

# Stone Age to Iron Age



## History Year 3 Autumn 1

### Unit learning journey:

**Lesson 1:** Mesolithic hunters and gatherers

**Lesson 2:** Life in Neolithic Britain

**Lesson 3:** The bronze age

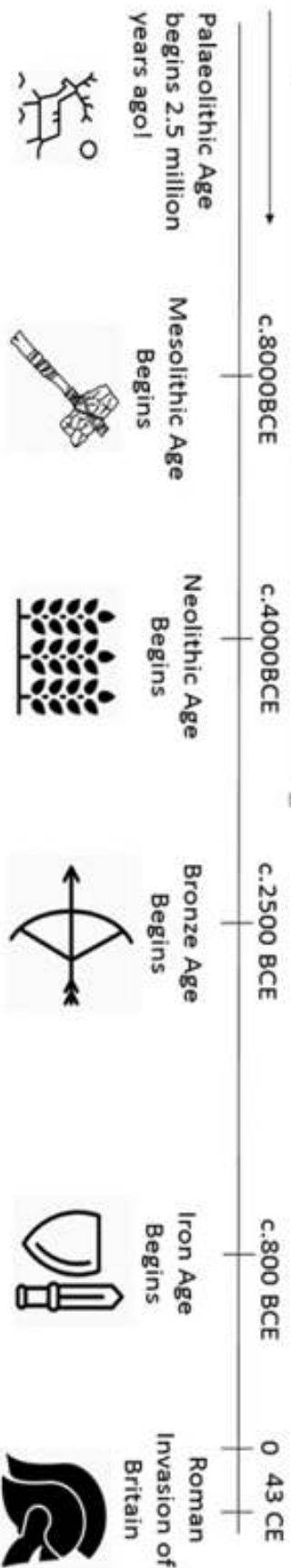
**Lesson 4:** Stonehenge

**Lesson 5:** The iron age

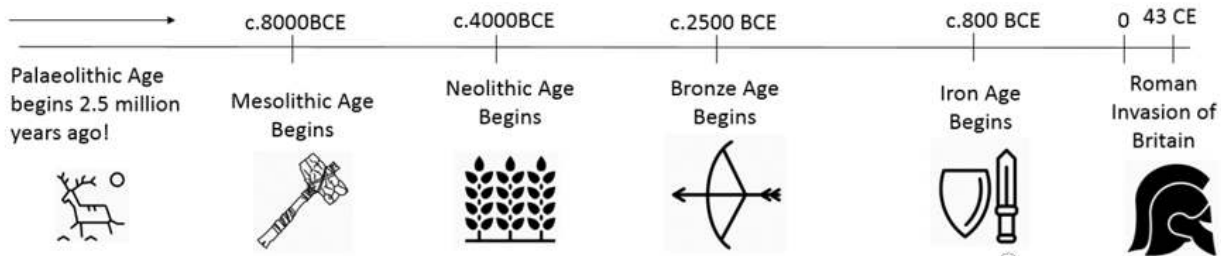
## Knowledge Organiser - The Stone Age to the Iron Age (Year 3 History)

Key vocabulary	Definition
Archaeologist	Scientists who study the history of humans by looking at what has been left behind (e.g. objects buried underground or graves)
Artefacts	An object that can tell us about the past
Prehistory	The time before written records
Hunter-gatherer	People who live by hunting and collecting wild food
Nomad	People who travel from place to place in search of food
Druid	An ancient Celtic priest
Wattle and Daub	A building method to build houses using sticks and mud or clay
Long barrow	A Neolithic burial site
Quern Stone	A tool for grinding grain
Hill fort	Small towns built on top of hills, with walls and ditches
Henge	A circular monument, usually containing a circle of stones or wooden posts

Palaeolithic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artwork at Creswell Crags</li> </ul>
Mesolithic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howick House</li> <li>• Cheddar Man</li> <li>• Star Carr</li> </ul>
Neolithic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skara Brae</li> <li>• Stonehenge (last changes during the Bronze Age)</li> </ul>
Bronze Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must Farm</li> <li>• Amesbury Archer</li> </ul>
Iron Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hill Forts</li> <li>• Lindow Man</li> </ul>



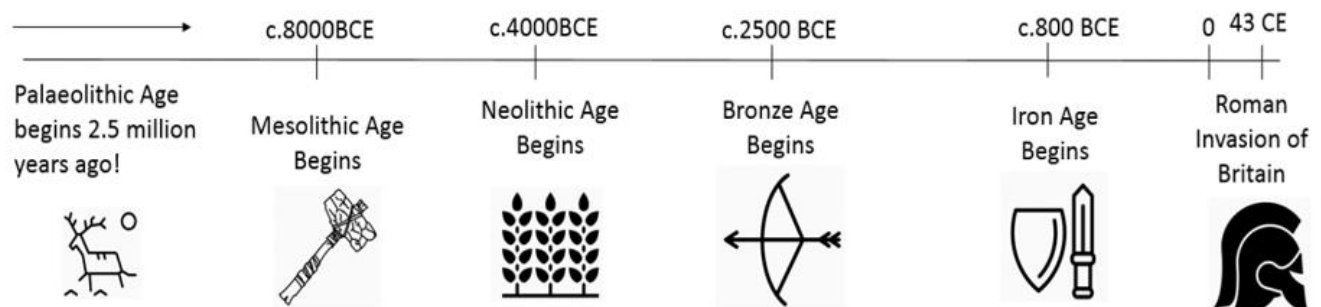
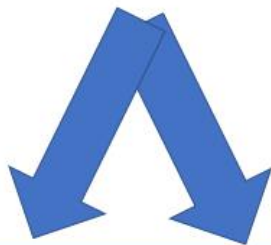
# Lesson 1: Mesolithic hunters and gatherers



BCE-The bigger the number the longer ago it was

CE/AD the longer the number the shorter ago it was  
C stands for 'circa' which means approximately

## TIME LINE OF STONE AGE





# Key vocabulary

## Nomad

a member of a people that travels from place to place to find fresh pasture for its animals and has no permanent home



## Hunter-gatherer

a member of a nomadic people who live chiefly by hunting and fishing, and harvesting wild food



## Auroch

is an extinct species of large wild cattle



During the Ice Age Britain was part of mainland Europe. It was not an island (at the start of your timeline)



Map of Europe 12500BC



Map of Europe today

We know after the Ice Age early humans did visit Britain because of what they left behind. Skeletons, tools and cave drawings

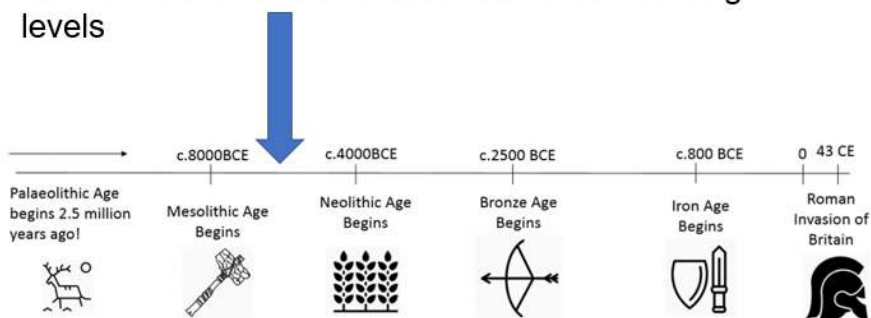


This is Creswell Crags artwork. This artwork is believed to be the earliest known art work from 13000 years ago.



Look at your timeline.  
At the end of the last Ice Age marks the arrival of new communities of **'Nomadic hunter-gatherers'**  
**What does this mean?**

6500 BCE Britain becomes an island due to rising levels







## **The Cheddar Man**

The Mesolithic skeleton of the oldest modern human in Britain

### **What do you notice?**

Some people were surprised because they thought people at this time had paler skin but scientists discovered that they had darker skin and paler eyes



## **Star Carr**

A Mesolithic settlement in North Yorkshire that existed 1000 years before Cheddar Man

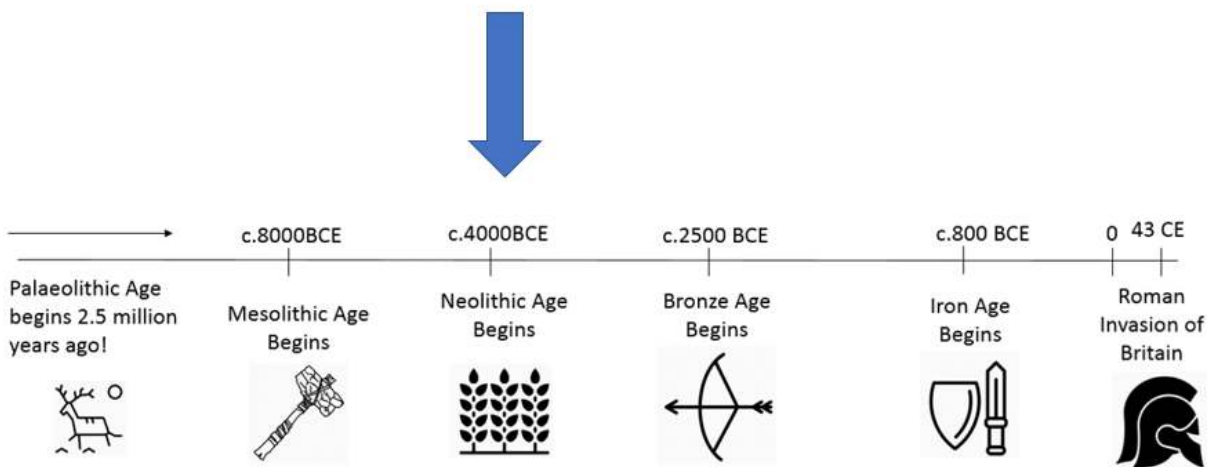


The Cheddar man and people who lived in Star Carr would have hunted red deer and aurochs as well as gathering seeds and eating freshwater fish.

Mesolithic hunter-gatherers would follow the animals season by season. They lived in camps that could be taken apart and moved quickly.



# Lesson 2: Life in Neolithic Britain



The Neolithic is the youngest part of the Stone Age. The word Neolithic comes from two words in Greek meaning 'new' and 'lithic' meaning 'Stone'

## Vocabulary

### Migration

movement from one part of something to another

### Pottery

pots, dishes, and other articles made of fired clay

### Tomb

a large vault, typically an underground one, for burying the dead

### Crop

is a plant or animal product that can be grown and harvested for food





The Neolithic period was the time when people migrated from Europe and farming was introduced. People started to care for animals such as cows sheep and pigs. People farmed crops such as wheat and barley. Pottery was also made at this time. This meant that food could be stored.



Neolithic Britain is well known for large scale monuments such as long barrows (tombs) and causewayed enclosures (large Ceremonial meeting places).



Which do you think is which?



During the late Neolithic period (c.3000-2300BC) we saw the construction of many massive monuments in certain parts of Britain, including henges and stone circles. It is believed that had a religious focus and people travelled many miles to places like Stonehenge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/story-of-britain-new-stone-age-animation/zjh2t39>

History KS2: New Stone Age (animation)

BBC Teach - Primary Resources - History KS2 - The Story of Britain



Make some notes about what life was like in a Neolithic settlement



### What is Skara Brae?

Found on the Orkney Islands off the north of Scotland, Skara Brae is one of Britain's most fascinating prehistoric villages. Archaeologists estimate it was built and occupied between 3000BCE and 2500BCE, during what's called the 'Neolithic era' or 'New Stone Age'. The village is older than the pyramids and Stonehenge, in fact!

### Why is Skara Brae important?

Skara Brae is one of the best preserved Neolithic settlements anywhere in Western Europe – which makes it a super-special find for archaeologists. The amazing artefacts discovered at this incredible site give us an insight into what life was like in Britain during that time. They can teach us how the Neolithic people built their homes, as well as the work they did, the tools they used, the food they ate and more.



### Skara Brae houses

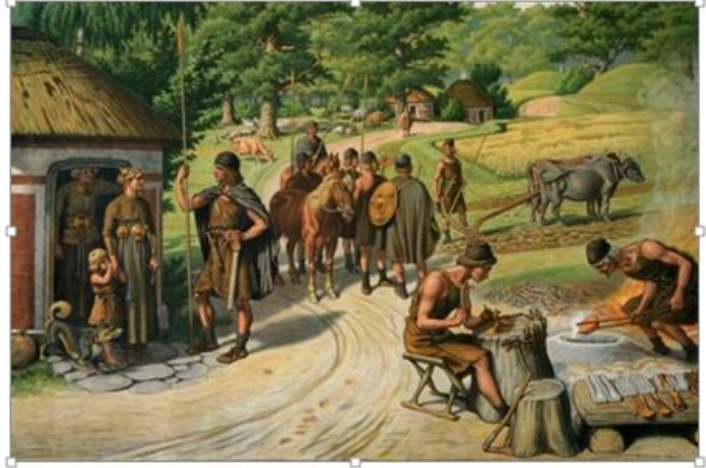
The houses consist of one single room, and are connected together by covered passageways.

Today, the homes are open to the air, but historians think they would once have had roofs made from turf, thatched seaweed or straw. And the really cool bit? Even the furniture has stood the test of time! Made from sturdy stone, the homes' beds, dressers, shelves and hearths (base of the fireplace) remain to this day. How cool is that?





# Lesson 3: The Bronze Age



## Vocabulary

**Bronze**- A brown metal made from copper and tin

**Thatch**- a roof covering of straw, reeds, palm leaves, or a similar material

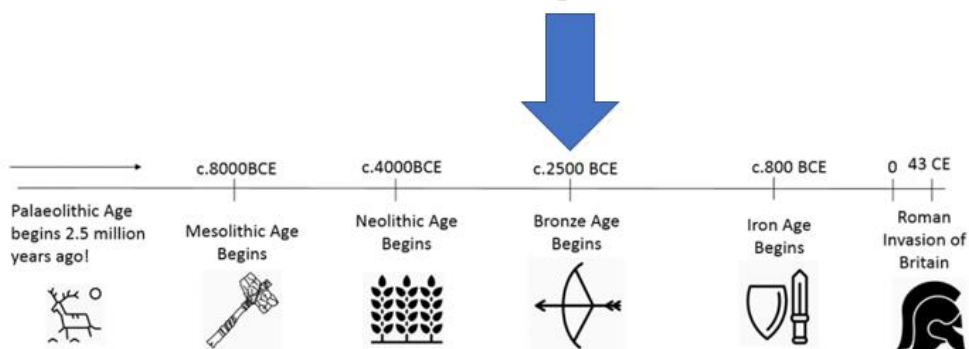


**Hillfort**-A fort built on a hill

**Timber**- wood prepared for use in building



Around 2500BCE settlers from mainland Europe migrated to Britain and brought with them a new skill. This skill was how to make objects from copper, gold and bronze

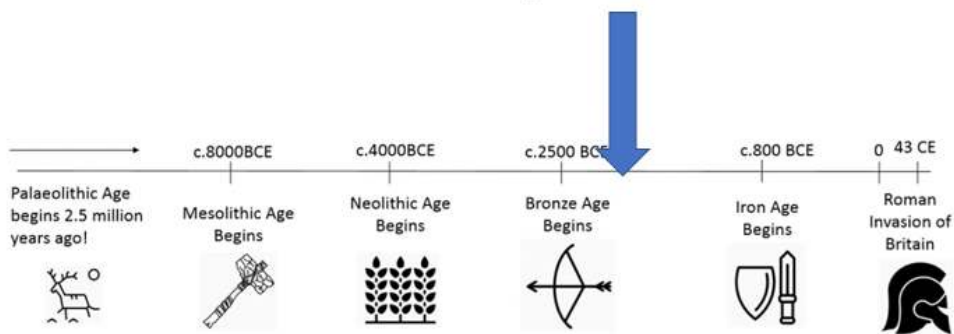




Some of the settlers who arrived from Europe belonged to the Beaker culture. Beaker people can easily be identified as they were buried with the beaker pottery. They have found that the Beaker people who migrated to Britain actually replaced Britain's earlier inhabitants.



Around 400 years later-2100BCE, Britain's were mining metal and trading ships travelled to mainland Europe carrying precious materials made by metal workers



During the second half of the Bronze Age, people began building a network of villages and roads, and we see the first construction of hillforts. They were built on top of hills so they see the surrounding area. This was so they could see any enemies approaching from far. A chief would have been in charge of the hillfort.



Beaker people lived in clans lead by powerful chiefs. They held religious at stone circles and buried their dead in circular graves. This became part of life in Ancient Britain.

We know this today because of the objects archaeologists have found in their graves.

The most famous grave was someone nicknamed The Amesbury Archer.



### Who was the Amesbury Archer?

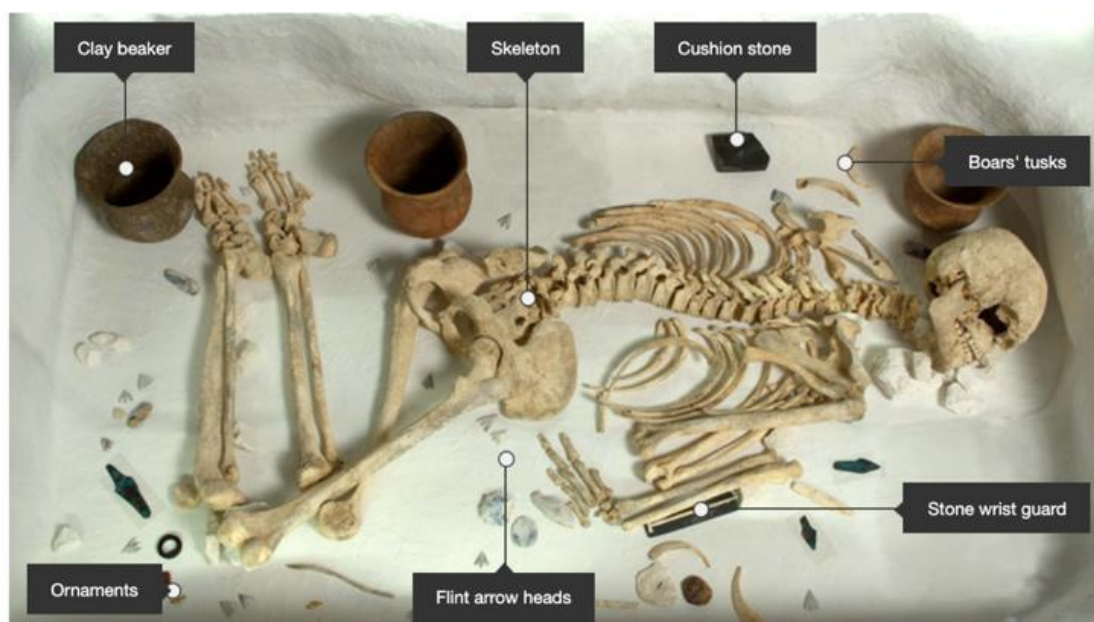
In 2002, archaeologists at Amesbury, in Wiltshire made an amazing find. They discovered the grave of a Bronze Age man, just two miles from Stonehenge.

He was buried with around 100 objects! The people who buried him must have believed that he would use the objects in the next world.

When the man was found, he was nicknamed 'the Amesbury Archer'. This was because he was buried with arrowheads and wrist-guards used by archers.

In fact, the Amesbury Archer probably spent most of his time working with metal. One of the objects in his grave was a cushion stone - a tool used by metalworkers.

What does the grave of the Amesbury Archer tell you about life in the Bronze Age?



Looking at the grave tells me....  
From the objects in the grave I think life in the Bronze Age was....

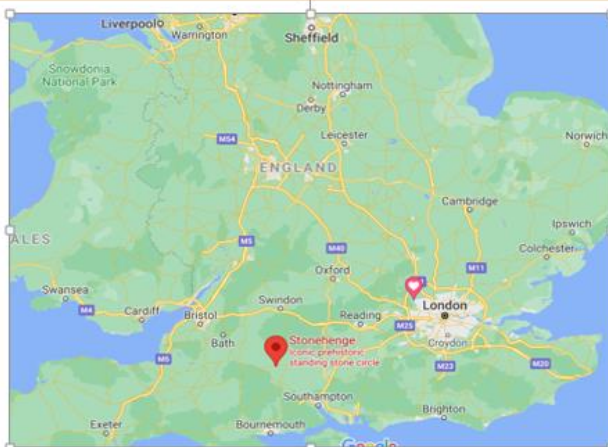


## Lesson 4: Stonehenge



Word	Meaning
henge	<b>henge is</b> a prehistoric circular or oval enclosure, during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age
ditch	a narrow channel dug at the side of a road or field, to hold or carry away water.
bluestone	A type of rock used for the two smaller circles of Stonehenge
sarsens	A type of sandstone rock used for the large outer circle of Stonehenge
antler	branched horns on the head of an adult deer
trilithon	Comes from the Greek 'tri- three, and 'lithon'-stone

Stonehenge is one of Britain's most Famous monuments. It's giant stones can be Seen for miles around. It was built over many Hundreds of years. Work began in the late Neolithic Age around 3000 BCE. People made many changes to the monument.



### **How was Stonehenge built?**

**No archaeologists can be 100 percent sure how it was built. However the believe:**

**The first task was to cut the boulders into shape. Archaeologists believe that the ancient Britons hammered wedges of wood into cracks in the stone.**

**When the wood was soaked in water, it expanded and split the stone. Next, the builders used chisels and hammers to shape them.**

**The stones were then transported to the building site. They were probably carried on rafts down rivers, then dragged overland by teams of men and oxen. It's believed that the stones were placed on giant wooden sledges and pulled along the ground using log rollers.**

**The builders dug deep ditches for the stones. Then they pulled on ropes to raise them and packed the ditches with rocks to hold the stones in place.**

### **What was Stonehenge for?**

**Why did the ancient Britons build such a massive monument at Stonehenge? What exactly went on at this sacred site?**

**Some people think that Stonehenge was used to study the movements of the Sun and Moon. Other people think it was a place of healing.**

**The ancient Britons believed that the Sun and Moon had a special power over their lives. It is very likely that they held special ceremonies at Stonehenge on Midsummer's Day (the longest day of the year) and on Midwinter's Day (the shortest day of the year).**

**Many experts believe that Stonehenge was used for funerals. They suggest that people carried the dead along the River Avon, and then walked up to Stonehenge in a grand procession. The most important funeral ceremony of the year was probably held on Midwinter's Night at Stonehenge.**

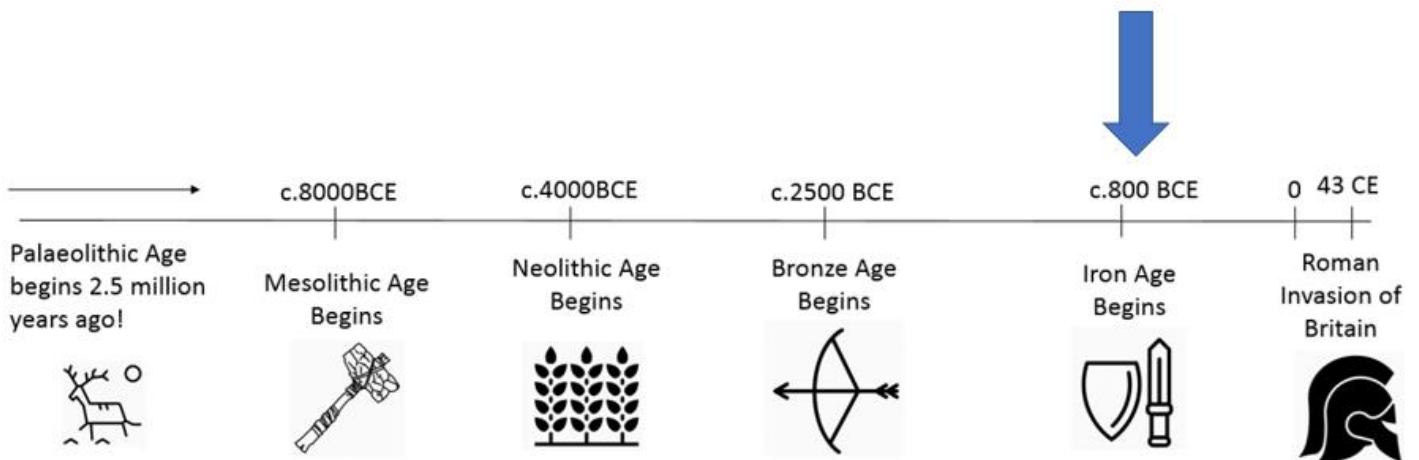


# Lesson 5: The Iron Age in Britain



Word	Meaning
hill forts	a fort built on a hill
tribes	a group of people who live and work together
fort	a fortified building
plough	a farming tool with one or more blades fixed in a frame that is used to get soil ready to plant seeds
loom	a tool for making fabric by weaving
druid	a religious leader

## What was life in Britain like during the Iron Age?



Around 800 BC people in Britain learned how to use iron. This discovery had a dramatic impact on everyday life. Iron tools made farming much easier than before and settlements grew in size.



Iron Age Britain was a violent place. People lived in clans that belonged to tribes led by warrior kings. Rival tribes fought with deadly iron weapons. Many people lived in hill forts to keep safe from attacks.



### The Celts

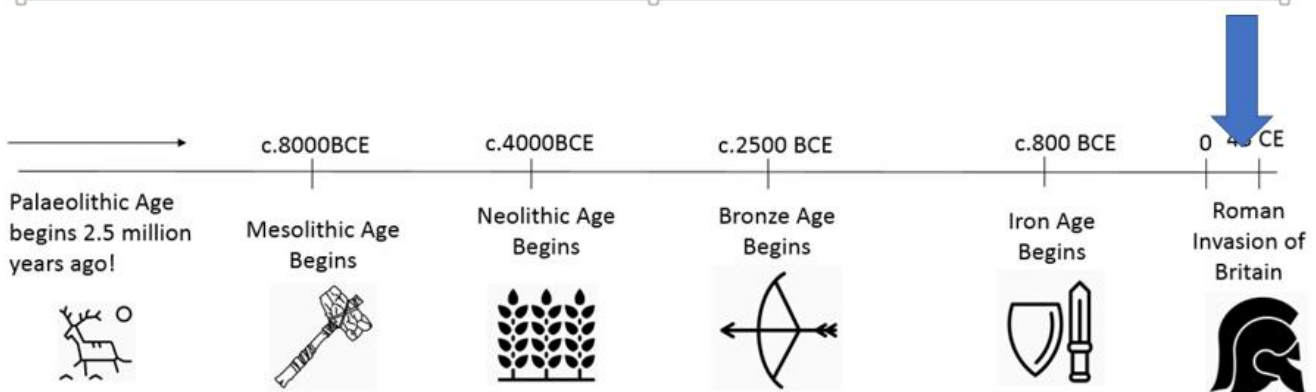
The people living in Europe during the Iron Age are known as Celts. This culture continues to live on today within music and language.

During the Iron Age, Celtic people were reported to have worn close-fitting trousers with a long linen or woollen tunic, which was tied with a belt. Fabrics were dyed different colours, and checked and striped patterns were often used, a little like tartan.

A Celtic warrior would usually fight with a long sword or spear and an oval shield.



Another way we know about Iron Age Britain was the Romans. Who conquered Britain in 43CE. They did write and wrote numerous records about Iron Age Britain.



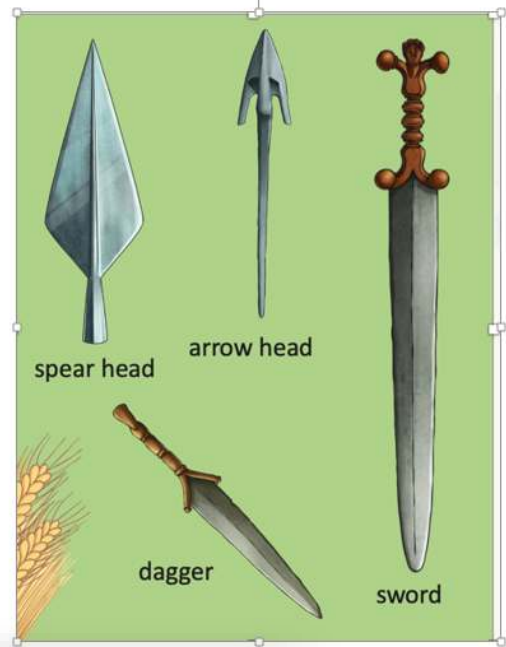


## Why iron?

Iron is tougher than bronze. It is shaped by being heated to a high temperature and then hammering it against an anvil. This process is known as 'smithing'.

Compared to bronze, iron was considered easier to work with. It could be shaped into finer and sharper objects like spear heads, arrow heads, daggers and swords.

Other sharp objects, such as a sickle hook, were used in farming to harvest grain crops.

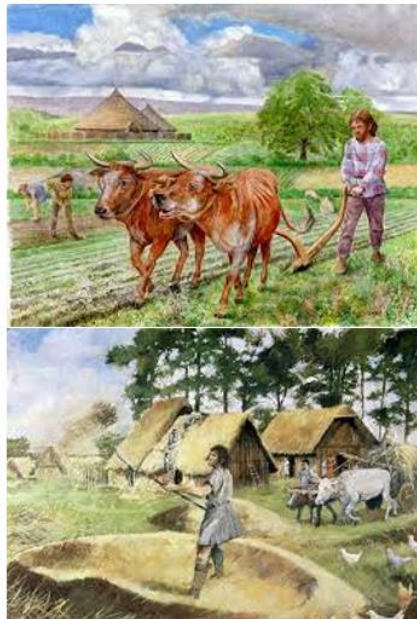


## Farming

Britain mostly consisted of settled farming communities during the Iron Age, meaning nearly everyone lived on a farm! Land was used for growing crops such as barley, rye and wheat.

Animals were farmed for their meat and to also provide milk. Cows, sheep and pigs were most commonly kept. Wool was used to make blankets and clothing.

The population in the Iron Age was steadily growing, so woodland had to be cleared to grow more crops.



## Religion

The Iron Age Celts believed in over four hundred gods and goddesses that they thought lived in the natural world around them, such as in rivers and woodland. People made offerings to the gods to make them happy and in the hope that they would be rewarded in return.

Druids were priests and the religious leaders of the time. They carried out religious rituals and gave advice. They were very powerful and well-respected. Little is known about Druids but we know some facts thanks to the Romans who wrote about them.

