

The Stone Age

The Stone Age was a huge period of time, which lasted over 2 million years. The Stone Age period began when the first human-like animal came into existence. This period is described as being 'prehistoric' which means it was at a time before written records were kept. Because of this, there isn't much evidence of what life was like during the Stone Age. Archaeologists must rely on clues that were left behind.

The Stone Age gets its name from the tools made with stones during this period. Many of these tools (e.g. axes and arrows) were made from stones with sharp edges or points.

Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic
The Palaeolithic Age lasted from 50,000 years ago.	The Mesolithic Age was about 10,000 years ago.	The Neolithic Age was about 6000 years ago.
People lived in caves because the country was covered in ice and snow.	People lived in huts made from straw, wood and mud.	People started to live in small villages.
People used small flint stones for cutting meat with.	They hunted with spears with stone arrowheads.	They hunted with bows and arrows and caught fish in nets.
They moved around to find their food.	They started to store food for over the winter.	They could plant seeds to grow crops.
If they found an animal, they would eat it instantly.	They kept dogs as pets.	They kept animals contained on small farms.
They could paint on walls	They could make pottery.	They could make jewellery.

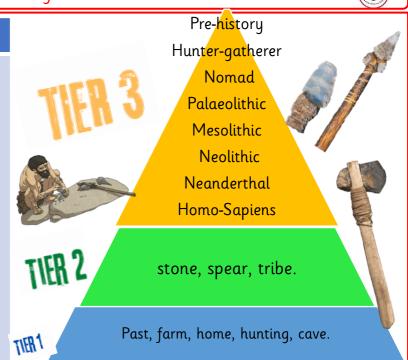
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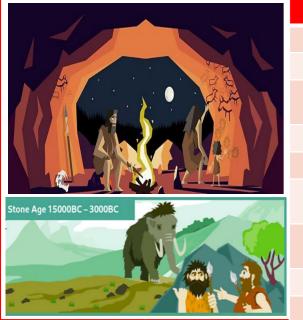


How do we know about prehistory?

Prehistoric people **left no written records**, so how do we know about their lives? **Archaeologists** work like detectives looking for evidence. 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.





Vocabulary		
Prehistory	The period of time before written records	
Nomad	A person who does not stay long in the same place, who has no fixed home.	
tribe	A tribe is a group that shares common ancestors, beliefs, culture, customs, and traditions.	
Neanderthal	An early human species, who were adapted to living in cold conditions.	
Homosapiens	The human species to which all modern human beings belong	
Spear	A weapon with a long straight handle and sharp head or blade used for throwing or jabbing	
Hunter- gatherer	Refers to how a group of people get their food . They find it growing wild or hunt and fish for it. They do not grow any food.	
continuity	When something stays the same or carries on.	
flint	A hard dark rock that can be very sharp.	