


Key Vocabulary

hunter-gatherer	A person who moves from place to place in search of food. Surviving by hunting, fishing and collecting berries, fruits and seeds.
agriculture	Growing crops and keeping animals for food and materials (farming).
settlement	A place where people live together in a community.
tribe	A community of people, ruled by a leader, with shared traditions, ancestors and culture.
monument	A building or structure which is important for learning about the past.
migration	When people move to live in a different place.
technology	Using knowledge to invent new devices or tools.
prehistoric	From a time in the past before there were written records.

Historical Skills Vocabulary

BC	Used to show that a date is before the year AD 1. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC.
AD	Used to show that a date is after the year AD 1. This is counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.
archaeologist	A person who studies the past by excavating historical places and studying objects and remains. 

How Do We Know About Prehistoric Times?

It is generally believed that the first written records available for British history are from Roman times so the periods before the Romans arrived in Britain are classed as being **prehistoric**.

Archaeologists have been able to work out lots about what life was like in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age using evidence from artwork, artefacts, **monuments** and also from animal and human remains.

The Stone Age

The Stone Age was a very long period of time when early humans made tools and weapons from stone.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a historic site and **monument** that was started in the New Stone Age but was also developed later through the **prehistoric** period. Lots of people added to it over many years.



The Bronze Age

During the Bronze Age, people developed the **technology** to make bronze. This was used to make bronze tools, containers and jewellery. There was a lot of **migration** to Britain during this period. Some of the people who arrived in Britain were from Central Europe and were called the 'Beaker People'. They are known for the distinctive bell-shaped pottery they made, mainly used for drinking from. It is likely, but not certain, that the Beaker People brought their knowledge of making bronze to Britain and that is how the Bronze Age in Britain started.



Palaeolithic (or Old) Stone Age

The Palaeolithic period was significantly longer than any other time in the Stone Age and any other period in human history. In Britain, it is thought to have started around 800,000 BC. At this time, people were **hunter-gatherers** and moved on to live in a different place once they had hunted and gathered all the food available.

Mesolithic (or Middle) Stone Age

The Mesolithic period started in Britain from around 8000 BC around the end of the last Ice Age. People were still living as **hunter-gatherers** but towards the end of this time in the Stone Age, people started to learn about **agriculture**.



Neolithic (or New) Stone Age

People started to live in permanent **settlements** having been introduced to **agriculture** by people **migrating** from Europe.



The Iron Age

During the Iron Age, **technology** developed further across many aspects of life. People began to make tools and weapons from iron. Again, many of the new ideas came with the **migration** of people. People who lived at this time are now often called 'Celts'. Celts were farmers and lived as part of a **tribe**. Hillforts developed during the Iron Age. Communities lived on hills for protection from when other **tribes** attacked.