



What changed in Britain during the Stone Age?

Very Important Vocabulary

Settlement: A place where people establish a community and live together.

Agriculture: The practice of farming, including growing crops and raising animals.

Trade: The exchange of goods and services between people or communities.

Settlement: A community or village where people live.

Stone Age: A prehistoric period during which stone tools were commonly used.

Hunter-gatherer: A person who obtains food by hunting animals and gathering wild plants.

Cave Paintings: Ancient artwork found on the walls of caves, created by early humans.

Plough: A tool used for turning over soil to prepare it for planting crops.

Sickle: A tool with a curved blade used for harvesting grain.

What was the Stone Age?

The Prehistoric period is characterised by the use of stone tools. It is generally considered the earliest period of human culture. Divided into three main time periods: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic. Each period marks significant changes in human development, culture and technology.

Trade in the Stone Age

In the Stone Age, people exchanged goods with each other. They traded things like tools, pottery, and food. This helped them get things they didn't have and share new ideas. Trade made communities stronger and allowed people to live better lives.



Palaeolithic Period (Old Stone Age)

Timeframe: approximately 2.5 million years ago to around 10,000 BC

Hunter-gatherer lifestyle: People moved often to find food. Stone tools: Early tools were simple, like hand axes and flint knives. They became more advanced over time. Shelter: People used temporary shelters like caves and simple huts. Art and culture: Early art included cave paintings and carvings. Burial practices suggest early religious beliefs.

Mesolithic Period (Middle Stone Age)

Timeframe: approximately 10,000 BC to around 6,000 BC

Transition Period: The Mesolithic is a time when people started moving from a nomadic to a more settled life. Microliths: Tools became smaller and more specialized, like microliths used in arrows and harpoons. Adaptation to Environment: People used more natural resources, such as wood, bone, and antlers, and explored new areas like forests and wetlands.

Neolithic Period (New Stone Age)

Timeframe: approximately 6,000 BC to around 2,000 BC

Agriculture: The biggest change was farming. People started to grow plants and raise animals. Permanent Settlements: With farming, people built permanent homes and villages. Advanced Tools and Pottery: Tools became polished and specialized. Pottery was used for storing and cooking food. Social Structure: Extra food led to new social roles and trade. Communities became more organized. Megalithic Structures: Large stone structures, like Stonehenge, show advancements in building and social organization.

Settlements in the Stone Age

Palaeolithic Period: People lived in temporary shelters like caves or tents. They moved around a lot to find food. Their homes were simple and made from things like animal skins and branches.

Mesolithic Period: People started to build more permanent huts from wood and grass. They still moved around, but not as much as before. They used smaller, sharper tools and lived near rivers and forests.

Neolithic Period: People built permanent houses made from mud bricks and stone. They stayed in one place because they were farming. Villages grew larger with more organized homes and communal buildings.

What was life like in the Stone Age?

In the Stone Age, men hunted animals and fished to provide food for their families. They made tools and weapons from stone, bone, and wood and often protected the group from dangers. Women gathered plants, fruits, and nuts to help feed the family. They took care of the home and children, made clothes, and helped prepare meals. Children learned by assisting their parents with daily tasks and played games that taught them survival skills. They helped with small chores and learned important skills from adults.