

Did you know?

- Archaeology is the study of the human past through physical remains. Objects made of materials like stone, ceramic and metal survive much better than those made of materials such as leather, textile, wood, and plants.
- Cave paintings are thought to be an early communication system. Some historians think that they were believed to bring good luck before a hunt or keep a record of the animals that were hunted.
- Pottery first appeared in Britain in the Neolithic era.
- Skara Brae (see below) was discovered in 1850 after a powerful storm.
- There are many theories about the purpose of Stonehenge, including a burial site, a healing place, an ancient calendar and a concert venue!

The Stone Age



Key vocabulary

Pre-history: The time period before written records began.

The Stone Age: A time in history when humans made tools and weapons made from stone.

Palaeolithic Era: the earliest and longest part of the Stone Age characterised by early humans and cave dwelling.

Mesolithic era: the middle period of the Stone Age. Following the end of the Ice Age, rising sea levels caused Britain to become an island.

Neolithic era: the end of the Stone Age where people began living in settlements and farming for food. The Neolithic period was followed by the Bronze Age.

Hunter-gatherer: early humans hunted animals and gathered plants for the food they needed to survive.

Asset: something that would help people to survive, such as materials for tools, shelter and fire.

Important Places

Skara Brae — Skara Brae is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland.



Stonehenge — A prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 13 feet high, 7 feet wide and weighing around 25 tons.

