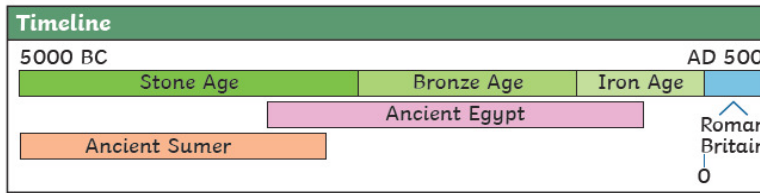


Lower Key Stage 2 - Elveden Academy Knowledge organiser - The Stone Age

Key Vocabulary	
ancient astronomy	The study of the things outside of Earth's atmosphere from the very distant past.
bone marrow	A substance high in fat and nutrients found inside bones.
earthwork	A large bank or mound that has been made by moving soil.
flint	A very hard stone that can produce a spark when struck by another stone.
hunter-gatherer	Someone who hunts animals and gathers wild food to eat.
prehistoric	Before written records began.



When Was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age (a period of time when humans used stone to make tools) covers a huge period of time - over 3 million years.

It can be broken down into 3 smaller time periods:

Palaeolithic - around 3,000,000 BC. Early humans used simple stone tools with sharp edges.

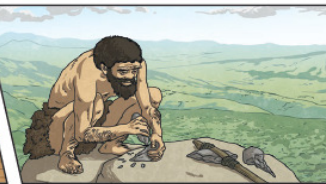
Mesolithic - around 10,000 BC. Humans were **hunter-gatherers** and constantly on the move in order to stay safe and warm.

Neolithic - around 4500-2400 BC. Farming developed and villages were built.

What Did the Stone Age People Have to Do?

hunt and gather food	find water and shelter	skin animals and make clothes	collect firewood for making fires to cook on and keep warm	make tools and weapons
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There is evidence that the Stone Age people were skilled at fishing and crafts. We also know that they developed farms to live off and that they took part in religious rituals.



Stone Age

The term 'Stone Age' refers to a very long period of time that we can break up into three sections.
Palaeolithic to 10,000 BC
Mesolithic to 4000 BC
Neolithic to 2300 BC

In the early Stone Age, which we call the **Palaeolithic**, people were **hunter gatherers** 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 late 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.

Handaxes were used in the **Palaeolithic** period. They would have been held in the hand rather than attached to handles. Their sharp edges were used for chopping or cutting.



Key Dates	
800,000 BC	Earliest footprints in Britain
300,000 BC	Palaeolithic period begins
10,000 BC	End of the last Ice Age Mesolithic period begins
8,000 BC	Neolithic period begins
4,000 BC	Adoption of agriculture
3,000 BC	Stonehenge started

Stonehenge

Found in Wiltshire, England, Stonehenge is a huge man-made circle of standing stones. Built by our ancestors over many hundreds of years, it's one of the world's most famous **prehistoric** monuments...And one of it's biggest mysteries, too!



Skara Brae

Found on the Orkney Islands off the north of Scotland, Skara Brae is a one of Britain's most fascinating **prehistoric** villages. **Archaeologists** estimate it was built and occupied between 3000BCE and 2500BCE, during the Neolithic era. The village is older than the pyramids and Stonehenge!



The Stone Age World



Lower Key Stage 2 - Elveden Academy Knowledge organiser - The Stone Age

Key Vocab	
Chronology	The arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.
BC	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
Archaeologist	A person who studies the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society.
Historical evidence	Anything left over from the past is a source of evidence.
Hunter gatherers	People who found food from their local environment and then moved from site to site depending on the season. They moved wherever they needed to get food from
Prehistoric	Relating to or existing in the time before written history began
Palaeolithic	The prehistoric period when stone tools were made by humans.
Mesolithic	Also called Middle Stone Age, is an ancient cultural stage that existed between the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) and the Neolithic (New Stone Age)
Neolithic	The youngest part of the Stone Age. The neolithic period is the time when farming was invented and when people started caring for animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs.
Ancient	Very old; referring to times in the distant past

Stonehenge

A very famous, **prehistoric** monument in Wiltshire, England. Building started around 5000 years ago.

It is thought to have been used for **ancient astronomy**, religious ceremonies or places of healing.

Some of the stones were brought from Preseli Hills in South Wales - 240 miles away!

Sarsen Stones were vertical stones with a horizontal stone laying across the top making 'doorways'.

Originally, this monument was just an **earthwork** and up to 150 people were buried there. Huge stones were then added in different stages. What we see today are enormous stones placed in a circular and horseshoe pattern.



Skara Brae

In 1850, a Stone Age village thought to have been built around 3000 BC was discovered on Orkney, off the North coast of Scotland.

It provided evidence that the Stone Age people were beginning to settle down, making homes and farming rather than constantly moving around.

The remains of eight circular houses were discovered. These houses contained a fire pit in the middle, beds built into the walls and a set of stone shelves called a dresser. The roofs were possibly made from a timber or whalebone frame covered in seaweed, animal skin or grass.

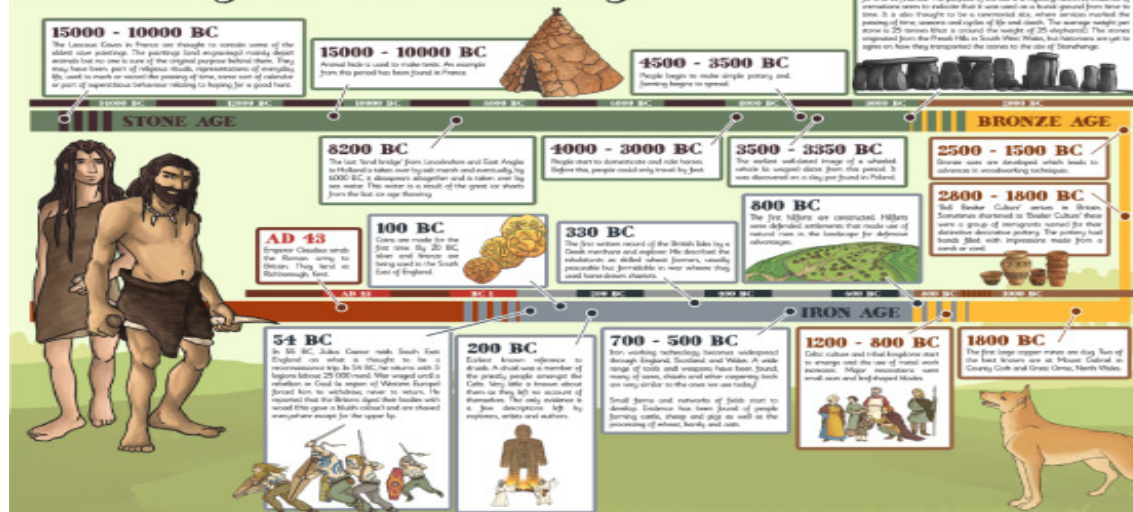
It is believed that the original village was added to later with larger houses being more rectangular.

Carved patterns can be found on the walls of one of the buildings.

Skara Brae, Orkney



Stone Age to the Iron Age



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