



THE BIG QUESTION!

Which metal had the biggest impact: Bronze or Iron?



Activate Prior Knowledge Stone Age

Tools and weapons – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

Everyday life – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

Settlements – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



Beliefs – People built monuments, including stone circles, henges and earthworks. Historians believe that they used these monuments for gatherings and worship.

End of the Stone Age – The Beaker folk arrived from Europe and brought their knowledge of metalworking to Britain.

Bronze Age

Tools and weapons – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

Everyday life – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

Settlements – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



Beliefs – People were buried with objects, including Bell Beaker pottery, to use in the afterlife. They threw weapons and objects into rivers as offerings to the gods.

End of the Bronze Age – People stopped using metal during a time called the Bronze Age collapse.

Iron Age

Tools and weapons – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

Everyday life – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

Settlements – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



Beliefs – Priests called druids led worship. Humans were sacrificed as offerings to the gods. People threw votive offerings into rivers and lakes.

End of the Iron Age – The Romans invaded and conquered Britain in AD 43. They created written records, so this event ended prehistory in Britain.

Stone Age			Bronze Age	Iron Age
Palaeolithic c750,000–c10,000 BC Duration: 740,000 years	Mesolithic c10,000–c4000 BC Duration: 6000 years	Neolithic c4000–c2500 BC Duration: 1500 years	c2500–c800 BC Duration: 1700 years	c800 BC–AD 43 Duration: 843 years





Vocabulary

Prehistory	The period of time before written records
Agriculture	Farming and growing of crops and plants
Iron Age	The final stage of prehistory for humans. It began in 1200BC and ended around 550BC
Bronze Age	The middle stage of prehistory for humans. It began in 3300BC and ended around 1200BC
Quern	A hand mill for grinding corn.
Crafting	The activity or hobby of making things by hand.
Domesticate	To tame a wild animal or plant so it can live near humans as pets, or a working animal.
Settlement	A permanent place where people live and sometimes work.
Smelting	Extracting metal from it's ore by heating and melting it.
Tribe	A group of families or communities living in one area.
Artefact	A historical object made by a human being



How do we know about pre-history?

Prehistoric people **left no written records**, so how do we know about their lives? **Archaeologists** work like detectives looking for evidence. It was only until after the Iron Age that history started to be recorded by the Romans. They use this evidence to build up a **picture of the past**:

- The **remains of homes and temples** show how people **lived and worshipped**.
- **Tools and weapons** give clues about the way people **worked and fought**.
- **Bumps and ridges** in the landscape show the **layout of ancient villages, fields and forts**.
- Some of the best evidence comes from **human remains**. Skeletons have been found buried with their possessions and a few bodies have been preserved in bogs.