

THE STONE AGE

KEY FACTS

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- The Stone Age the time in history where weapons and tools were made out of stone.
- The Stone Age is split into three parts:

The Palaeolithic (old stone age)
The Mesolithic era (middle stone age)
The Neolithic era (new stone age)

- At the start of the Stone Age, humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers.
- They slept in tents or caves. We know this because cave paintings have been discovered in many parts of Europe
- Later, they learned how to farm and started to build houses and settle in villages
- Stone age houses were made of wattle and daub, with one room and a fire in the centre
- At around 2100BC, people started to discover that they could make a new metal by mixing together copper and tin. This new metal, bronze, was stronger and easier to use and so the Stone Age ended and the Bronze Age began.



SKARA BRAE

- Skara Brae is one of the biggest Neolithic settlements anywhere in the world. It is located on the Orkney Islands, which lie off the North-East coast of Scotland. It was built and occupied between about 3200 BC and 2200 BC.

TIMELINE

THE STONE AGE

800,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Palaeolithic era

10,000BC – 3,000 BC
Mesolithic era

3,000BC – 2100BC
Neolithic era

2100BC – 750BC
The Bronze Age

750BC – 43AD
The Iron Age

Stonehenge is a huge man-made circle of standing stones in England. It took over 1,000 years to build and was probably finished around 1,500BC, during the early Bronze Age.



STONEHENGE

VOCABULARY

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- Archaeologist** - someone who digs in the ground to find clues about the past
- Prehistory** - a period in history before official written records.
- Artefact** - an object that tells us how people used to live.
- Nomadic** - people who travel from place to place and have no fixed home.
- Knapping** - slicing off pieces of stone with another stone to make weapons and tools.
- Hunter gatherers** - people who hunt animals and gather plants for their food.
- Wattle** - wooden strips used to build houses.
- Daub** - a mixture of mud, manure and stones used to hold the wattle in place and protect the home from the wind and rain