

How did Britain change over the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages?

Vocabulary

Neolithic

Bronze Age

Iron Age

hunter gatherer

settlement

Stone Age

The Stone Age lasted for around 10,000 years in Britain. It gets its name from the main material used at the time - stone. Throughout the period people were nomadic and hunter gatherers until around 4500-4000BC when farming began and so people settled in one place. The Stone Age was split into three periods. Palaeolithic (old), Mesolithic (middle) and Neolithic (new) Stone Age.

Skara Brae

Skara Brae was built in the Neolithic period. It is one of the earliest surviving examples of a village we have. There are 10 houses there, built of stone. The homes had fireplaces, beds and storage areas. House seven is somewhat of a mystery. It is the only one that is not connected to the others and the door was only able to be locked from the outside. The inhabitants of Skara Brae would have been farmers and hunters.

Bronze Age

Bronze was discovered around 2300BC. It is a combination of copper and tin. It was used to make farming tools and weapons however whilst it was strong, it took a while to forge and also it was brittle which meant it snapped after a lot of use. It was then pretty tough to repair. People started settling in small villages at this time.

Iron Age

Around 800BC iron was discovered in Britain. There is far more iron than tin and copper so it is much easier to find. Plus, you can forge it and then remould it by heating it up so it can be reused. It is a huge discovery and is used for loads of different things.

Hunter gatherer

During the Stone Age, people were hunter gatherers, moving around to find food. However, around 4500BC farming began in Britain and more people then created settlements like Skara Brae where they lived permanently.

Neolithic 4000BC

Bronze Age 2500BC

Iron Age 800BC