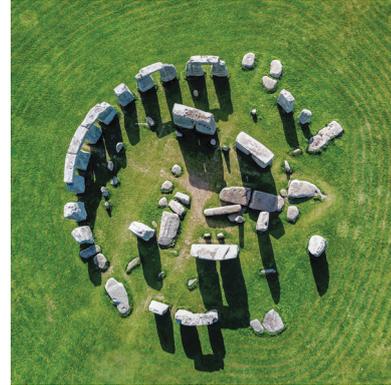
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# Stonehenge



Neolithic humans did not only build homes. They also created huge circles from large pieces of stone. The most famous of these is Stonehenge, in Wiltshire. The largest stone, called the 'heel stone', sits outside the main circle. It marks where the sun rises during the summer. The largest of the stone arches, called a 'trilithon', marks where the sun sets during the winter.



## How was Stonehenge built?

Many of the stones in Stonehenge came from south Wales, over 160 miles away. Each stone weighs around 25 tonnes, and the Neolithic people did not have wheels to transport them.

We do not know how people moved the stones so far. Some archaeologists think they might have rolled the stones on logs. Others think they might have used a sleigh whose tracks were greased with animal fat.

The stones were shaped using hammer stones. Ramps and counter-weights may have been used to stand them up, with platforms and levers used to place the top stones. Joints usually only seen in woodwork were used to fit the stones together.



It may have taken as long as 50 years to complete the stone circle. However, the whole site evolved over hundreds of years.



2. How do you think Stonehenge was built? Think about what evidence there is. Write your answer.

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# Lesson 6

## Unit check out



Write an answer to this question: What were the major differences between the different eras of the Stone Age?

Key words		
bronze	Neolithic	settlement
farming	nomadic	stone
hunter-gatherer	Palaeolithic	tools
Mesolithic		

<p><b>Title:</b> What were the major differences between the different eras of the Stone Age?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain when this period was in history.</li><li>• What were the three eras of the Stone Age?</li><li>• How long have humans been on Earth and how have they evolved?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

<p><b>Paragraph 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was life like in the Palaeolithic era?</li><li>• Why did people live nomadic lives?</li><li>• What tools did early humans use?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Paragraph 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was life like in the Mesolithic era?</li><li>• What changes did the end of the Ice Age bring?</li><li>• How did tools develop, and how did they help humans survive?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Paragraph 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What was life like in the Neolithic era?</li><li>• How did the development of farming change life for humans?</li><li>• How did their settlements develop?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Extension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do we know what life in the Stone Age was like?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do we know about Prehistoric Britain?</li><li>• What key things changed over time?</li></ul>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>













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