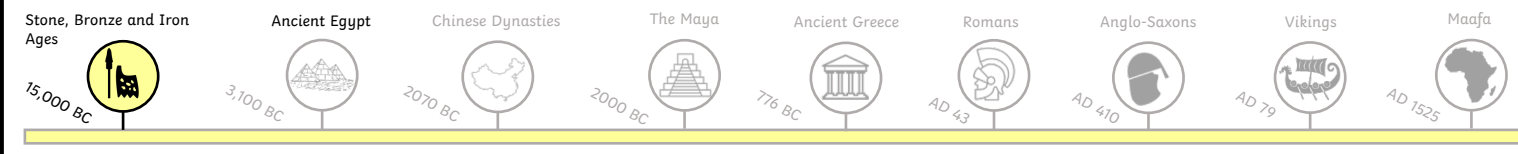


# Phase 2 – Stone, Bronze and Iron Age

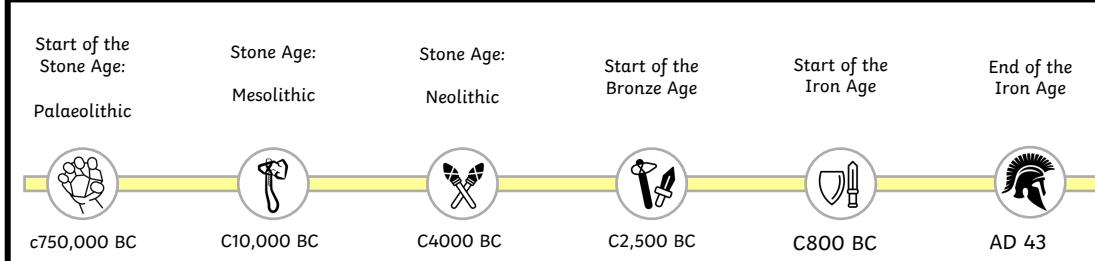
## When were the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages?



## Prehistory

History is the study of humanity's story. Prehistory are the earliest 'chapters' known as periods of time in this story of history. Prehistory is before written records and we use historical clues to find out about the past.

## Timeline



## Stone Age

The Stone Age was a **prehistoric** period when humans used stone and other natural materials to make weapons and tools. The Stone Age lasted for millions of years so life at the start of the Stone Age looked completely different to life at the end of the Stone Age.

Hunter-gatherers hunted wild animals, such as deer, horses, wild pigs and bison. They ate every part of the animal they could and used the skin for clothes or shelter. They used bones/antlers to make tools. As time passed, tools developed. Early stone tools were big, heavy hammerstones and hand axes. Later, humans learned to shape the tools like spears and harpoons and even created bows and arrows.

Homes began as tents and developed into timber rectangular structures and later, made of stones.

## Bronze Age

The discovery of bronze ended the Stone Age and started the Bronze Age. New bronze technologies changed the ways that people lived, farmed, fought, traded and dressed.

Bronze Age Britons lived in roundhouses in small villages. Roundhouses had walls made of sticks and mud, called wattle and daub. They also had thatched roofs and a fireplace in the centre for warmth, light and cooking.

**Settlements** of roundhouses were surrounded by fences to protect against raids by enemy tribes.

The Bronze Age began with the start of metalworking in Britain. Bronze was a hard, strong metal that was made by mixing tin and copper. Miners extracted tin and copper from the ground and made tools, weapons and luxury items from bronze. Bronze tools were sharper and stronger than stone tools, so it was easier to farm than ever before. Farming replaced hunting and gathering as the main way to produce food.

## Iron Age

The Iron Age in Britain continued until the Roman invasion of AD 43. This period of time followed the Bronze Age, and by 500 BC, iron had replaced bronze as the chosen metal for making weapons and tools. Iron ores are minerals and rocks from which iron can be extracted. Back in the Iron Age, iron was extracted by a process known as 'smelting' using a charcoal-fired furnace. The iron could be heated and hammered into shape. Compared to bronze, iron was considered easier to work with. It could be shaped into finer and sharper objects like spear heads, arrow heads, daggers and swords. Other sharp objects, such as a sickle hook, were used in farming to harvest grain crops.

The first hillforts were constructed from around 800 BC. These were defended settlements that made use of natural rises in the landscape for defensive advantage. Between 500 and 100 BC, many parts of Britain were dominated by hillforts.

## Key Vocabulary



**ARCHAEOLOGIST:** Someone who studies artefacts from the past.



**ARTEFACT:** An ornament, tool, or other object that is made by a human being, especially one that is historically interesting.



**BEAKER FOLK:** A group of people who travelled from Europe at the beginning of the Bronze Age and brought metalworking and pottery skills to Britain.



**CELTS:** A group of people who travelled from Europe and brought their ironworking skills to Britain.



**HILLFORT:** A settlement built on a hill that is protected by ditches and fences.



**PREHISTORIC:** From a time in the past before there were written records.



**ROUNDHOUSE:** A house with circular walls made of wooden or stone posts - filled in with wattle-and-daub and a thatched roof.



**SETTLEMENT:** A place where people live together in a community.